

Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No. 170

Summer 2025

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Often referred to as a 'Berserker' this is a piece from the famous Lewis Chess pieces said to have been found near Camas Uig (Uig bay), on the west side of the island. One named finder was Malcolm MacLeod from the nearby settlement of Peighinn Dhomhnuill. The chess pieces first came to light when the pieces were exhibited in Edinburgh at the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland in 1831. They were on display with the permission of Mr Roderick Rirrie of Stornoway, Lewis.
[National Museums Scotland.](https://www.scottishmuseums.org.uk/)



Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

<https://www.scottishcca.co.uk/>



48th Annual General Meeting Minutes

Sunday 11th May 2025, 4pm. Online.

Present: Iain Mackintosh (Chair), David Kilgour, Kevin Paine, Michael Blake.

Apologies for Absence. Ian Whittaker, Alan Borwell, Gordon Anderson.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting. On the proposal of Michael Blake and seconded by David Kilgour, these were agreed as an accurate record.

Matters Arising. None

President's Remarks.

Iain Macintosh confirmed his wish to stand down from his roles as President, Magazine Editor and Webmaster. His health has deteriorated and he needs to hand these roles over to others. The magazine reverted to an online offering in pdf format and has been produced quarterly. It is available for download at our website. We have had a reasonable year playing chess, activity is down but our tournaments and International commitments have been met.

Membership Secretary's Report.

The Association has 107 current members of whom 58 are marked as active players by ICCF. We have 5 Patrons (3 active). 88 Life Members (42 active) and 14 Annual members (13 active). During the membership renewal period we received £49 in donations, membership renewals were reduced as was income.

Our domestic tournaments all started in good time with no issues reported. The level of participation was lower than in previous years -

- 7 for the Championship
- 4 for the Premier
- 3 for the Open, and
- 4 for the Challengers.

We have started 2 Challenger pairings but have been unable to start any more due to rating differences in the competitors. Typically we would start many more double pairings but this is on hold until further entries may be received.

The Scottish League fares well with increased participation despite the recent loss of Civil Service and BCCA. England has entered 6 teams again and this year we are joined by NATCOR with 3 teams.

Iain Mackintosh proposed a vote of thanks for the work in setting up the domestic tournaments, Kevin Paine seconded.

International Secretary's Report.

We are competing in the following tournaments -

- North Atlantic Team Tournament VIII <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=106849> where Scotland are currently 5th of 13 teams.
- North Sea Tournament VI <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=107913> where Scotland are 9th of 11 with a lot of games still to complete.

We have two International Friendly matches, both are ongoing.

- Scotland v USA <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=106221>
- Scotland v Poland <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=106529>

Ian Sneddon and Allan Buchan are very active with International tournaments and representing Scotland.

The online ICCF Congress will require a meeting of the SCCA EC to agree how we vote. Proposals must be sent by the 10th August. We should meet in good time to vote from the 19th October.

Treasurer's Report.

1. Income.
 - Membership fees received totalled £130 (2024: £330 which in that year included one new life membership).
 - Receipts for all Competitions (League, Individual Domestic and ICCF events) totalled £192 (2024: £249).
 - Income from the 100 Club in the year to date has decreased slightly to £566 (2024: £636).
 - Other Miscellaneous income primarily consisted of donations totalled £63 (2024: £592) which were all gratefully acknowledged.
2. Expenditure
 - The association's costs in the year totalled £434 (2023: £1,214) and primarily covered the 100 Club prizes of £271 (2024: £296) with the balance being made up of Chess Scotland affiliation fee of £50 (2024: £50), competition fees, prizes and trophies £64 (2024: £331) and other miscellaneous items.
3. Surplus for the year
 - The association achieved a surplus of £516 for the year (2024: £592) which was transferred to the Capital Account.
4. Balance Sheet
 - As at March 31 2025 the bank account stood at £10,156 (previously at 31 March 2023: £10,106). After various adjustments for prepayments and accruals, members' accounts were represented by net assets at the year-end of £9,937.23 (2024: £9,421)
5. Accounts Examination
 - The accounts have been independently examined by John Fanning FCA who has indicated that he is willing to take on the work going forward. It is recommended that the association provides an honorarium to the auditor of an annual amount of £25 (equivalent to a bottle of

wine or a whisky!) for his work. **Action: Treasurer to send the Auditor the agreed honorarium.**

6. Subscriptions 2026

- It is recommended that subscription rates for next year remain unaltered. **Action: Agreed.**

Graders Report

David Kilgour reported that there were no new titles awarded to players in 2024. Clive Murden has recently achieved the Senior International Master title but this will be recorded for 2025. Clive also obtained his first Grandmaster norm whilst competing in the 5th Marian Vinchev Memorial B Elo 2450-2499 tournament. Well done Clive!

Election of Office Bearers

The following were elected for 2025-26.

Office	Name	Proposer	Seconder
President	vacancy		
Vice President	vacancy		
Secretary	Michael Blake	David Kilgour	Kevin Paine
International Secretary	David Kilgour	Kevin Paine	Michael Blake
Membership Secretary	Michael Blake	Kevin Paine	David Kilgour
Treasurer	Ian Whittaker	David Kilgour	Michael Blake
Committee Members	Alan Borwell Kevin Paine Iain Mackintosh	Iain Mackintosh David Kilgour Kevin Paine	Kevin Paine Iain Mackintosh David Kilgour

Any Other Business

David Kilgour is to meet with Iain Mackintosh with a view to taking on the website. Michael Blake to liaise with Iain for the purpose of publishing our magazine whilst we look for new volunteers.

Iain Mackintosh Honorary President

Kevin Paine nominated Iain Mackintosh to be awarded the Honorary President title in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the Scottish Correspondence Chess Association. The motion was seconded by David Kilgour and agreed by the meeting. Kevin Paine spoke of the tremendous work and commitment given to SCCA by Iain Mackintosh. He spoke of his grateful thanks for the work Iain had done as President, Webmaster and Magazine Editor over many years. The meeting agreed and expressed their thanks and pleasure that Iain was able to continue on the committee.

Next Meeting Date to be notified.

Michael Blake
Secretary
11/05/2025



Editorial and News

by Michael Blake

Welcome to the Summer edition of our 2025 magazine set. The last few weeks have been a busy time with Iain Mackintosh having to step back from many of his duties. We sincerely wish Iain a speedy recovery and hope to hear better news soon.

The 48th Annual General Meeting took place on the 11th May. We have 107 members of whom 58 are classified as 'active' by ICCF. Our domestic tournaments all started on time although the Challengers tournament has seen a sharp drop in entries which has meant that we are unable to organise our usual number of matches. The Scottish League has seen new entries from [England](#) and the [National Correspondence Chess Club](#) (NATCOR) which has been of great help in covering the loss of Civil Service and the BCCA

On the International front, Ian Sneddon and Allan Buchan are very active with tournaments and representing Scotland, please let David Kilgour know if you would like to represent Scotland and we will try our best to ensure opportunities are found.

The ICCF Congress is now online at <https://www.iccf.com/congresses> where you can view the latest proposals. If you have any comments on these, please contact David Kilgour to let him know. We are very keen to hear your views prior to August 24th as we intend to meet and discuss any issues raised before online voting commences.

We now need to fill places on the SCCA Committee, if you would like to discuss these and find out more, please contact the Secretary and step forward if you are able to help.

Mickey

SCCA Membership

Annual: £10/year buys you entry to all SCCA domestic events and friendly international matches.

Life: £100 gets you annual membership for life;

Patron: £125 (+ any further donation you care to make) gets you life membership and your name on something commemorative.

100 Club

The 100 Club has been and continues to be an important revenue-earner for our Association, with many long-standing subscribers. Could you help us address our challenge by agreeing to take one, two, three or more units each month?

Units cost £1 per entry, and you may enter multiple times per draw. Whatever you can manage would be of great assistance to the Association. If you do not already subscribe to the 100 club, please consider if you can help the SCCA by contacting our treasurer to sign up for some units (contact details below).

Recent 100 Club Winners

	1 st Prize	2 nd Prize
2025		
June	I. Mackintosh	J. Murray
May	K B McAlpine	G. M. Anderson
April	J. Anderson	D. L. Livie

SCCA Officials

President	Vacancy			
Vice President	Vacancy			
International Sec.	David Kilgour	Willowbank, Peebles Road, Galaashiels, TD1 1TH	07360 188466	
Secretary	Michael Blake	Turnpike Cottage, Kennerleigh, Crediton, Devon, EX17 4RR	07485 204208	secretary@scottishcca.co.uk
Treasurer	Ian Whittaker	Inchkieth House, Lauder, Berwickshire, TD2 6TE	01578 722670	treasurer@scottishcca.co.uk
Membership Sec.	Michael Blake	Turnpike Cottage, Kennerleigh, Crediton, Devon, EX17 4RR	07485 204208	membership@scottishcca.co.uk
Committee	Iain Mackintosh	11 West Grange Farm, St. Andrews, KY16 8LJ	01334 470287	chess@iainmack.co.uk
Committee	Kevin Paine	47 Park Hill Drive, Frome, BA11 2LQ	01373 467585	kevin.paine@scottishcca.co.uk
Committee	Alan Borwell	8 Wheatfield Avenue, Inchtute, PH14 9RX	01828 685556	alan.borwell@scottishcca.co.uk
Grading	Alistair Maxwell	34 Loganswell Gardens, Glasgow, G46 8HU	01416 202115	grader@scottishcca.co.uk
Games Editor	Vacancy			



Notices

by Michael Blake

British Correspondence Chess Championship 25-27

Qualification requirements

Reserved to players from British Championship.

The English Federation for Correspondence Chess (EFCC), The Scottish Correspondence Chess Association (SCCA), and the Welsh Correspondence Chess Federation (WCCF) are pleased to announce the 2025/7 British Correspondence Chess Championship.

The Championship will be open to any player who plays under the flag of England, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, a Crown Dependency or a British Overseas Territory in ICCF.

There will be:

- one Championship Section
- one Candidates Sections
- one or more Reserve Sections

All sections will be between eleven and fifteen players unless decided otherwise by the Committee.

Competitors will play one game against each of the other competitors in the section.

All sections will commence, and finish play within 22 months and 12 days of the start date (1st October 2025 – 12th August 2027).

The time control for all sections will be 40 days for each 10 moves, with time doubling after 20 days. Agreed draws before move 25 will not be possible. The amount of leave for all sections will be 28 days per calendar year.

Title norms will be available where possible, depending on the entries.

There will be no prize fund for the 2025 season, but there will be a significantly reduced entry fee to just €4.00 Euros.

Entry is via the ICCF Direct Entry system, please log onto the ICCF website, select "New Events" from the menu, and then "Wales" from the list of categories.

The British Championship, having been run annually since 1921, is the most prestigious correspondence chess event of the British calendar, and all British correspondence chess players are encouraged to participate.

British Championship Organising Committee

Austin Lockwood (Wales)

Phill Beckett (England)

David Kilgour (Scotland)

Entry form at <https://www.iccf.com/EventEntry.aspx?id=110039>

2nd Dobri Semov Memorial - Bulgarian International Open

15 July 2025: - important and urgent correction !!!

Following the previous announcement about the tournament (<https://www.iccf.com/message?message=1755>), the dates have been adjusted.

New start date: August 10, 2025.

The deadline for Direct Entries (DE) is July 31, 2025.

The deadline for NF entries is July 28, 2025.

ICCF Rating System

The technical paper, written by Professor Mark Glickman of the Department of Statistics at Harvard University, describing the ICCF rating system is now available, here: <http://arxiv.org/abs/2506.11354>

The paper which describes the underlying model, and which is cited heavily in the above paper is here: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2505.24783>

Please note that both these papers are still under peer review and it is Professor Glickman's intention to publish his work in a peer reviewed academic journal. In the meantime, the pre-reviewed papers are publicly available at the above links.

European and Rest of the World Team Championship 2025

Scotland are qualified to enter this tournament.

The next round of 2025 European and Rest of the World Team Championships will commence on 1st September 2025.

Each event will have a maximum playing time of four years and use the standard ICCF time control of 10 moves in 50 days. The team events will be played over eight boards for the European Team Championship and four boards for the RoW Team Championship.

The finals will only be open to qualified teams (see below) and there will be no additional entry fee.

Federations must confirm their participation to the tournament organiser and submit their teams (including the names and ICCF ID numbers of each of the eight players and the team captain) before 1st August 2025.

Clive Murden SIM

Our congratulations to Clive Murden who has achieved the Correspondence Chess Senior International Master title.

Clive achieved his final SIM Norm and 1st GM Norm in the [5th Marian Vinchev Memorial B Elo 2450-2499](#)

It should be noted that Clive has managed this fantastic achievement whilst at the same time as representing Scotland in the North Atlantic Team Tournament and acting as Tournament Director for the Scottish National tournaments.

Well done Clive!

ICCF 2025 Congress

This Congress is to be held online and you may now view the details and proposals at <https://www.iccf.com/congresses>. There are fourteen proposals at the moment, perhaps the most interesting one is to run a Chess 960 World Championship. The proposals suggests,

1. To organise the World Championship of Chess 960.
2. The World Championship consists of 3 stages: Preliminary, Semifinal, and Final.
3. To hold a First Direct World Final where the top 15 or 17 players of the ICCF 960 ranking participate, with invitations extended up to the 25th player on the list.
4. At the same time, to call for the Semifinal of the II World Championship and the Preliminaries of the III World Championship (for the first time, the selection for each stage will be made exceptionally).
5. The ICCF rules will be updated to include the three clauses detailed below.

There is much more detail available on the ICCF website, please contact David Kilgour if you wish to give your opinion or suggestion on this or any other matter pertaining to ICCF.

CANDIDATES' TOURNAMENT 45th WCCC

The start date of the Candidates' Tournament of the 45th WCCC is September 20, 2025.

All entries will be accepted according to ICCF Tournament Rules valid from January 1, 2025, to be received no later than August 22, 2025.

Candidates' Tournament sections typically have 13 players, with the TTC possibly extending them to 15 or 17 players if appropriate in special situations.

Players entering more than one section will be accepted only to fill vacancies.

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

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

If the number of the entries isn't a multiple of 13, 15, or 17, sections will be fulfilled with the players who ask to enter the Candidates' Tournament according to Rule 1.2.1.3.3; if it would again be impossible to fulfil a section, the players who have been entered according to point 1.2.1.3.1. (h) and those who have the lowest ICCF ELO in the rating list 2025/3 won't be admitted to the 2025 Candidates' Tournament.

Entries must be sent through the "New events" page of www.iccf.com. The entry fee can be paid via Direct Entry or the player's National Federation. The qualification right under Tournament Rules 1.2.1.3.1 must be specified for each entry.

If an entry is not accepted, the entry fee will be refunded.

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

The 2025/3 ICCF Rating List

ICCF have released the 2025/3 rating list that is to be used for all tournaments starting from 1st July 2025. Prior to this some small calculations were carried out which corrected some incorrectly entered historic results.

The SCCA Grading Officer has prepared a report which appears later in this issue of the magazine. The full rating list and downloads, are available from <https://www.iccf.com/RatingList.aspx>

ICCF Game Archive



The game archive has been updated top June 2025. You may download from the game archive at <https://www.iccf.com/message?message=454> Often the older files are updates, it can be useful to check for new updates to the older files.

Professor Alastair Dawson RIP

Sad news from St Andrews where Alastair Dawson has died after a short illness. A former SCCA Championship winner in 2008-09 and 2009-10, Alastair served on the SCCA Committee and wrote the Games Column for our Magazine. Alastair was also active in the OTB game, serving as TAFCA President (Tayside and Fife Chess Association) and a stalwart of Dundee Chess Club. He had planned to play in the Scottish Championship in Dunfermline during July. He'll be much missed by family and friends.

Dawson, Alastair G -v- Mackintosh, Iain

Scottish CC Championship 2017-18

[Notes by Alastair Dawson]



1.Nf3 c5 [Iain and I have played many times and one thing is guaranteed - his opponents always have a hard time hanging on. In this game I do so by the skin of my teeth.]

2.g3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 g6 5.Bg2 Bg7 [Tensions are already rising across the middle of the board. Many would argue that by Black exchanging his c-pawn for White's d-pawn that Black already has a slight edge. For sure, Black also has a half-open c-file to work with - but it is early days.]

6.Nb3 d6 7.0-0 Nf6N [New to CC.]

[7...Be6 was Sprenger, Dr Ernst (2442) v Sváček, Pavel (2454), ICCF WC21, 2002, 0-1 (46).]

8.c3 [Far too passive and White soon loses space because of this move. White has also given Black a narrative of where both the Nb1 and the Bc1 might end up - thus making Black's plans easier to

define.]

8...Bd7 9.e4 h5 [And of course such passive play allows Black to generate some sharp counterplay straight away. The move ..h5 is often a good plan for Black when White has already committed to castling but Black has not.]

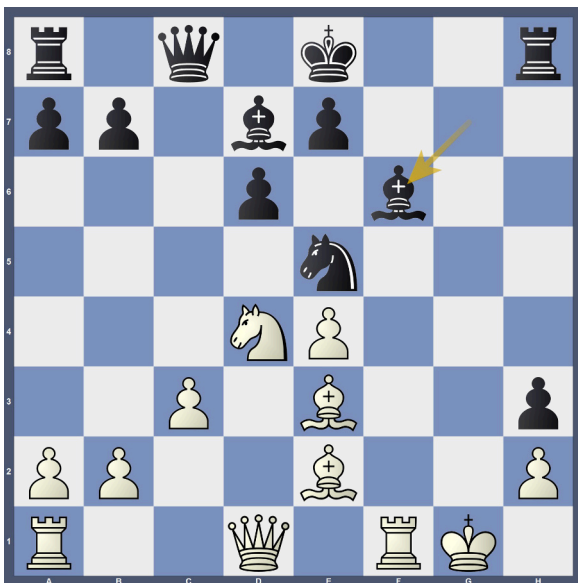
10.Bg5 Nh7 11.Be3 h4 [And already White is thinking aloud how best to cope with the Black onslaught.]

12.g4 h3 13.Bf3 Qc8 14.Be2 Ne5 [Here White needs no reminding of Seirawan's concept of counting pieces - at this point in the game White has 4 pieces developed from the original squares but Black has 5.]

15.f3 [A horrible move to make but it holds everything together - but White is now committed to passivity and hanging on rather than moving forward in any way.]

15...f5 16.gxf5 gxf5 17.N1d2 fxe4 18.Nxe4 [White is being torn apart but just about hanging on.]

18...Nf6 19.Nd4 Nxe4 20.fxe4 Bf6 [It is hard to define the ebbs and flood tides in this game. The

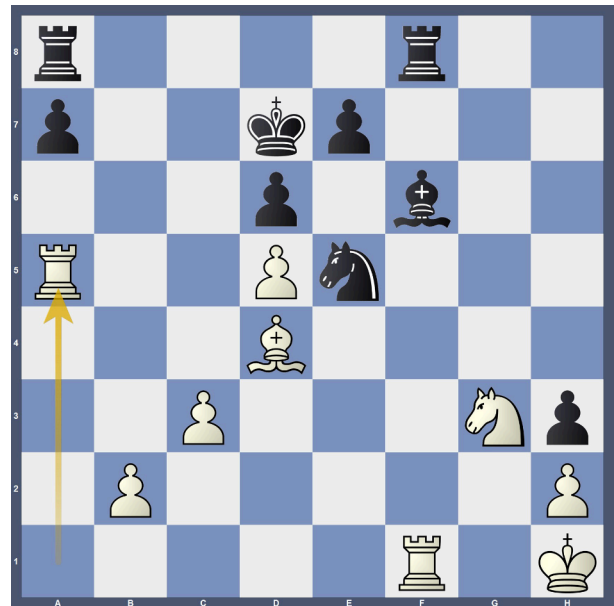


White king at this point is horribly exposed but Black has no simple way of getting at it. One thing has changed however in the position. A few moves ago, White was dreadfully cramped by the triangle of pawns on g4, f3 and e4. The bishop on e2 was doing nothing except help defend g4. But now the pawns that were cramping the White position have disappeared and in their place have arrived quite a

healthy N on d4 plus 2 bishops that now have some range. Furthermore Black has a decision to make in respect of what to do with his king and how to get the Ra8 into the game. These latter thoughts dictate what happens next.]

21.Kh1 b6 22.Nf5 Qb7 [Black has found an effective solution by making space and disentangling his pieces on the Qside in such a way as to also put long-term pressure on the e4 pawn.]

23.Qd5 [This offer of an exchange seems to be the only satisfactory way for White to hold on. The pawn on e4 and the king on h1 both sit on a very



vulnerable diagonal. With the Qs on the board, this issue could decide the game in Black's favour - so the Qs have to come off to relieve the pressure. But Black still has a slight edge.]

23...Bc6 24.Bb5 0-0-0 25.Bxc6 Qxc6 26.a4 Kd7 27.Bd4 Qxd5 28.exd5 [And now after some manoeuvring they are gone. Black has enduring pressure. White is still pinned back - and he has been regretting for a long time now why on earth did he play such a passive opening!]

28...Rh8 29.a5 Ra8 30.Ng3 bxa5 31.Rxa5 [

As the pieces come off there is some evaluating to do. White's king is dreadfully located in the corner and hemmed in by a super-aggressive pawn on h3; his pawn on d5 is on a White square and cannot be supported by a Black-squared bishop unfortunately. If it has to be defended it with be by c4 but this in turn places another pawn on a White square. My plan at this point was to exchange off some some

minor pieces so that it might make it harder for Black to defend the pawn on h3 - if this fell, possibly by a rook capture, White might be able to breathe a little.]

31...Nc4 32.Rxa7+ Rxa7 33.Bxa7 [One pair of rooks gone!]

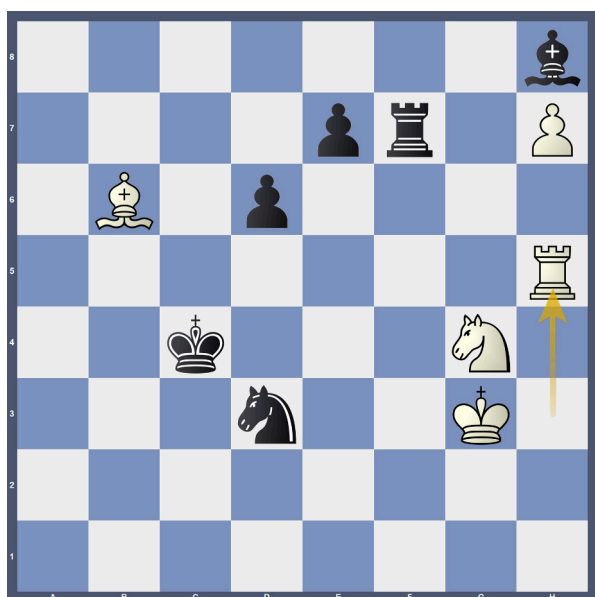
33...Ra8 34.Bg1 [Retreating the bishop to free the rook for a moment.]

34...Nxb2 35.Ne4 Bg7 36.Rf3 [The position still does not feel good but at least the h-pawn is going to go now.]

36...Ra4 37.Nf2 Ra5 [The d-pawn was always going to fall, leaving Black with 2 connected central pawns. But Black now has a passed pawn of his own now on the h-file. My task now (and White's only decent plan) was to tie up as many of the Black pieces as I could in making sure that this pawn is not allowed to get anywhere near the queening square.]

38.Rg3 Be5 39.Rxh3 Rxd5 40.Ng4 Bg7 41.Rg3 Bh8 42.Rh3 Bg7 43.Rg3 Rf5 44.Kg2 Rf4 45.h4 [And here we go!]

45...Bxc3 46.h5 Nd3 47.h6 [And this is about as far as it can get without being fatally lost. The big differences in the position now are the kings - the White king is performing a useful defensive role for the White minor pieces, the Black king is potentially a game-changer but it is still stuck back on d7.]



47...Bh8 48.Be3 Ne1+ 49.Kh2 Rf7 50.Rh3 Ke6 51.h7 Kd5 [And now Black counters in the centre.]

At some point the h7 pawn is going to have to be jettisoned, but at the point that it does disappear White has to ensure that there is sufficient minor piece activity against the Black king such that the central Black pawns cannot become dangerous.]

52.Bb6 Nf3+ 53.Kg2 Ne1+ 54.Kh2 Kc4 55.Kg3 Nd3 56.Rh5 [

Just little moves like this one are priceless in holding up the advance of the Black pawns by briefly isolating the Black king from its pawns.]

56...Rg7 57.Kf3 Rf7+ 58.Kg3 Nf4 59.Rh6 Kd5 60.Nf2 e5 [The Black P finally moved forward but now the White rook is active - at least significantly more active than when it was on f1 10–20 moves ago.]

61.Ng4 Ne2+ 62.Kg2 Nc3 63.Rh4 Kc6 64.Bd8 Nd5 65.Rh6 [By making lateral threats from the 4th, 5th and now 6th ranks Black is sufficiently tied down so that his central pawns cannot advance.]

65...Kc5 66.Kh3 e4 67.Bg5 Rf3+ [Draw agreed. Thankfully the plan of advancing the h-pawn worked well, mostly by tying down a minor piece (in this case the Black bishop) such that the central pawns could not cause the damage to the White position that Black intended. Needless to say I will not be playing such a passive opening again against such a dangerous opponent. Lesson learned.]

½–½

SCCA Socials

We maintain a presence on both X and Facebook, I have tried a few other platforms but found them of little benefit to us. If you have a preference for any of the available outlets, let me know and I will look further. The majority of updates have recently been made on Facebook as I am not seeing any reaction to the posts on X although we do have 22 followers on that platform.

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

X: <https://x.com/ScotCorrChess>



Iain Mackintosh

by Michael Blake

Iain Mackintosh Retires

For very good reason, Iain Mackintosh has stepped back from his many tasks, he will be a big loss to the Association. He has performed several key roles such as Secretary, Magazine Editor and Website Manager.

As a key member of the Committee, he has been instrumental in Scotland being a highly regarded member of the International Correspondence Chess Federation. However, the time has now arrived when Iain must take a break and hand over the reins to others.

The Association will be eternally grateful to Iain for his dedication and service. In recognition of this we offered Iain the position of Honorary President. I am very pleased that he has accepted this honour.

To further recognise his achievements, our treasurer, Ian Whittaker, travelled to present an engraved Quaich, a bottle of Mackintosh blended malt whisky and four Mackintosh tumblers to Iain. These gifts were acquired with contributions both by individual members and by the association itself.

The quaich's inscription reads: -

**Scottish Correspondence Chess Association
Presented to Iain Mackintosh,**

**Honorary President
SCCA President 2000-2025, Magazine Editor
and Webmaster**





2025/3 Grading List

By Alistair Maxwell

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

Clive Murden has secured the SIM title, congratulations to him! I don't get advised of norms directly so please let me know if you achieve a norm etc. to prevent me from missing it.

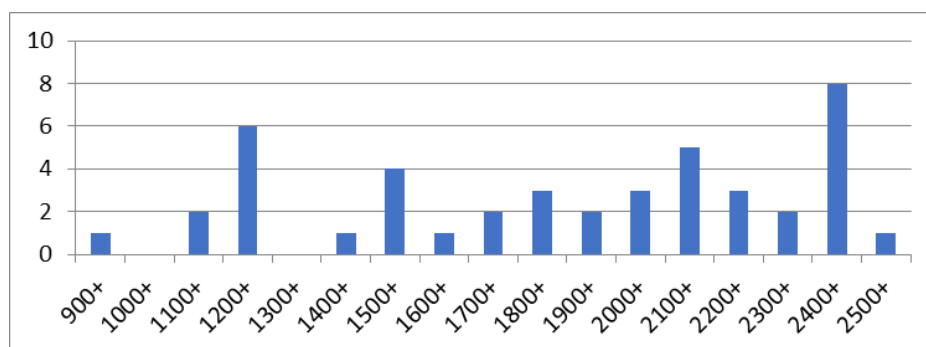
There were 4 deletions due to inactivity and no new names. Sadly, as I am sure will be mentioned elsewhere, we lost another stalwart of both the CC and OTB worlds in Professor Alastair Dawson. Anyone who had ever met him would tell you he was a lovely man but also a fierce competitor. He was a big Dundee United fan and always approached me at tournaments asking after the football scores. My personal condolences go to his family and all at Dundee Chess Club.

The most significant rating moves were Ian Foote (+80), Murdo MacDonald (+58), Wilf Taylor (+54), Robert Bruce and Robert Montgomery (both +42), Clive Murden (+34), Ian Whittaker (+30), Iain Mackintosh (+25), Allan Buchan (+24) and James Murray (+23).

New games centurions were Robert Bruce (1300+), Iain Sneddon (1000+) Allan Buchan (500+) and Ian Foote (300+). Highest recorded games this quarter were Robert Bruce (44), Iain Sneddon (42), Carlos Almarza Mato (38) and Robert Montgomery (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)	2764	2122 ↓	216	MacMillen, A N	1550	1666 ↑
518	Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	463	2335 ↑		Major, B	129	1260 ↑
	Anderson, T R	78	1787 ↔	566	Marshall, I H	963	2010 ↓
	Antunes, A	58	2182 ↓	434	Matheis, T (IM)	333	2470 ↔
313	Armstrong, J McK	587	1263 ↓		Maxwell, A	87	1907 ↔
511	Beecham, C R (SIM)	576	2475 ↓		Miles, A	106	1231 ↔
472	Blake, M J (CCM)	1021	2451 ↑	598	Montgomery, R S (CCM, SM)	463	2409 ↑
	Bruce, R (CCE)	1336	2020 ↑		Munro, P R	108	2160 ↓
486	Buchan, A W (CCM)	510	2471 ↑	474	Murden, C (SIM)	725	2520 ↑
602	Burridge, R J	2075	1575 ↑	564	Murray, J S	129	2119 ↑
	Carswell, D	78	1452 ↓	603	O'Neill-McAleenan, C	265	1587 ↓
247	Cormack, W H	143	1847 ↔	604	Paine, Prof K A (CCM, SM)	260	2333 ↔
478	Dunn, J	579	1248 ↔		Pettigrew, S	210	1294 ↔
371	Edney, D	339	1818 ↔	432	Price, D	552	2023 ↓
	Foote, I	308	1971 ↑		Rafferty, F	54	1154 ↔
462	Gilbert, R	365	1578 ↓		Robinson, A	34	1554 ↔
548	Kilgour, D A (GM)	393	2286 ↔		Sedstrem, A	131	1162 ↓
260	Knox, A	431	1266 ↔	477	Smith, M J (CCE)	134	2239 ↔
264	Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	1288	2154 ↓	439	Sneddon, I (CCM, SM)	1001	2421 ↓
	MacDonald, M	174	926 ↑	057	Taylor, A	55	1883 ↔
584	MacGregor, C A	576	1798 ↓		Taylor, W (CCE)	267	2228 ↑
532	Mackintosh, I (SIM)	892	2461 ↑	605	Whittaker, I P (CCE)	385	2434 ↑



Statistical Analysis

Total listed	44
New entrants	0
Deletions (inactive, lapsed, non-members etc.)	5
Grading increases (↑)	15
Grading decreases (↓)	14
Grading static (↔)	15

Top 30 Grades

Murden, C (SIM)	2520	Munro, P R	2160
Beecham, C R (SIM)	2475	Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	2154
Buchan, A W (CCM)	2471	Almarza Mato, C (CCE)	2122
Matheis, T (IM)	2470	Murray, J S	2119
Mackintosh, I (SIM)	2461	Price, D	2023
Blake, M J (CCM)	2451	Bruce, R (CCE)	2020
Whittaker, I P (CCE)	2434	Marshall, I H	2010
Sneddon, I (CCM, SM)	2421	Foote, I	1971
Montgomery, R S (CCM, SM)	2409	Maxwell, A	1907
Anderson, G M (CCM, SM)	2335	Taylor, A	1883
Paine, Prof K A (CCM, SM)	2333	Cormack, W H	1847
Kilgour, D A (GM)	2286	Edney, D	1818
Smith, M J (CCE)	2239	MacGregor, C A	1798
Taylor, W (CCE)	2228	Anderson T R	1787
Antunes, A	2182	MacMillen, A N	1666

Top 10 Rated Games

Almarza-Mato, C (CCE)	2764	Blake, M J (CCM)	1021
Burridge, R J	2075	Sneddon, I (CCM, SM)	1001
MacMillen, A N	1550	Marshall, I H	963
Bruce, R (CCE)	1336	Mackintosh, I (SIM)	892
Lloyd, G (CCM, SM)	1288	Murden, C (IM)	725

Selected Personal Best Grades 2024/2

	New	Previous		Gain
Murden, C (IM)	2520	2486	2025/2	34
Buchan, A W (CCM)	2471	2459	2024/1	12
Whittaker, I P (CCE)	2434	2404	2025/2	30
Montgomery, R S (CCM, SM)	2409	2373	2024/4	36
Taylor, W (CCE)	2228	2174	2025/2	54
Murray, J S	2119	2096	2025/2	23

Other Notes

Senior International Master (SIM) title norms are held by:
Matheis, T (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)

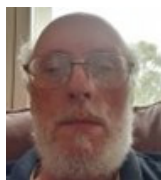
Correspondence Chess Master (CCM) title norms:
Whittaker, I P (1), Taylor, W (1)

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.



International Report

by David Kilgour

The ICCF Congress will be virtual this year, please let me know asap if you have any suggestions for proposals, or any comments regarding the list of proposals currently listed at <https://www.iccf.com/Proposals.aspx?id=79>

Our friendly matches against Poland and the USA are just about complete.

Results from International team events follow.

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	Iceland	2355		3	3	2	2.5	2	2	2	2	2.5	1.5	22.5	50	0	2	45	15	1	Ásbjörnsson, Ásgeir Páll
2	Germany A	2386	3		2.5	2	3	1.5	1.5	2	2	1.5	1.5	20.5	52	2	2	39	21	2	Joppich, Ulrich
3	France	2370	3	2.5		2.5	3.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	2	1	0.5	19.5	51	1	3	38	22	3	Bontems, Cyrille
4	England	2391	2	2	2.5		1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.5	1.5	16	51	1	0	31	29	4	Beckett, Phillip J.
5	SWEDEN	2294	2.5	2	2.5	0.5		1.5	1.5	1	1	0.5	1.5	14.5	45	-3	0	32	28	5	Larsson, Mats
6	Germany B	2389	2	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5		1	1	1.5	0.5	1	13	50	0	0	26	34	6	Fischer, Wolfgang
7	Scotland	2329	2	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1		1	0.5	1	0.5	12	50	0	0	24	36	7	Kilgour, David A.
8	Norway	2347	2	2	1.5	0.5	1	1	1		1.5	1	0.5	12	50	0	0	24	36	8	Sjøl, Henrik
9	Netherlands	2385	2	1	2	1.5	1	0.5	0.5	1.5		0.5	1	11.5	46	-2	0	25	35	9	Daatselaar, Jan Bart van
10	Denmark	2365	2.5	1.5	1	1.5	0.5	1.5	1	0	0.5		1.5	11.5	52	1	0	22	38	10	Bratholm, Palle Skov
11	Belgium	2395	1.5	1.5	0.5	1.5	1.5	1	0.5	0.5	1	1.5		11	50	0	0	22	38	11	Dondelinger, Jean-Pierre

Not yet started: 0, Ongoing: 166, Adjudication pending: 0, Finished: 164

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	Türkiye	2413		3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	24	50	0	8	48	0	1	Kural, Aziz Serhat
2	Iceland	2313	3		3	3.5	2.5	3	3	3	3	24	52	2	8	46	2	2	Jónsson, Daði Örn
3	Switzerland	2453	3	3		3	3	3	3	3	2	23	50	0	7	46	2	3	Rüfenacht, Matthias
4	Denmark	2390	3	2.5	3		3	3	3	3	2.5	23	48	-1	6	47	1	4	Ottesen, Søren Rud
5	Lithuania	2467	3	2.5	3	3		3	3	2.5	3	23	50	0	6	46	2	5	Chocenka, Dmitrijus
6	Belgium	2370	3	3	3	3	3		2.5	3	2.5	23	50	0	6	46	2	6	Dondelinger, Jean-Pierre
7	Scotland	2442	3	3	3	3	3	2.5		2.5	3	23	50	0	6	46	2	7	Beecham, C. Richard
8	Peru	2445	3	3	3	3	2.5	3	2.5		2.5	22.5	50	0	5	45	3	8	Figlio, Gino Franco
9	Mexico	2409	3	2	2	2.5	3	2.5	3	2.5		20.5	48	-1	3	42	6	9	Hernández Martínez, Jerónimo

North-Sea/TT6, North Sea Team Tournament VI











































		TD Vliet, Erik van (IA)											Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	Team Captain
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11								
1	Iceland	2355		3	3	2	2.5	2	2	2	2.5	1.5	22.5	50	0	2	45	15	1	Ásbjörnsson, Ásgeir Páll
2	Germany A	2386	3		2.5	2	3	1.5	1.5	2	2	1.5	1.5	20.5	52	2	39	21	2	Joppich, Ulrich
3	France	2370	3	2.5		2.5	3.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	2	1	0.5	19.5	51	1	38	22	3	Bontems, Cyrille
4	England	2391	2	2	2.5		1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.5	1.5	16	51	1	31	29	4	Beckett, Phillip J.
5	SWEDEN	2294	2.5	2	2.5	0.5		1.5	1.5	1	1	0.5	1.5	14.5	45	-3	32	28	5	Larsson, Mats
6	Germany B	2389	2	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5		1	1	1.5	0.5	1	13	50	0	26	34	6	Fischer, Wolfgang
7	Scotland	2329	2	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	1		1	0.5	1	0.5	12	50	0	24	36	7	Kilgour, David A.
8	Norway	2347	2	2	1.5	0.5	1	1	1		1.5	1	0.5	12	50	0	24	36	8	Sjøl, Henrik
9	Netherlands	2385	2	1	2	1.5	1	0.5	0.5	1.5		0.5	1	11.5	46	-2	25	35	9	Daatselaar, Jan Bart van
10	Denmark	2365	2.5	1.5	1	1.5	0.5	1.5	1	0	0.5		1.5	11.5	52	1	22	38	10	Bratholm, Palle Skov
11	Belgium	2395	1.5	1.5	0.5	1.5	1.5	1	0.5	0.5	1	1.5		11	50	0	22	38	11	Dondelinger, Jean-Pierre

Not yet started: 0, Ongoing: 166, Adjudication pending: 0, Finished: 164















POL-SCO 2024, Poland-Scotland 2024

			Tournament Management Committee						
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)	1	½	½	0	CCM Lloyd, Geoffrey	2301 (75)	
Board 5	Wiaderek, Piotr	2170 (99)	½	½	½	½	CCE Taylor, Wilf	2110 (81)	
Board 6	Grochol, Kamil	2123 (150)	1 ^E	½	½	0 ^E	Price, Derek	2063 (89)	
Board 7	Makosiej, Władysław	2050 (97)	½	½	½	½	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	1	0	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	1	0	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:			24.5		9.5				

SCO - USA 2024, Scotland - USA Friendly Match 2024

Scotland Kilgour, David A.				Tournament Management Committee				USA Biedermann, Thomas			
				White	Black	White	Black				
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)	½	½	½	½	 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	 Burrridge, 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:				18.5		21.5					

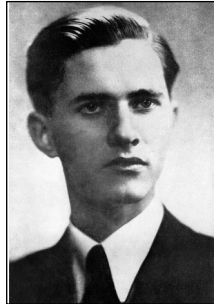
MT-Kolesnik/SF2, Rudolf Kolesnikov Team Tournament SF2

		TD Yeremenko, Andrei (IA)																
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	Team Captain		
1	 Cuba	2190		6	6	7	6.5	7.5	8	41	57	11	10	71	1	1	Menéndez Rodríguez, Giraldo	
2	 Ukraine 1	2285	6		6	7.5	6.5	7	8	41	56	10	10	72	0	2	Koshmak, Iurii	
3	 Philippines Agila	2270	6	6		7	7	7	7.5	40.5	57	10	10	71	1	3	Perez, Brigiliano	
4	 Norway	2185	5	4.5	5		6.5	7.5	8.5	37	51	2	6	72	0	4	Sjøl, Henrik	
5	 France	2056	5.5	5.5	5	5.5		7	8	36.5	50	1	4	72	0	5	Rozier, Denis	
6	 Finland	2204	4.5	5	5	4.5	5		7	31	43	-10	2	72	0	6	Vanttaja, Ilkka	
7	 Scotland	2082	3	4	3.5	3.5	4	5		23	32	-24	0	70	2	7	Kilgour, David A.	



Paul Keres 1916 - 1975

Paul Petrovich Keres was born in Estonia and was one of the world's top players and authors. One of my earliest chess books was 'The Art of the Middlegame' by Keres & Kotov. This was translated into English by Golombek and is currently available as a free download from <https://www.scribd.com/document/10986072/The-Art-of-the-Middle-Game>



Keres repeatedly came close to playing for the World Championship, he never got the chance but he did win many other tournaments including the AVRO 1938 tournament. AVRO featured eight of the strongest players in the world: Keres, Fine, Botvinnik, Euwe, Reshevsky, Alekhine, Capablanca, and Flohr. The tournament was played from November 8-27, 1938. AVRO was "up to that time the strongest tournament ever held"

Keres was runner-up in the Candidates Tournament on four consecutive occasions in 1953–1962 and he is considered by many to be one of the strongest players never to become world champion. The other player being Victor Korchnoi.

Ed. Above notes by the Editor



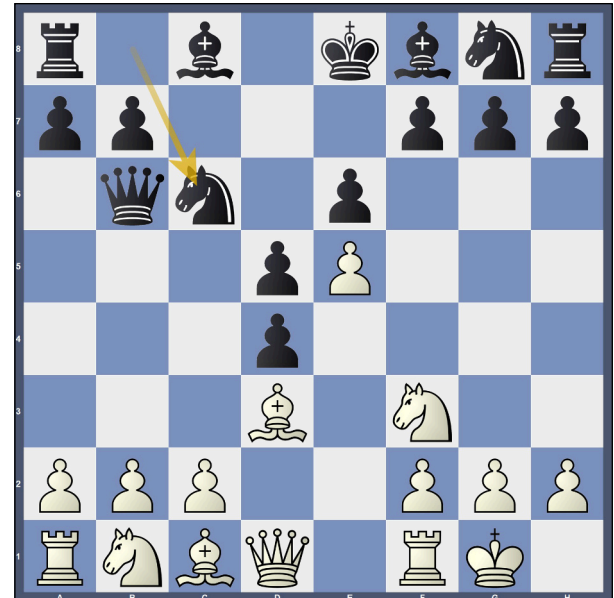
Keres, Paul - Laurine, Leho [C02]

Correspondence 1935

[Original notes by John E Hawkes]

1.e4 [French Defence, Advance Vn.]

1...e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.Nf3 Qb6 5.Bd3 cxd4 6.0-0



Nc6

7.Nbd2

[Keres v Malmgren Corres.1935 went; 7.Re1 Nge7 8.h4!? (8.a3 Ng6) 8...Bd7 9.a3 a5 10.c3 Rc8 11.a4 Ng8 12.Na3 Bxa3 13.Rxa3 Nge7 14.Nh2 Ng6 15.Nf3 Qc7 (15...dxc3 16.Rxc3 Qb4! 17.h5 Nf4 18.Rxc6 Bxc6 19.Bd2 Qxb2 20.Bxf4 and Black is OK.) 16.h5 Nge7 17.h6 gxh6 18.Nh2 Ra8 19.Bxh6 Kd8 20.Ng4 Kc8 21.Nf6 Ng6 22.cxd4 Nb4 23.Bg7 Rd8 24.Nxd7 Kxd7 25.Bb5+ Nc6 26.Rc3 Rg8 27.Bf6 Qb6 28.Qb3 Rab8 29.Qa3 Qc7 30.Rec1 With Rxc6 threatened, the Swedish player

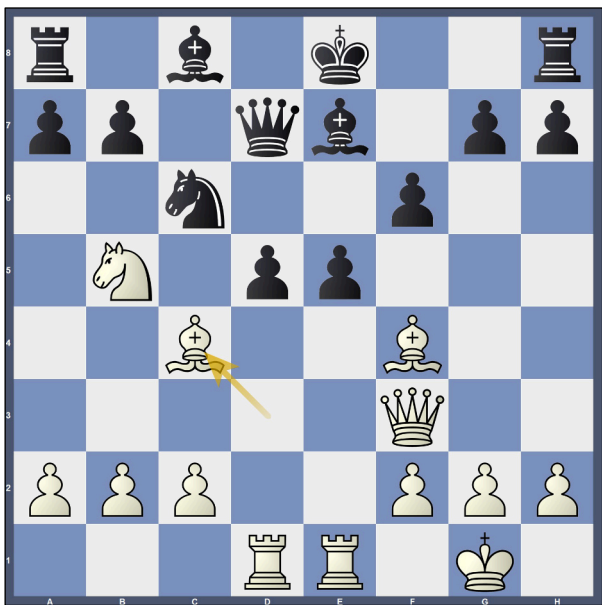




resigned.]

7...Nge7 8.Nb3 Ng6 9.Qe2

9...Qc7 10.Nbxd4 Ngxe5 11.Nb5 Nxf3+ 12.Qxf3 Qd7 [Or 12...Qb8 13.Re1 Ne5 14.Rxe5 Qxe5 15.Bf4 Qxb2 16.Nc7+]]



13.Bf4 e5 14.Rfe1 f6 15.Rad1 Be7 [This would appear solid logical development.]

16.Bc4! [Putting the second Bishop en prise.]

16...d4? [16...Nb4 vacating c6 for his queen there is; 17.Bxe5 fxe5 (17...0-0 18.Bg3 Qc6 19.Bb3 Qxb5 20.Rxe7+-) 18.Bxd5 Bf6 19.Bf7+! Qxf7 20.Nd6+ Ke7 and White can show-off with 21.Rxe5+! Kf8

22.Rde1!; while 16...exf4 17.Rxd5 and the Black Queen has only one square; 17...Qg4 18.Nc7+! leading to a very beautiful mate 18...Kf8 19.Rxe7 Kxe7 (19...Nxe7 20.Rd8#) 20.Qa3+!! Kf7 21.f3 Qg6 22.Rd7#; Black's best defence was 16...Kf8 then if 17.Bxe5 Qf5! 18.Bd6 Qxf3 (Not 18...Bxd6 19.Nxd6 Qxf3 20.Re8#) ; The alternative centre-pawn push could continue; 16...e4 17.Qh5+! g6 18.Qxd5 Qxd5 19.Nc7+! Kf8 20.Bh6+ Kf7 21.Bxd5+ Be6 22.Bxe6#]

17.Be6 Qd8 18.Bxe5! Bxe6 [18...Nxe5 19.Rxe5! fxe5 20.Qf7#]

19.Nc7+ Kf7 20.Nxe6 Qa5 [20...Kxe6 21.Bxf6+ + 21...Kd7 22.Rxd4+ Nxd4 23.Qxb7+ Kd6 24.Bxe7+ Qxe7 25.Rxe7 and Black will inevitably be mated.]

21.Bxd4 Qxa2 22.Bxf6! [22.Nxg7 was also crushing, for example 22...Kxg7 (22...Nxd4 23.Rxd4 Kxg7 24.Rxe7+ Kg6 25.Rg4+ Kh6 26.Qh3#) 23.Rxe7+ Nxe7 24.Qxf6+ Kg8 25.Qg7#]

22...Bxf6 [22...gxf6 23.Qh5+ Kg8 24.Qg4+ Kf7 25.Qg7+ Ke8 26.Nc7#]

23.Rd7+ Ne7 [There are mates all over the place: 23...Kg8 24.Qxf6! gxf6 25.Rg7#!; 23...Kg6 24.Rxg7+ (24.Qg4+ Kh6 25.Qh3+ Kg6 26.Nf4+ Kg5 27.Qh5+ Kxf4 28.g3#) 24...Bxg7 25.Qg4+ Kf7 26.Qxg7+ Ke8 27.Nf8+ Kd8 28.Qd7#; 23...Ke8 24.Rxb7 Ne5 25.Nxg7+ Kd8 (25...Bxg7 26.Rxg7 Rb8 27.Rxe5+ Kd8 28.Qf6+ Kc8 29.Rc5#) 26.Qxf6+ Kc8 27.Qxe5 Kxb7 28.Qb5+ Kc8 29.Ne8! etc.]

24.Rxe7+! Kxe7 25.Qxb7+ Kd6 [Preferring the quickest death: 25...Ke8 26.Ng5+! is also mating - but in six moves.]



Miniature Correspondence Masterpieces No. 37 by John E. Hawkes

Korning, Peter - Sterud, Edvard [A03]

Denmark v Norway Corres., 1963

[Note by John E. Hawkes]

[Bird Opening]

1.f4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 g6 4.d4 Bg7 5.Bd3 0-0 6.0-0 c5

[Korning v Larsen P. Danish Corres.championship 1967 would go; 6...b6 7.Nbd2 e6 8.Ne5 Bb7 9.Qf3 Nbd7 10.h4 Ne8 11.h5 gxh5!? 12.Qxh5 f5 13.Ndf3 Nef6 14.Qh3 Qe8=]

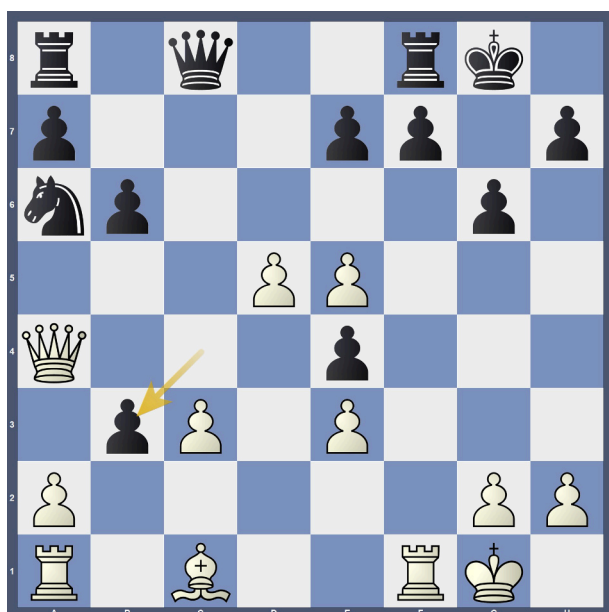
7.c3

[A Stonewall Dutch reversed.]

7...b6 8.Nbd2 Ba6

[Korning v Halldorsson in the 1960 Nordic CC Championship had gone; 8...Bb7 9.Ne5 Nbd7 10.Qf3 Qc7 11.h4 That move again! 11...Ne8 12.h5 Nd6 13.Qh3 Nf6 14.hxg6 hxg6 15.g4 Nde4 16.Kg2 Rfd8 17.Ndf3 Nd7 18.Bd2 Nxe5 19.fxe5 f6 20.Bxe4 dxe4 21.Nh4 and a win for Korning in 37 moves.]

9.Bxa6 Nxa6 10.Ne5 Ne4 11.Nxe4 dxe4 12.Qa4 Qc8 13.d5! Bxe5 14.fxe5 c4 15.b3 cxb3



[15...Rd8 16.bxc4 Nc5 was also good.]

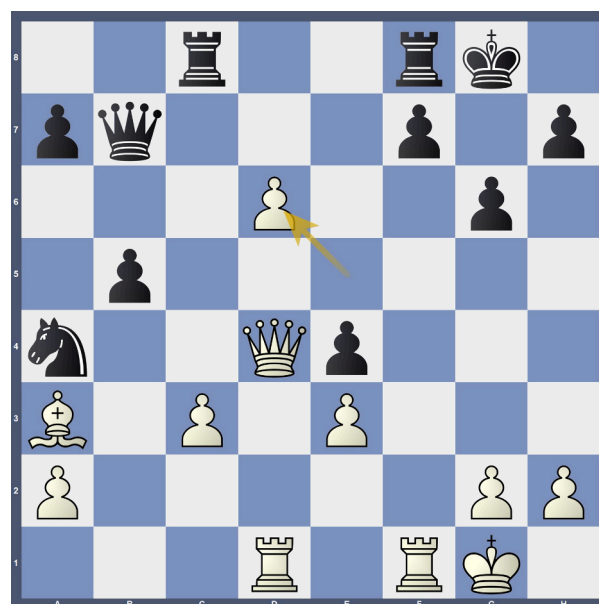
16.Qxb3 Nc5

[16...Qc7 17.Ba3 Qxe5 18.Rad1 Rac8 19.d6 Nc5 20.Bxc5 Qxc5 and the heavy-piece endgame has fascinating possibilities, for example; 21.d7 Qxe3+ 22.Kh1 (22.Rf2 Rxc3-+) 22...Rcd8 23.Rfe1 Qc5 24.Rxe4 Rxd7!! 25.Rxd7 Qf5! 26.Qd1 Qxe4 27.Rxa7 Rc8 28.Qa1 Qe2! and Black is winning.]

17.Qc4 Qb7 18.Ba3 Rac8 19.Rad1 b5 20.Qd4 Na4 21.d6 exd6

[21...Nxc3 22.dxe7? Ne2+ of course.]

22.exd6



Black's next move looks reasonable, but Qd7 blockading the Q-pawn or Nxc3 was necessary. #]

22...Rfd8? 23.d7! Rc7 24.Qf6!!

[24.Qf6!! Rxd7 (24...Qb8 25.Qxf7+ Kh8 26.Bd6! Rxd7 27.Be5+! Qxe5 28.Rxd7 Rxd7 29.Qf8#) 25.Qd8+!! Rxd8 26.Rxd8+ Kg7 27.Bf8+ Kh8 /g8 28.Bh6#; 24.Bf8!! gives us an alternative finishing touch; 24...Rxf8 25.Rxf7! Kxf7 26.Rf1+ Ke7 27.Qg7+ Ke6 28.d8N+!! Rxd8 29.Qf6+ Kd7 30.Rd1+ Qd5 31.Rxd5+ Kc8 32.Qa6+ Rb7 33.Qc6+ Rc7 34.Qa8#]

1-0



Chess Art Postal Stamps

by John E. Hawkes

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MAGNUS CARLSEN





Games of Alastair Dawson

by Michael Blake

In tribute to Alastair Dawson, I reproduce a few of the many games annotated by Alastair for this magazine.

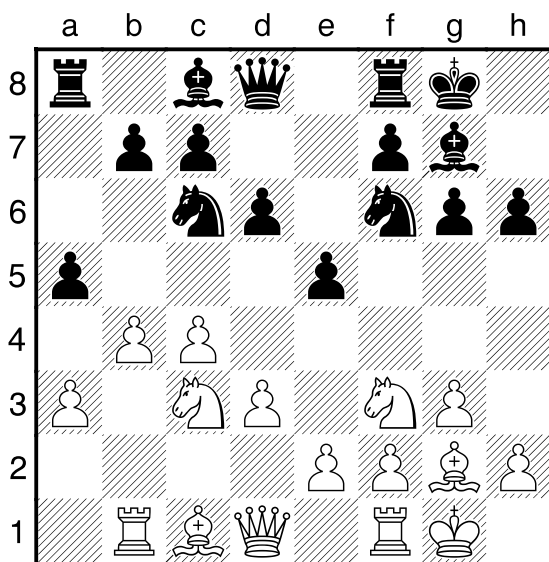
Dawson, Alastair G (2052) - Bennborn, J (2253) [A26]

North Sea Team Tournament 3, 2019

[Alastair Dawson]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.c4 0-0 5.0-0 d6 6.Nc3 e5 7.d3 Nc6 8.Rb1 a5 9.a3 h6 [All routine so far with White going for a space advantage on the queenside whilst holding the centre.]

10.b4 [



10...axb4 11.axb4 Be6 12.Nd2 Qd7 13.b5 Nd8 [I have seen Seirawan describing this position many times on his excellent St Louis Chess Club series on YouTube!]

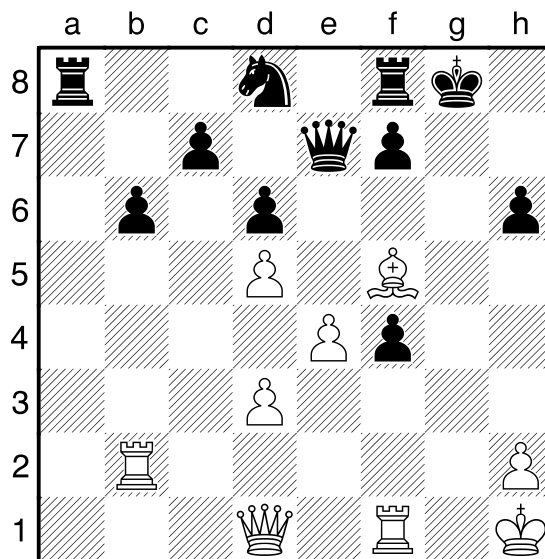
14.Nd5 Nxd5 15.cxd5 Bg4 16.Bb2 [The move .Qd7 has put the white-squared bishop very short of squares. Maybe exchanging off this bishop with .Bh3 was to be preferred.]

16...g5 17.f3 Bh5 18.e4 b6 19.Nc4 Qxb5 [I figured that after ...g5 I would chase the bishop into a horrible place (g6) and just completely shut it out of the game. Then the plan would be to make maximum use of the 'extra piece'.]

20.Ne3 Qd7 21.Nf5 Bg6 22.Bh3 [So now I know that if Black ever swaps off the N with ..Bf5 I will recapture with the bishop and take complete control

of the white squares.]

22...Bxf5 23.Bxf5 Qe7 24.f4 exf4 25.gxf4 Bxb2 26.Rxb2 gxf4 27.Kh1 [



The weaknesses on the Black white squares provide White with very strong pressure on the Black kingside position.]

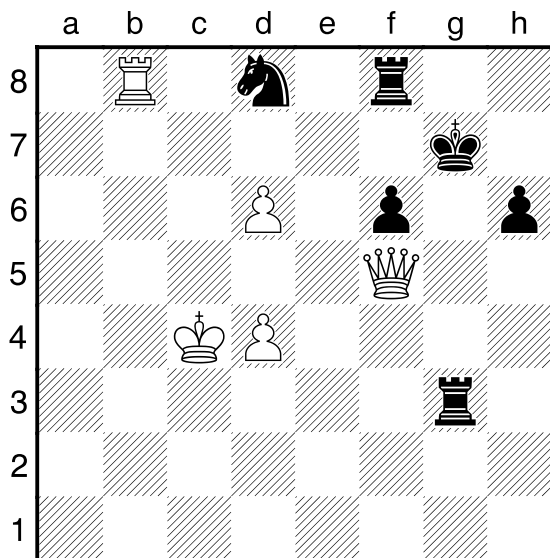
27...Kh8 28.Qc1 Rg8 29.Qxf4 Qf6 30.d4 Ra7 31.Rbb1 c6 32.Rg1 Rg5 33.h4 Rh5 34.Rg4 Ra3 35.Rf1 [At this point when trying to find a way through I find a nice rook sacrifice - the next moves help prepare it.]

35...cxd5 36.exd5 Rh3+ 37.Kg2 R3xh4 38.Rg8+ [It is pretty simple with one advantage (the exchange) being swapped for another (queen for rooks).]

38...Kxg8 39.Bh7+ Kxh7 40.Qxf6 Rg4+ 41.Kf3 Rg8 42.Ke4 [We enter a complicated part of the game where Black tries to keep harassing the White king. But every 3 or 4 moves Black has to expend an extra move to keep coordinating his rooks. The plan for White is to use these extra moves to further strengthen the White position.]

42...b5 43.Qxd6 Rh4+ 44.Kd3 Rh3+ 45.Ke2 Rb3 46.Rf6 Rb2+ 47.Ke3 Rb3+ 48.Kf4 Rh3 49.Qd7

Rh1 50.Ke3 Re1+ 51.Kd2 Reg1 52.Qf5+ Kg7
53.Rb6 Rg2+ 54.Kc3 Rg6 55.Rxb5 Rf8 56.Rb8 f6
57.d6 Rg3+ 58.Kc4 [



1-0



Dawson, Alastair G - Cumming, D R [B10]

SCCA Candidates, 2004

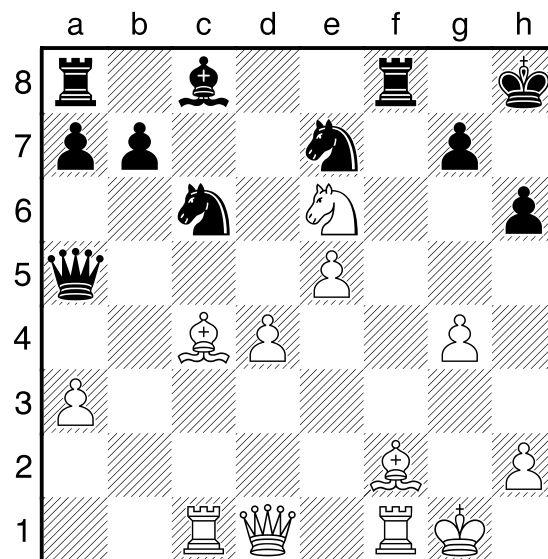
[Alastair Dawson]

1.e4 c6 2.f4 d5 3.Nc3 [A straightforward idea to challenge the centre. If ...d4 then White responds with Nb1 and thereafter seeks to take charge of the c4 square through d3, a4, Nd2 and Nc4.]

3...e6 4.Nf3 Qb6 5.d4 Bb4 6.e5 c5 7.a3 Bxc3+ 8.bxc3 Nc6 9.Be3 cxd4 10.cxd4 Nge7 11.Be2 Nf5 12.Bf2 f6 13.0-0 0-0 14.c4 fxe5 15.fxe5 Qd8 [Not much to shout about here except that White has a sizeable space advantage and is noticeably ahead in development.]

16.Rc1 Kh8 17.cxd5 Qxd5 [Maybe not best here (...e5) since the Qd5 is exposed to new attacks and the Bc8 remains locked out of play.]

18.g4 Nfe7 19.Ng5 h6 20.Bc4 Qa5 21.Nxe6 [



I pondered long and hard about this move since although, winning a pawn, it instantly frees the Bc8 and allows the Ra8 to be developed. On reflection Ne4 may have been a lot better with the long-term plan of pushing ahead with g5 while simultaneously holding the centre. After the following captures I began to feel distinctly uncomfortable about the position despite the slender material advantage.]

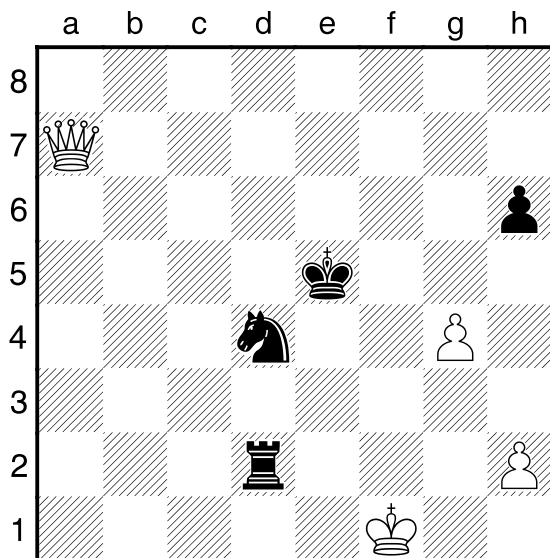
21...Bxe6 22.Bxe6 Qxa3 23.Ra1 Qc3 24.Rb1 Rxf2 [Prior to ...Rf2 White is ahead with pressure all across the board. Despite this, a win is a long way away. After ..Rf2 White can hold the centre together and comes out the exchange ahead.]

25.Rxf2 Nxd4 26.Rxb7 Nxe6 27.Rxe7 Rd8 The d-pawn was always going to fall but after the forced exchanges the effect of the R for N now becomes apparent. There is no route in for Black against the White King. By contrast, the Black King is somewhat exposed.]

28...Qe1+ 29.Rf1 Qxe5 30.Qc6 [This move was played partly to create a pin on the Ne6 but mainly it was played to lure Black into a trap. On the face of it, it looks like ...Rd2 is very dangerous since not only does it create mating threats but it also threatens to take advantage of Queen checks on the White King. I guess 30. Qc6 is one of those innocent looking moves that lures Black into a false sense of security. I played it with a wager to myself that Black would try the Rook move and,]

30...Rd2 31.Qe8+ Kh7 32.Rxg7+ [wins the Queen back - and the game.]

32...Qxg7 33.Rf7 Nd4 34.Rxg7+ Kxg7 35.Qa8 Kf6 36.Kf1 Ke5 37.Qxa7 [



The board is wide open space and this gives the Queen the opportunity via checks to create winning threats.]

37...Ke4 38.Qh7+ Kf3 39.Ke1 Re2+ 40.Kd1 Kf2 41.Qxh6 Re1+ 42.Kd2 Nf3+ 43.Kd3 Rd1+ 44.Ke4 [White has to be patient and let Black exhaust all available checks]

44...Rd4+ 45.Kf5 Rd5+ 46.Ke6 Rd4 47.g5 Re4+ 48.Kf5 Rh4 49.Qb6+ Nd4+ 50.Ke5 Ke3 [Black resigns]

1-0



Dawson, Alastair G (2113) - Cumming, David (2306) [E92]

Scottish Championship 2017-18, 2018
[Alastair Dawson]

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.d4 g6 [Already Black is setting White problems of how to disguise his opening plans.]

3.c4 Bg7 4.Nc3 0-0 5.e4 [So, the dust has settled a bit and now we have a conventional King's Indian.]

5...d6 6.Be2 e5 7.d5 a5 8.Be3 Ng4 [So, already we are starting to enter uncharted waters although there

are some top level GM games to compare with.]

9.Bd2 [The move 9. Bg5 is by far a much more popular option. I wanted to explore the Bd2 idea but in retrospect maybe I should not have bothered!]

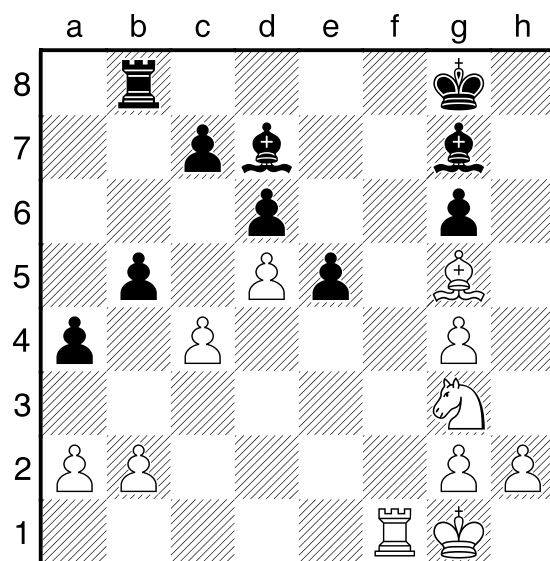
9...f5 10.exf5 gxf5 11.Ng5 Na6 [Black has pretty much equalised by now and structurally White has to keep plugging holes in his pawn formation.]

12.0-0 Nc5 13.Bxg4 fxe4 14.Qe2 Bf5 15.Nge4 [The King's Indian is always amazing in its ability to allow quite distinctive and novel positions to emerge - as here.]

15...Nxe4 16.Nxe4 b6 17.Rac1 Qe8 [White's problem is trying to keep a lid on the two Black bishops.]

18.Ng3 Bd7 19.Qe4 a4 20.Rce1 Rb8 21.Bg5 Qf7 22.f3 Qg6 23.Qxg6 hxg6 [In retrospect I should maybe have returned the N to e4 immediately but I thought I would gamble and try and get a different type of play by snatching on g4.]

24.fxg4 Rxf1+ 25.Rxf1 b5 [



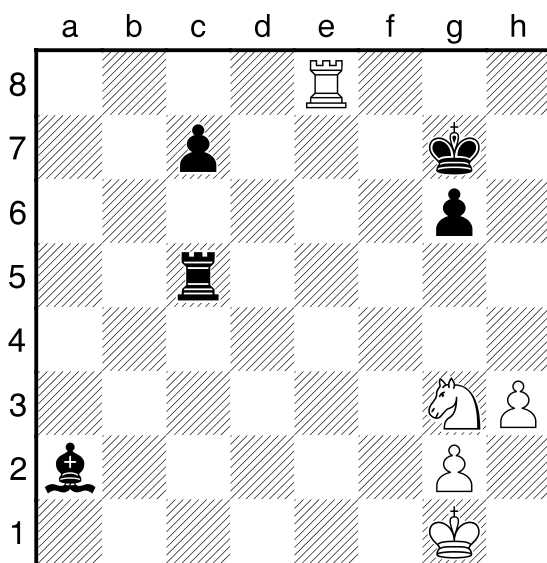
I did not really consider this move in any detail but I should have because it is quite strong indeed.]

26.Rc1 e4 27.Nxe4 Bd4+ 28.Kh1 [And now it is painful to experience the power of the two Black bishops - in summary White has messed up, the 2 bishops are stronger than the B plus N - and White is hanging on for dear life.]

28...Rf8 29.b3 bxc4 30.bxc4 Bxg4 31.c5 [The only chance for counterplay...]

31...dxc5 32.h3 Be2 33.Nxc5 Rf5 34.Be7 Bb2 35.Re1 Bc4 36.Nxa4 Be5 37.Bc5 [White is just about holding on but the vulnerability of the king makes the position precarious.]

37...Bxd5 38.Kg1 Bg3 39.Re8+ Kg7 40.Nc3 Bc4 41.Ne2 Rxc5 42.Nxg3 Bxa2 [



So, now one of the bishop pair is off White can breathe a bit more easily - although White still has to be careful.]

43.Ne4 Rc1+ 44.Kf2 Rc2+ 45.Kg3 Bd5 46.Re7+ Kf8 47.Re5 c6 48.h4 Kf7 49.Kf3 Rd2 50.g4 Rd4 51.Ke3 Ra4 52.Nd6+ Kf6 [and with White planning to ultimately create a passed pawn on the kingside, a draw was proposed and agreed.]

1/2-1/2



Lees, J - Dawson, Alastair G [B08]

SCCA Candidates, 2004

[Alastair Dawson]

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Be2 0-0 6.0-0 Bg4 7.h3 [Directly asking the Q of the Bf3 and the capture is main-line.]

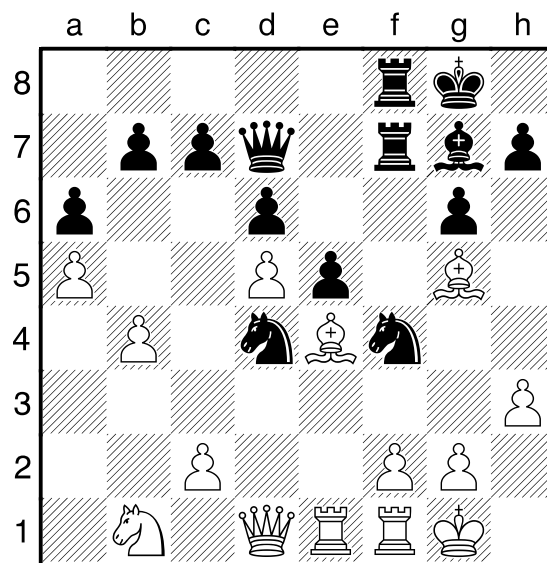
7...Bxf3 8.Bxf3 Nc6 9.Be3 e5 10.d5 Ne7 11.Be2

Nd7 12.a4 f5 13.a5 Nf6 14.exf5 Nxf5 [A key moment in game. Black has to decide whether to take with g-pawn or by ...Nf5. Ordinarily ..gf5 is played but Black is weak on the white squares and the Ne7 heads for g6. By recapturing with the N, Black has clear plan here of doubling rooks on the f-file and keeping an eye over d4. Of course, the compensation for White after ...Nf5 is control over the e4 square.]

15.Bg5 a6 16.Bd3 Qd7 17.Qd2 Rf7 18.Rae1 Raf8 19.b4 Nd4 [Also a critical position - White has to decide whether or not to play Bf6 - after all the ..Nf5 capture left a weakness on e4, White might have a better plan here therefore to play Bf6 and then occupy e4 alternately with N and B.]

20.Qd1 Nh5 21.Be4 [White has to cover f3 since sacrifices are beginning to be threatened while an ..Nf4 creates additional sacrificial threats on g2 and h3.]

21...Nf4 22.Nb1 [



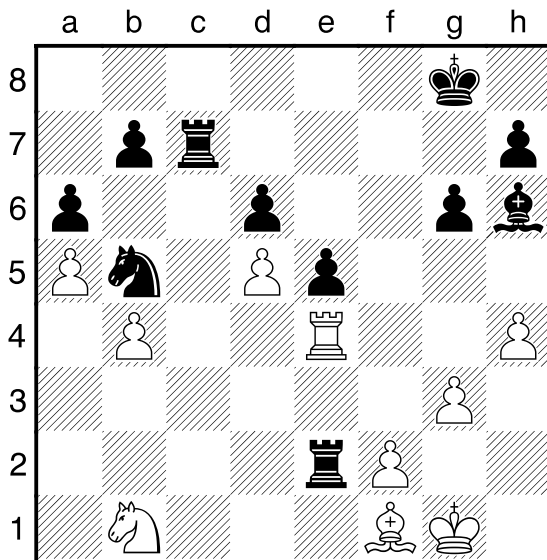
This move funnily enough shapes the rest of the game. I couldn't understand at the time why White played it - but as the game develops the noose tightens on this N - not so much threatening to capture it but rather preventing it moving to any square and also, by keeping it on b1, obstructing free movement of other pieces along White's first rank.]

22...c6 23.Bxf4 Rxf4 24.c3 Nb5 25.Qd2 Bh6 [It is clear that the d6 and e5 pawn will not be moving so now is an opportunity to put the Bh6 on a good

square.]

26.Qd3 Qc7 27.g3 R4f6 28.Bg2 c5 29.Qc4 cxb4 30.Qxc7 Nxc7 31.cxb4 Nb5 [This set of captures turns out in Black's favour. The Bh6 covers the c1 square and this makes it easy for Black to switch the play and take control of the c-file.]

32.Re4 Rc8 33.Rfe1 Rf7 34.h4 Rc2 35.R1e2 Rfc7 36.Bf1 Rxe2 [



Now we see the effect of the Nb1 forcing the Re2 rather than the Be2 recapture - at the same time the Nb1 is paralysed.]

37.Rxe2 Rc1 38.Rb2 Kf8 39.Kg2 Nc7 [Now the .d5 pawn falls - the following exchanges just have the effect of exaggerating the weakness induced by the Nb1.]

40.b5 axb5 41.Bxb5 Nxd5 42.Be2 Rc5 43.Rxb7 Rxa5 44.Rd7 Ra2 45.Rxd6 Ne3+ 46.Kf3 e4+ 47.Kxe4 Rxe2 48.fxe3 Rxe3+ 49.Kd5 Rb3 [White is done for - the N can be saved after Rf6+ and Rf1 etc but the g3 pawn falls and Black enters the endgame effectively a piece up!]

0-1



Bird,A - Dawson,Alastair G [A21]

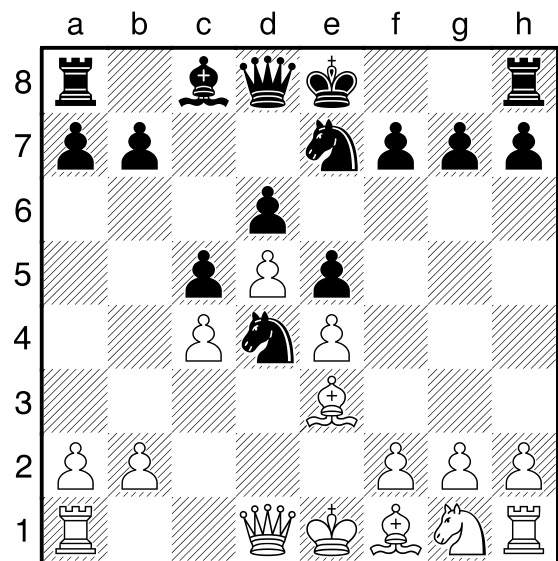
SCCA Candidates, 2004

[Alastair Dawson]

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Bb4 3.Nd5 Be7 [The Shirov-Kramm variation.]

4.d4 d6 5.e4 Nc6 6.Nxe7 Ngxe7 [Black can choose here from ...Qe7 and ...Nge7. The idea with the .Ne7 capture is to keep the Knights interconnected. I learned this line from some games played by Hodgson.]

7.d5 Nd4 8.Be3 c5 [



White is faced with difficult choices here - dc6 (ep) gives Black good control of the central squares. Is White prepared to exchange off his only developed piece? White chooses another line.]

9.Bd3 f5 [It is amazing how fast the counterplay develops on the f-file.]

10.Ne2 0-0 11.0-0 [Given what follows, it may be more prudent for White not to castle K-side - but the choices for White are all difficult here.]

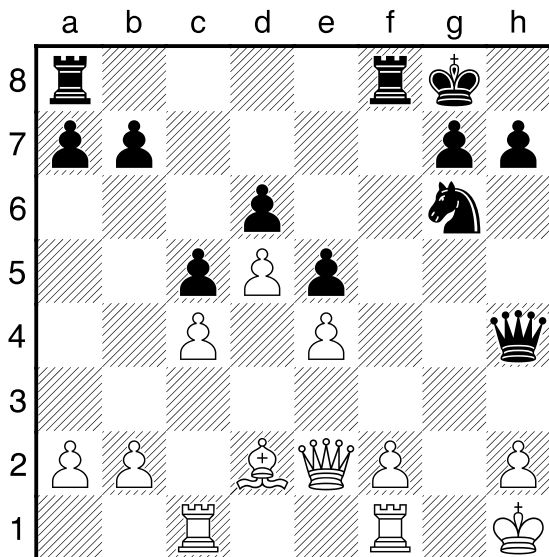
11...Nxe2+ 12.Qxe2 f4 [All of a sudden Black has a tremendous attack.]

13.Bd2 f3 [A temporary sacrifice that guarantees a powerful attack on the White King.]

14.Qe3 fxg2 15.Kxg2 Ng6 [Although Black has a clear edge here, the position requires a clear plan of how Black should proceed. After all, although

Black is in possession of the f-file, White might seek some counterplay by posting his Rooks on g3 and g1 respectively. So, as far as Black is concerned the key thing is to mobilise both Rooks as fast as possible, so after White's next move the plan is to exchange off the Bc8.]

16.Kh1 Bg4 17.Be2 Bxe2 18.Qxe2 Qh4 19.Rac1 [



Although Black has undisputed control of the f-file, decisions have to be taken re how to develop the kingside attack. If Black is not careful White can develop counter-threats on the g-file. So I decided that the square to control is g3 and, to this end, chose the manoeuvre ..Nf5 - h5. In fact this little Knight redeployment is the key to a forced win.]

19...Nf4 20.Qe3 Nh5 21.Rce1 Rf4 [Wins a tempo.]

22.Qe2 Rf6 23.Rc1 Raf8 24.Kg2 Rg6+ 25.Kh1 [And thanks to the Nh5 the next move wins the game.]

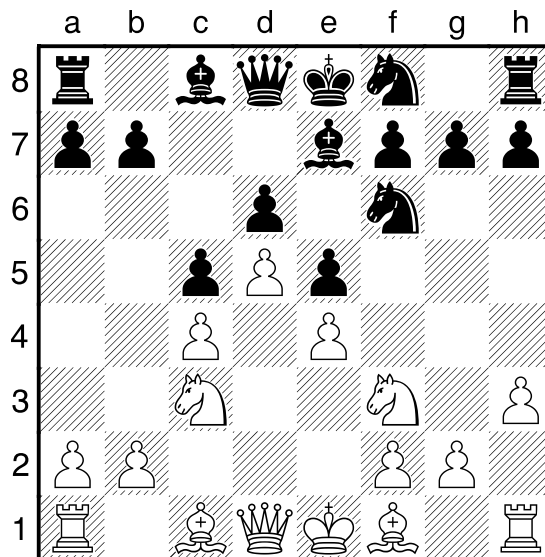
25...Rxf2 26.Qxf2 Ng3+ 27.Qxg3 Rxg3 28.Rce1 Rg4 29.Rf3 Rxe4 30.Ref1 h6

0-1



MacDonald,P - Dawson,Alastair G [A00]
SCCA Candidates, 2004
[Alastair Dawson]

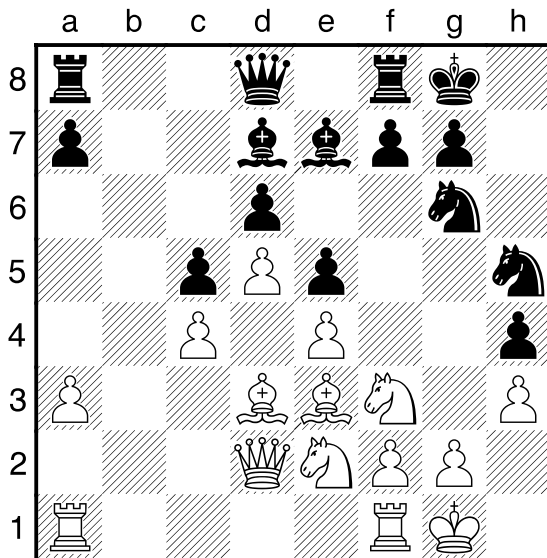
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e5 4.Nc3 d6 5.e4 Nbd7 6.Nf3 Be7 7.h3 Nf8 [



Quite a rare line that appears in a few old textbooks and which has been adopted with success by the Danish player Bo Jacobsen. The plan is quite a clever one based on the following: a) to free congestion in the Black ranks and especially giving the Bc8 room for manoeuvre, b) to target the f4 square with Nf8-g6 coupled with h7-h5-h4 and ΔNh5. White has the difficult choice of a) castling K-side into an attack b) castling Q-side and facing the probable opening of the b-file c) leaving the K in the centre of the board. The opening is extremely solid and, although drawish, gives Black some attacking possibilities.]

8.Bd3 h5 9.Be3 Ng6 10.Qd2 h4 11.a3 Bd7 12.b4 b6 [It is important for B to recapture with the b6 pawn and contest the b-file with Rooks and Queen. Black must not lose control of the b-file - if he does he is almost certainly lost.]

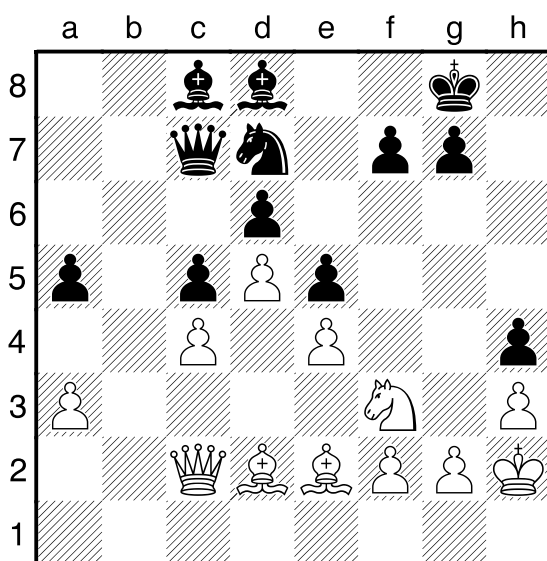
13.0-0 Nh5 14.bxc5 bxc5 15.Ne2 0-0 [



A secure defensive setup that depends on the h4 pawn being well protected.]

16.Rab1 Qc7 17.Rb2 Rfb8 18.Rfb1 Rxb2 19.Qxb2 Bd8 20.Bd2 Bc8 21.Qb5 a6 22.Qa4 Ra7 23.Bc2 [Plenty of positional play -one key feature of this opening is that the Black Bishops are able to switch quickly from Q-side defence to K-side attack and thus keep White guessing.]

23...Rb7 24.Rxb7 Bxb7 25.Bd1 Nf6 26.Nc3 Nd7 27.Qc2 Bc8 28.Kh2 Nf4 29.Ne2 Nxe2 30.Bxe2 a5 [



Probing to create strongpoints on the Q-side but White is alert to the threats.]

31.Qb3 Nf8 32.Ng5 f6 33.Nf3 g5 34.Ne1 Ng6 [Black is forcing things on the K-side but cannot overcook the position in case White has the opportunity of taking control of the key squares on the Kingside.]

35.Bg4 Bxg4 36.hxg4 Nf4 37.Bxf4 exf4 38.Qb5 Kf7 39.f3 Ke7 [There is no way through for either side. Draw agreed.]

½-½



Young,S - Dawson,Alastair G [A45]

SCCA Candidates, 2004

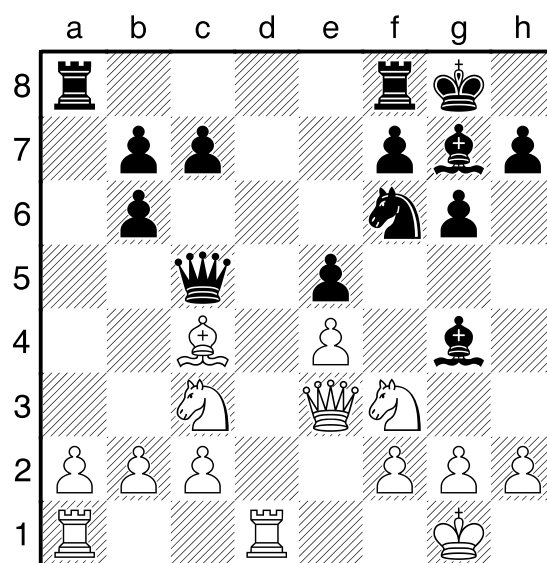
[Alastair Dawson]

1.d4 Nf6 2.e3 d6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Bc4 0-0 [A passive yet solid position on White's part.]

6.0-0 Nbd7 7.e4 [White, by virtue of his opening moves, wastes a tempo here - so in theory Black should have no problems.]

7...e5 8.dxe5 dxe5 9.Be3 Qe7 10.Qd3 Nb6 [Trying to take advantage of the fact that the Qd3 is somewhat exposed.]

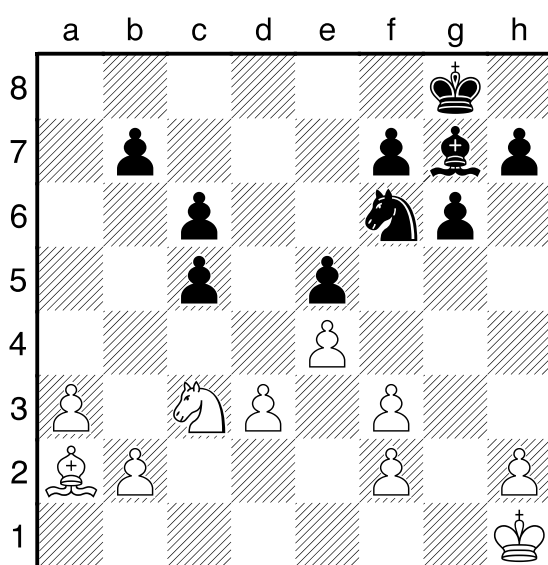
11.Rfd1 Bg4 12.Bxb6 axb6 13.Qe3 Qc5 [



A difficult choice whether or not to go for Queen exchanges here. Black has no problems here and has an edge if the Queens come off due to the Bg4 pin, the open a-file and the opportunity to challenge the d-file with his rooks.]

14.Qxc5 bxc5 15.Rd3 Bxf3 16.gxf3 [I expected Rf3 here. In the long term, Black plans to exploit the doubled pawns. As Jonathan Rowson commented, these sort of pawn weaknesses do not go away - and may become decisive later in a game.]

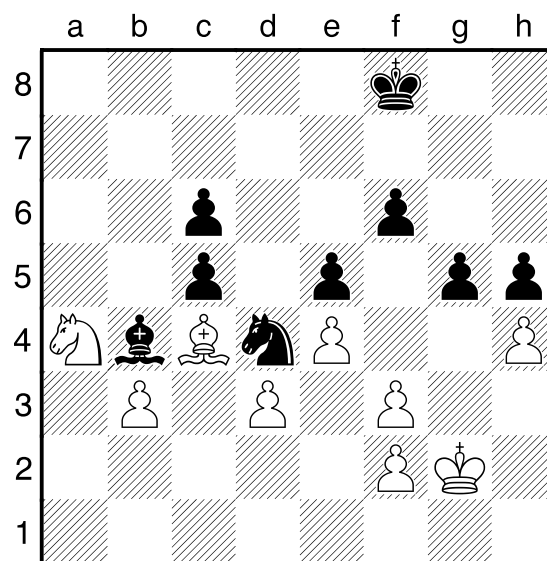
16...c6 17.a3 Rfd8 18.Rad1 Rd4 19.Ba2 Rad8 20.Kh1 Rxd3 21.Rxd3 Rxd3 22.cxd3 [



Now that the Rooks are off, Black can look forward to a persistent initiative. The Black squares are particularly attractive for the Bg7 while d3 and f3 pawns are targets for the Black Knight.]

22...Bh6 23.Bc4 Bc1 24.Nd1 Nh5 25.a4 Nf4 26.a5 Kf8 27.a6 bxa6 28.Bxa6 Ke7 29.b3 Ne6 30.Kg2 h5 31.Bc4 Nd4 32.Nc3 Bd2 33.Na4 Bb4 [It is a question now of determining whether the Black bishop or Knight should be on d4 and also how should the f4 weakness be best exploited.]

34.h4 Kf8 35.Nb6 f6 36.Na4 g5 [



Thinking about this position, the plan for Black would seem to be firstly to create a passed pawn on the kingside. Thereafter the plan should not be to try and push this pawn through (difficult if not impossible) but instead tie white down to the defence of the kingside and thereafter attack elsewhere on the board. The Black king is the key to winning this position. Since there is no way through for the Black King on the kingside, the way in is on the Queenside even if it means a long march via c7, b6 (if made available), a5, b4, a3 to end up on c2 or d2. So the first step is to tie White down and place the Black pieces on their best squares.]

37.hxg5 fxg5 38.Nb6 Ke7 39.Nc8+ Kd7 [It is with the long term aim of bringing the King in on the q-side that Kd7 and Kc7 are played here.]

40.Nb6+ Kc7 41.Na4 Nc2 42.Bf7 h4 43.Kh3 Ne1 44.Nb2 Bc3 45.Nd1 Bd4 46.Bc4 Nxf3 [And at long last the f3 pawn falls.]

47.Kg4 Ne1 [Now White is more or less in zugzwang and it is time for the queenside King march.]

48.Kh3 Kb6 49.Kg4 Ka5 50.Kh3 Kb4 51.Kg4 Ka3 52.Ne3 Kb2 53.Nf1 Bxf2 54.Kxg5 Kc3 55.Kg4 Nxd3 56.Kf3 Bd4 57.Kg4 Ne1 [The plan works well and now Black rounds up the b3 pawn and prepares to escort the c-pawns forward.]

58.Kxh4 Nxb3 59.Be2 c4 60.Kg4 Na5 61.Kf5 Kb2 62.Ng3 c3 63.Ba6 c2 [White resigns.] **0-1**

Reeman, Ian - Dawson, Alastair G [B09]

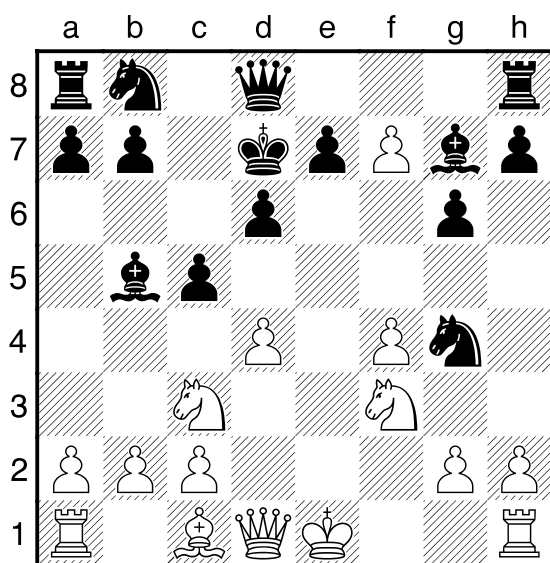
SCCA Championship 0506, 2006

[Alastair Dawson]

1.d4 d6 2.e4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.f4 Bg7 5.Nf3 c5 [This line of the Austrian is especially interesting since it represents an attempt by Black to directly confront the White centre.]

6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.e5 Ng4 8.e6 [But it is extremely wild stuff, if you think this is spectacular, wait a couple of moves!]

8...Bxb5 9.exf7+ Kd7 [



All standard stuff - although Black has the option to play 8..fe6 which leads into another sub-variation of hair-raising chess. The latter move can lead to a surprise draw involving a Queen sacrifice. It is a well-known line first played by Seirewan. I tried it with success at Hawick a few years ago against Graeme Kafka – 8.fe6 9.Ng5 Bb5 10. Ne6 Bd4!! Since 11. Nd8 bf2+ 12. Kd2 Be3+ 13. Ke1 is dead draw. But there is no point in being led into this line if one is trying to win the game.]

10.Nxb5 Qa5+ 11.Nc3 cxd4 12.Nxd4 h5 [Still in book, the idea being to get the very maximum from the Black pieces. At this point the f5 square starts to become crucial. By breaking up the White pawn centre, White has left himself a weakness on f5. With no White-squared bishop on the board, the Ng4 can be rerouted via h6 to the f5 square – in fact sometimes the Black Queen can use this square also. The other issue concerned with the f5 square is

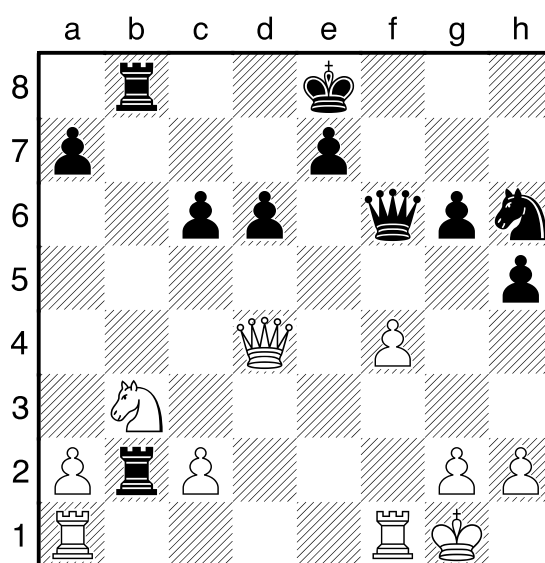
that top of Black's priorities is to hem in the Bc1 - this can be done if Black can paralyse the f4 pawn making it unable to advance.]

13.Qd3 Nc6 [So, amazingly, despite the Kd7 Black has cleared his lines. With the King closer to the centre, Black is seeking to exchange Queens and enter a better endgame. On White's part the objective is to keep the Queens on and pile on the pressure through the middle of the board making use of e6 on the way.]

14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.Bd2 Qf5 16.Ne4 Rhb8 17.0-0 Rxb2 18.Bc3 [It is around here that White starts to go wrong. Already pressure has started to build up on the a1-h8 diagonal culminating in the arrival of a Rook on b2.]

18...Bxc3 19.Qxc3 Rab8 20.Qd4 Nh6 [The f5 square is assuming greater and greater importance, everything that Black does revolves around this square. White tries to ease the pressure with an f8 advance.]

21.f8Q Qxf8 22.Nc5+ Ke8 23.Nb3 Qf6 [

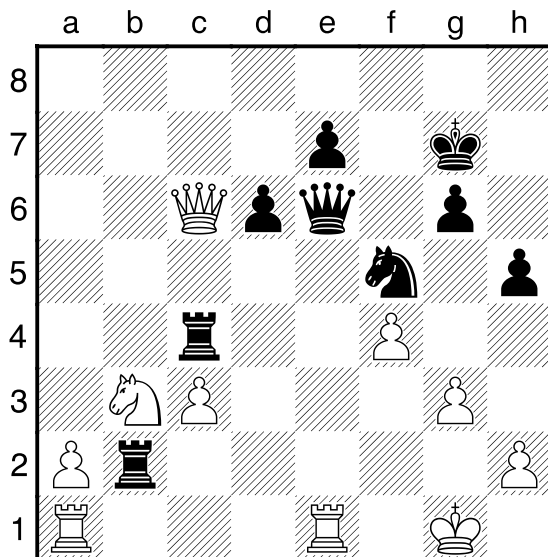


The Black King is on his travels. With the b-file open, the a-pawn about to vanish, and the Queens still on, home for the King has to be on the Kingside.]

24.Qxa7 Rb4 25.Qa8+ Kf7 26.Qxc6 Kg7 27.g3 Nf5 [Here we go again, the Nf5 anchors Black's position keeping a firm grip on the defence of e7.]

28.c3 Qe6 [This is the move that seals Black a lasting advantage allowing him to enter the endgame with an clear edge.]

29.Rfe1 Rc4 [



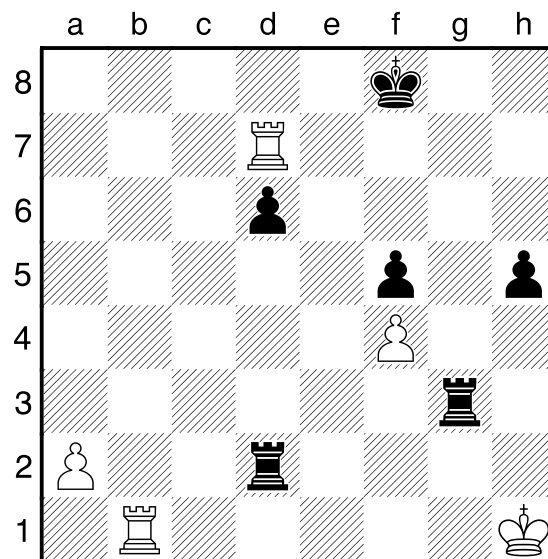
And this is the follow up that bolts the door firmly shut.]

30.Qf3 Qc8 31.Qd5 Rxc3 32.Nd4 Rcc2 [I don't think Iain expected this one, the point being that the set of mate threats after Nc2 and ..Qc2 wins outright since there is no perpetual check available to White.]

33.Nxf5+ Qxf5 34.Rxe7+ [Sad to see the Nf5 go but it has done its job.]

34...Kf8 35.Qxf5+ gxf5 36.Rd7 [At this point, Black has the advantage but it is not altogether clear how he forces home the win -if in fact the win is there in the first place]

36...Rg2+ 37.Kf1 Rxh2 38.Kg1 Rbg2+ 39.Kf1 Rd2 40.Kg1 Rhg2+ 41.Kh1 Rxg3 42.Rb1 [



It is around here that I think White loses the game. I spent a lot of time trying to figure out how to secure the win here. Eventually I came to the conclusion that 42. Rb1 was the wrong plan for White and may in fact be the losing move. Instead 42.a4 might secure the draw. The point is that in the following moves, White loses control of the a-file and the a5 pawn falls. White's best hope has to be to keep his Rook behind the a-pawn and help its advance. If White does this and, say, one pair of Rooks come off, the Black King will be tied to the a- and b-files to stop the a-pawn advancing. Under such circumstances, the isolated Black pawns cannot both be protected by the Black Rook- allowing White to draw. So- in my view, this is the point where White goes wrong.]

42...Re3 43.a4 Re7 44.Rb8+ [And here it starts to become clearer. With a mate threat hanging in the air, one pair of Rooks has to come off leaving to other Black Rook freedom to attack the a-pawn from behind.]

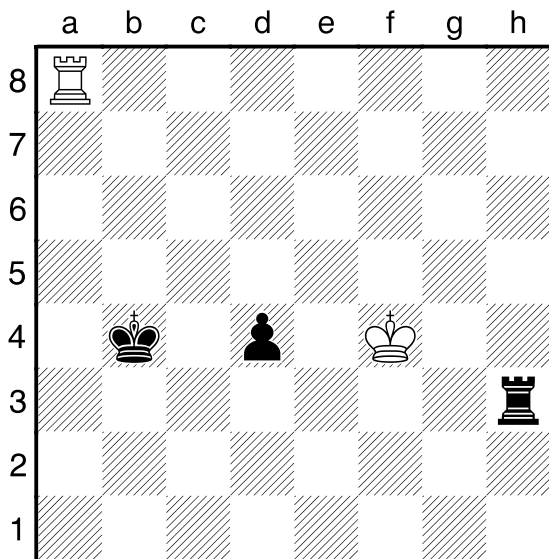
44...Kf7 45.Rxe7+ Kxe7 46.Rh8 [Somewhere around here I mentioned with to good chess friend of mine that I might be heading towards a Lucena position in a R and P endgame. I checked through my well-worn "Rook and Pawn Endgames" by Smyslov to ready myself for just how to push through the win. The general plan is fairly straightforward. For this position, most of the pawns will fall except the d- and f-pawns of Black. Black then jettisons the f-pawn. It will take some time for the Rh5 to return to active file play and the White King may have to bite the bullet and step

forward to capture (instead of the Rook) the f-pawn. While all this is going on, Black shepherds the d-pawn through with the King while the Black Rook will be used to keep the White King a file apart from the d-pawn soΔ]

46...Ke6 47.a5 Kd5 48.Rxh5 Ke4 49.Rh2 Rd1+ 50.Kg2 Ra1 51.Kg3 Ra3+ 52.Kh4 Kxf4 53.Rf2+ Ke4 [Now the Black King has first to head back behind the d-pawn to shelter from checks.]

54.Re2+ Kd4 55.Rd2+ Ke5 56.Re2+ Kf6 57.Rd2 Ke6 58.Re2+ Kd7 59.Kg5 [Now the picture becomes clearer. Black has achieved everything needed in readiness for the d-pawn advance.]

59...Rxa5 60.Kf4 Rc5 61.Re3 Kc6 62.Re1 Rc3 63.Kxf5 d5 64.Kf4 Kc5 65.Ra1 d4 66.Ra5+ Kb4 67.Ra8 Rh3 [



This is a interesting little switch that uses the 3rd rank instead of the e-file to keep the King away from the d-pawn.]

68.Rd8 Kc3 69.Rc8+ Kd2 70.Rg8 d3 71.Kg4 Re3 72.Kf4 Re7 73.Kf3 [Thankfully the Lucena manoeuvre is not needed - the pawn cannot be stopped.]

73...Kd1

0-1



Mackintosh,Iain (2423) - Dawson, Alastair G [B07]

SCCA Championship 05-06, 2006

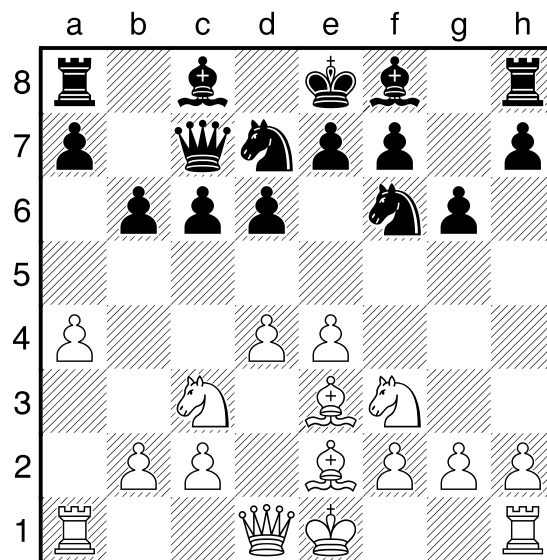
[Alastair Dawson and Iain Mackintosh]

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Be3 [4.f4 IM - This is the most frequent continuation, but I decided to stay away from heavily analysed lines.]

4...c6 5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.a4 [6.Qd2 IM - as on move 4, I opted for a less frequent alternative to Qd2.]

6...Qc7 [AD - For a Pirc player this is an awkward line to play against. Whenever a4 is played the Black Knight can occupy a useful square on b4 coupled with an attack on the e4 pawn. This is usually done by Na6-b4 - here, however, the N is already committed to d7.]

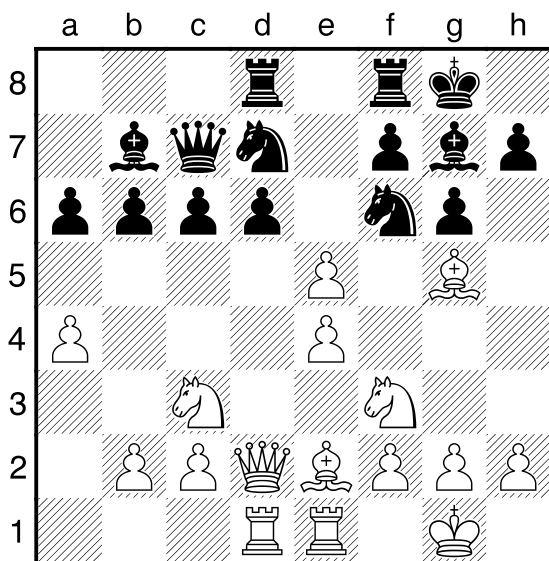
7.Be2 b6N [



IM - This move sequence was new to me. I'd expected Bg7 here, but we quickly transposed back into the book.]

8.0-0 Bg7 9.Qd2 0-0 10.Bh6 Bb7 11.Rad1 Rad8 [AD - Still main line stuff. Both White and Black have cleared their back ranks and now manoeuvring for the middle-game takes place.]

12.Rfe1 e5 13.Bg5 a6 14.dxe5N [



AD - Black has staked a claim for the centre with ..e5. The key question for Black is how the q-side should develop. For me at this point in the game, a ..c5 advance is out of the question since it cedes White squares to the Be2 (c4 looks a great place for the Be2). So I elected to restrict White's play on the White squares with a ..b5 pawn advance.]

[IM - White's 14th departs from the book line 14.Bf1 Rfe8 15.Qc1 Rc8 16.dxe5 dxe5 17.g3 Short-Shirov, Novgorod, 1994, drawn. Having played in fairly contained fashion so far, I didn't see much immediate prospect in k-side operations, so started to look at the q-side (just as Alastair was doing) for opportunities. Exchanging on e5 limits the scope of the Bg7 and creates a little room on the d-file.]

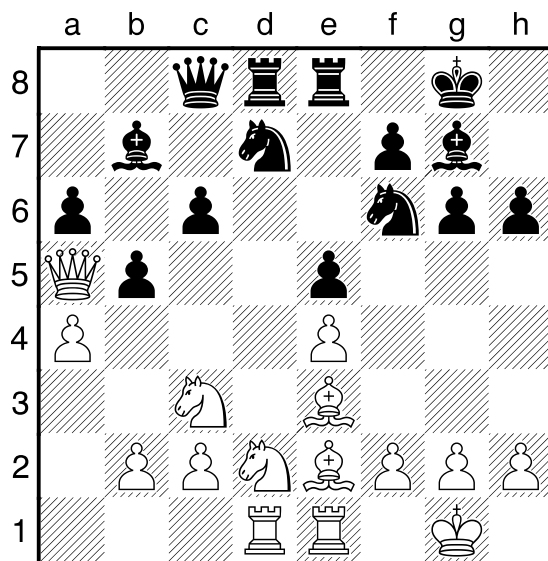
14...dxe5 15.Qd6 [IM - Aiming for Qb4 before Black plays Nc5. I'm also happy with an exchange of queens as White has a bit more freedom.]

15...Qc8 16.Qb4 h6 17.Be3 b5 [IM - As Alastair's notes to move 14 reflect, Black is restricting activity on the white squares, but at the same time is creating interesting possibilities for White on the black variety...]

18.Nd2 [IM - Primarily to stop Black playing Ng4 and neutralising White's Be3. The Nd2 can also get to some key black squares via b3.]

18...Rfe8 [AD - planning to bring the Bg7 to life on f8.]

19.Qa5!? [



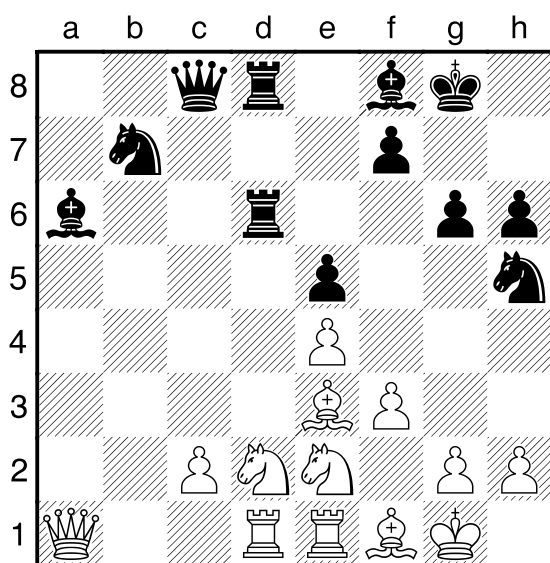
AD - A remarkable move. On the face of it, it looks like Black might be able to trap the Queen after . .Bf8. However, despite long searches I could find no way to exploit this awkward placing of the White Queen. IM - Bf8 is threatened, so the queen must move anyway. Of the available options, a5 is the best combination of safety and not getting in the way of other ploys.]

19...Bf8 20.b4 [AD - Audacious - the Queen seems to trap itself but Black cannot take advantage. Maybe the reader will find a way? After a long puzzle I figured that Black would have the edge if he was able to keep the White c-pawn paralysed. I also thought that even if this pawn was able to advance, I could set up a blockade in front of it. In coming to this conclusion, I kept imagining what the position would look like if the White c-pawn was off the board. Then White has a huge space advantage. So the conclusion was to go for a blockade in front of the c-pawn. IM - b4 stops Nc5, and continues the bind on the Black position. It will take Black 2 or 3 moves to attack the White queen directly, so I wasn't too worried about the seeming 'trap'.]

20...Re6 21.f3 Nh5 22.Bf1 Rd6 23.Ne2 c5 [AD - in playing this move I sacrifice a pawn. I also contradict the opinion I held earlier - but has the game position changed significantly to warrant this? At the time I played it I thought that my piece play would lead to a sizeable advantage, particularly

considered alongside the placing of the Qa5. In retrospect, playing a pawn sacrifice like this one would have probably succeeded in an over the board match. But in correspondence play my experienced opponent has plenty of time to find the best response. A valuable lesson for anyone, like me, a beginner in correspondence play. IM - with hindsight, White's last few moves are indifferent - I can't remember why Nb3 wasn't played for example - so c5 actually came as something of a relief in a complex position.]

24.bxc5 Nxc5 25.axb5 axb5 26.Qxb5 Ba6 27.Qa5 Nb7 28.Qa1 [



AD - A fine move. When it arrived in the post, I thought that all was well in the world. After all, the White pieces seem rather congested, the c-pawn can advance of course but the plan is a blockade on c5. The problem is, however, that Black must waste a move defending the e5 pawn. IM - White has gained the pawn, and now has to find a clear plan of mobilising and supporting it. This was easier to do than the manoeuvring which preceded this stage.]

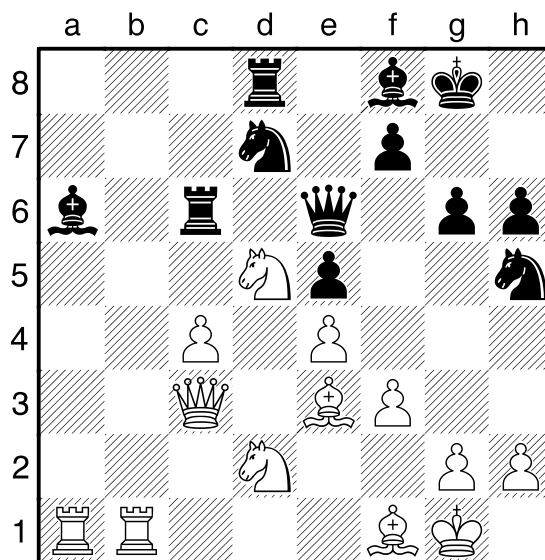
[28.Qxe5? Bg7! and this time the queen is trapped!]

28...Re6 29.c4 Bc5 30.Nc3 [IM - This protects the Be3, but more importantly heads for d5 (a great outpost) and starts to disentangle the White pieces at last.]

30...Rc6 31.Nd5 Qe6 32.Qc3 [IM - this clears the path for the White rooks to operate down the a- and b-files.]

32...Bf8 33.Ra1 [AD - and imperceptibly Black loses the plot. The c5 blockade is still on but White is starting to threaten c5.]

33...Nc5 34.Reb1 Nd7 [



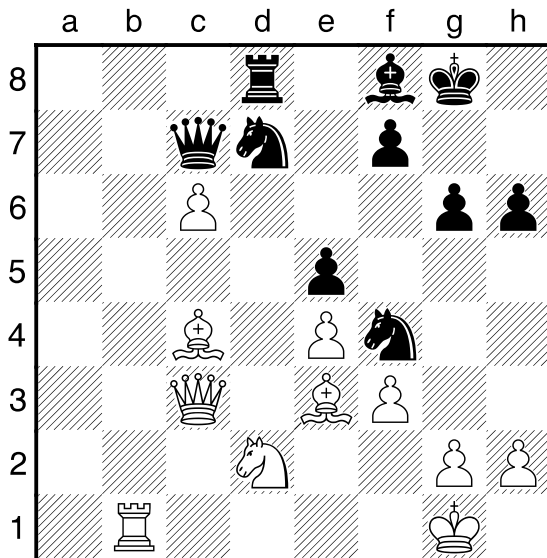
AD - Played in the knowledge that Ra6 is on the cards - the problem is that Black doesn't have any better moves - or to express it more accurately I could not find anything better!]

[IM - one alternative was 34...Bc8 35.Rb5 Bd7 36.Raa5 Rdc8 37.Nb3 Nxb3 38.Rxb3+- and White starts to remove the blockading pieces one by one.]

35.Rxa6 [IM - this tactic relies on the knight fork on c7, and exchanges two blockading pieces.]

35...Rxa6 36.Nc7 Qc6 37.Nxa6 Qxa6 38.c5 Qc6 [AD - Now the timid pawn on c2 has developed into a monster.]

39.Bb5 Qc7 40.c6 Nf4 41.Bc4 [diagram on next page]



IM - Threat Rb7.]

41...Nc5 42.g3 Nfe6 [IM - With the c-pawn unprotected, the idea of g3 was to allow 42...Nfd3 43.Bd5 and then maybe 43...Qd6 44.Nc4 Qe7 45.Rd1+–]

43.Bxe6 Nxe6 [IM - This variation allows a quicker finish.]

44.Bb6 Qc8 45.Bxd8 Qxd8 46.Rb7 Qd6 47.c7 [AD - A horrible crushing finale - well played Iain. IM - Thanks! I think White played ok when a clear objective developed, but the middle game was complex and neither player was really sure how to break the tension in a tough encounter.]

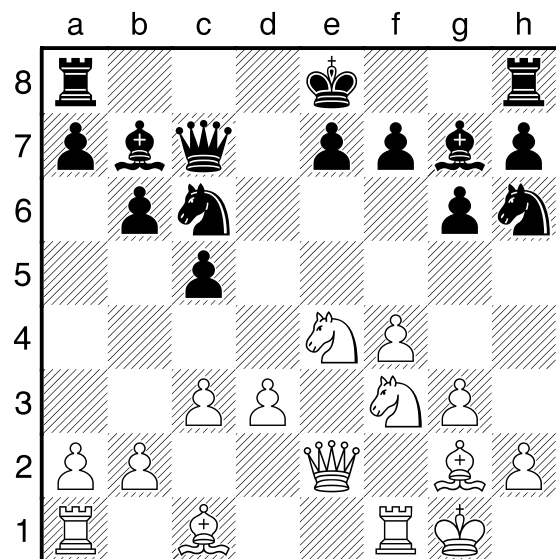
1–0



Dawson, Alastair G - Thompson, B [A00]
SCCA Candidates, 2004
[Alastair Dawson]

1.e4 c5 2.f4 d5 3.Nc3 [A plan used by Hedben on occasions when a d5–d4 advance is met by Nb1 - White then takes control of the c4 square with a4 and Nbd2–c4.]

3...dxe4 4.Nxe4 Qc7 5.g3 b6 6.Bg2 Bb7 7.Qe2 Nc6 8.Nf3 g6 9.0–0 Bg7 10.d3 Nh6 11.c3 [

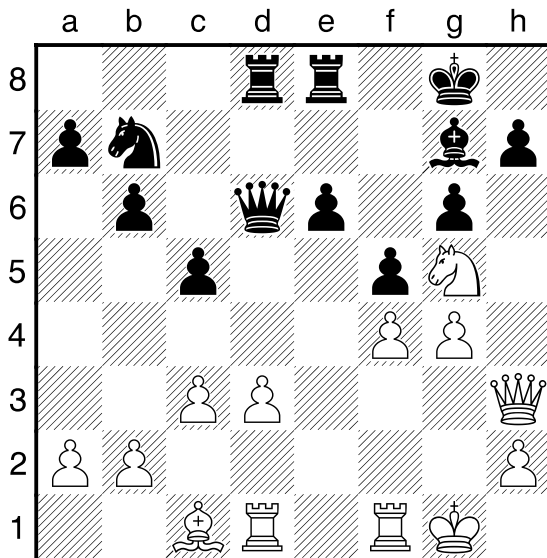


At this point White has lost the initiative, is a little behind in development, and has to play accurately in order to hold the position intact. The line Black has played against this opening is the best around and has left White cramped for space and struggling to survive. Needless to say I won't be trying this stuff again in CC games!]

11...0–0 12.Bd2 Rad8 13.Rad1 Rfe8 14.Bc1 Nf5 [White is breathing a little more easily now that the Ra1 has been brought into play. However, the position is mildly horrendous and f5 is a lovely square for the N. If White does nothing he will be slowly overwhelmed. Striking out with g4 looks awkward, is awkward, but is more or less the only chance that White has. Desperation calls!]

15.g4 e6 [A subtle little move that increases the pressure on White.]

16.Qf2 Nd6 17.Nfg5 f5 18.Nxd6 Qxd6 19.Qg3 Na5 20.Bxb7 Nxb7 21.Qh3 [diagram on next page]



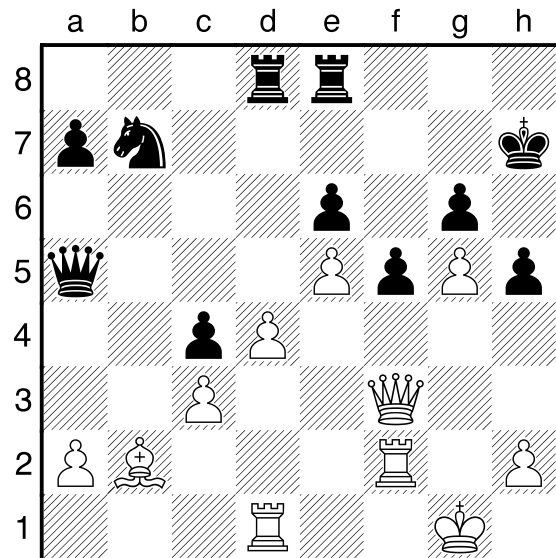
A convoluted scheme to seek counterplay and force weakening pawn moves around the Black King. However, such an attempt should not occasion surprise since there is almost nothing else here that White can try to generate some counterplay.]

21...h6 22.Nf3 Qf8 23.Ne5 Kh7 [The position is now looking a lot better for White and, as a result, Black seeks to simplify.]

24.g5 Bxe5 25.fxe5 h5 26.b3 [White is still trying to get the Bc1 into play while trying to create a position that enables the weak pawns on g5, e5 and d3 to be protected. At first sight this position is characterised by a distinct space advantage for White but on closer inspection it is difficult to protect the weakened pawns. White also faces difficulties in generating attacking chances.]

26...b5 27.Bb2 [It is a measure of how much of a flop this opening has been for White that it has taken until how for the Bc1 to gain some semblance of activity although even here it is fairly ineffective.]

27...c4 28.bxc4 Qc5+ 29.Rf2 bxc4 30.d4 Qa5 31.Qf3 [



But through this combination started by Black on move 27, White has managed to turn things round. The d3 pawn weakness has disappeared, the e5 pawn is ably supported by the pawn on d4, White has an immediate threat on b7, the Kh7 is exposed thanks to White's earlier K-side foray and if White can take control of the b-file with his Rooks he will win. The latter goal, is extremely difficult to achieve.]

31...Rd5 32.Bc1 Rb5 [An error than wins White the c-pawn.]

33.Qc6 Re7 34.Qxc4 Rb1 35.Qd3 Ra1 36.Qc2 Rc7 37.c4 Qb4 [Black is hanging on with a series of very strong moves but after 38. c5 comes a thunderbolt.]

38.c5 Nxc5!! [Although White had foreseen this move when playing 38. c5, he had not appreciated its power since it forces White to take a draw.]

39.a3 Qb6 40.dxc5 [It is almost impossible for Black to prevent perpetual check along the back ranks. A typical line would be 40..Rc5 41. Qd2 Rd5 42. Qe1 Rd1 43. Qd1 Qc5 and 44. Qd7+.]

½-½





The Knight Tour

by Awani Kumar

Knight tour on 170 cell board

By Awani Kumar, Lucknow, India

SCCA Magazine has come out with its 170th issue and let us celebrate it with some interesting knight tours on 10×17 (= 170) cell board. Figure 1 and Figure 2 are semi-magic knight tours. Sum of the move numbers along all the columns is 855. The tours are almost identical; only four numbers, namely, 76 and 77 are interchanging places with 92 and 91 respectively. Such 'twins' are very rare. Move number 1 and 170 are not separated by knight move and readers are urged to look for more challenging closed tour. Figure 3 and Figure 4 have the square numbers $1^2, 2^2, 3^2, \dots, 13^2$, namely, 1, 4, 9, ..., 169 in knight path arranged in oblong formation. Figure 5 has the consecutive square numbers along a column and move segments are alternately on its two sides up to 147. Readers may like to improve upon it. Figure 6 has the square numbers in knight path and the line joining them makes a heart shape, the universal symbol of love. Figure 7 has the multiples of 17 arranged along the middle column and the move segments are alternately on its two sides.

19	2	159	162	21	140	39	142	45	130	43	114	57	122	53	116	51
158	161	20	3	38	143	22	139	42	127	46	123	48	115	50	119	54
1	18	163	160	137	24	141	40	129	44	125	58	113	56	121	52	117
164	157	4	17	144	37	138	23	126	41	128	47	124	49	118	55	120
15	6	155	166	25	136	145	36	73	<u>76</u>	101	110	59	112	103	108	105
156	165	16	5	146	35	30	131	100	79	74	<u>77</u>	102	109	106	65	86
7	14	167	154	135	26	147	34	75	72	93	80	111	60	87	104	107
170	153	8	11	150	31	132	29	96	99	78	61	90	81	66	85	64
13	10	151	168	27	134	33	148	71	<u>92</u>	97	94	69	62	83	88	67
152	169	12	9	32	149	28	133	98	95	70	<u>91</u>	82	89	68	63	84
855	855	855	855	855	855	855	855	855	855	855	855	855	855	855	855	855

1.

19	2	159	162	21	140	39	142	45	130	43	114	57	122	53	116	51
158	161	20	3	38	143	22	139	42	127	46	123	48	115	50	119	54
1	18	163	160	137	24	141	40	129	44	125	58	113	56	121	52	117
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15	6	155	166	25	136	145	36	73	<u>92</u>	101	110	59	112	103	108	105
156	165	16	5	146	35	30	131	100	79	74	<u>91</u>	102	109	106	65	86
7	14	167	154	135	26	147	34	75	72	93	80	111	60	87	104	107
170	153	8	11	150	31	132	29	96	99	78	61	90	81	66	85	64
13	10	151	168	27	134	33	148	71	<u>76</u>	97	94	69	62	83	88	67
152	169	12	9	32	149	28	133	98	95	70	<u>77</u>	82	89	68	63	84
855	855	855	855	855	855	855	855	855	855	855	855	855	855	855	855	855

2.

90	87	92	69	96	85	74	67	76	79
93	70	89	86	73	68	101	78	83	66
88	91	72	95	110	97	84	75	80	77
71	94	111	152	123	100	109	102	65	82
112	151	124	155	98	141	122	81	108	103
125	156	153	142	121	138	99	140	47	64
150	113	120	137	154	143	48	63	104	107
157	126	149	144	147	136	139	106	49	46
114	119	166	127	168	35	146	135	62	105
165	158	169	148	145	134	129	36	45	50
118	115	164	167	128	131	34	61	24	37
159	170	117	162	133	60	25	130	51	44
116	163	160	59	26	57	132	33	38	23
1	6	27	10	161	16	39	56	43	52
28	11	4	7	58	55	32	17	22	19
5	2	13	30	9	40	15	20	53	42
12	29	8	3	14	31	54	41	18	21

69	60	95	76	97	62	133	78	99	82
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59	68	93	96	63	130	87	134	83	100
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67	58	73	92	65	126	129	84	121	102
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53	56	35	46	51	124	169	140	119	104
34	43	32	25	168	37	146	155	166	141
15	24	41	38	147	170	167	118	105	154
42	33	16	31	26	39	148	115	156	165
17	14	23	40	1	30	117	164	153	106
22	9	18	29	112	27	114	149	116	157
13	6	11	4	19	2	163	160	107	152
10	21	8	111	28	113	150	109	158	161
7	12	5	20	3	110	159	162	151	108

3.

21	18	5	8	1	10	3	14	29	12
6	39	20	17	4	15	30	11	54	33
19	22	7	38	9	2	53	32	13	28
40	67	42	23	16	31	26	51	34	55
43	46	37	66	25	52	35	60	27	84
68	41	24	45	36	59	50	83	56	61
47	44	65	80	49	82	63	58	85	88
78	69	48	101	64	93	90	87	62	57
105	102	79	76	81	122	99	92	89	86
70	77	104	107	100	91	94	131	98	125
103	106	75	72	121	132	123	126	95	130
74	71	108	147	144	127	142	133	124	97
109	146	73	120	169	148	157	96	129	134
116	165	170	145	152	143	128	141	156	159
113	110	115	166	119	168	149	158	135	138
164	117	112	151	162	153	140	137	160	155
111	114	163	118	167	150	161	154	139	136

4.

10	15	20	35	18	33	48	37	62	59
21	6	11	16	29	36	61	58	47	38
12	9	14	19	34	17	32	49	60	63
7	22	5	28	25	30	57	46	39	50
4	13	8	23	66	27	80	31	64	45
69	72	3	26	79	24	65	56	51	40
74	1	70	67	104	101	78	81	44	55
71	68	73	2	77	108	103	54	41	52
166	75	170	107	102	105	100	109	82	43
163	160	165	76	99	124	117	42	53	110
158	167	162	169	106	121	98	111	114	83
161	164	159	120	123	118	125	116	97	112
150	157	168	137	144	127	122	113	84	115
139	136	151	128	119	132	143	126	91	96
156	149	138	145	152	129	94	131	88	85
135	140	147	154	133	142	87	90	95	92
148	155	134	141	146	153	130	93	86	89

5.

1	6	3	12	9	48	35	50	17	32	65	54	19	30	23	26	21
4	11	8	45	36	13	16	47	34	53	18	31	88	55	20	29	24
7	2	5	10	15	46	49	70	51	66	33	64	61	158	25	22	27
76	73	42	37	44	71	14	83	68	63	52	87	56	89	28	159	58
41	38	75	72	113	82	69	150	85	120	67	62	157	60	57	90	129
74	77	40	43	148	151	84	137	102	135	86	155	122	133	128	59	160
39	108	145	112	81	114	149	152	119	154	121	134	127	156	161	130	91
78	111	80	147	142	117	138	103	136	101	126	167	94	123	132	97	162
107	146	109	144	105	140	115	118	153	166	169	124	99	164	95	92	131
110	79	106	141	116	143	104	139	170	125	100	165	168	93	98	163	96

6.

7.

Readers may like to compose more *figured tours* of knight on 10x17 board – sky is the limit.

7



Zebra {2,3} tour on 170 cell board

By Awani Kumar, Lucknow, India

Knight is an old piece and its tour over a board has been looked into for over a millennium – the oldest record dates back to 840 AD. Zebra is also an old piece and has appeared in chess variants under different names. Its oldest name dates back as *Zaraffa* in Grant Acedrex, a 13th century book of chess and games composed during the reign of Spanish king Alfonso X. Postage stamps depicting it on a 12x12 board have been issued. The painting on which these stamps are based comes from the above book. It is called *Elephant* in Ciccolini's Chess (1820) and *Courtier* in Mideast Chess (1971). Dickins [1] and Pritchard [2] have mentioned it in their renowned book. A. H. Frost, a mathematician and magic square buff, was the first to find zebra tour on 10x10 board in 1886. Later Kraitichik, Cross, Cozens, Marlow and Willcocks composed few zebra tours and Jelliss [3] has meticulously compiled the details. Recently, Kumar [4], [5], [6], [7], [8] has looked into zebra tours. Zebra is a fairy chess piece. Just as knight moves to the opposite diagonals of a 2x3 rectangle, zebra moves to the opposite diagonals of a 3x4 rectangle. It also moves alternately from a light square to a dark square (or vice versa). So, zebra is like a longer-legged cousin of knight. Figure 1 shows possible zebra moves and readers are requested to comprehend it confidently.



SCCA Magazine has come out with its 170th issue and let us celebrate it with some interesting zebra tours on 10x17 (= 170) cell board. Figure 2 and Figure 3 are closed (or reentrant) zebra tours, that is, cell 1 and cell 170 are at zebra move. Two rows are adding up to the magic constant 855.

1	106	133	128	145	114	5	104	99	124	959	125	100	105	12	115	56	129	134	107	8	891
108	131	18	119	126	3	102	121	30	97	855	98	1	122	103	10	127	120	25	132	109	847
129	146	115	170	105	100	123	144	113	6	1151	13	114	57	124	101	106	7	116	55	130	823
134	127	2	107	132	31	98	125	4	103	863	104	11	126	99	170	133	108	9	128	135	1023
17	118	109	130	19	120	29	96	101	122	861	123	102	97	2	121	26	131	110	119	24	855
116	169	34	147	76	51	112	7	32	143	887	58	169	14	113	150	77	54	167	6	117	925
53	20	135	46	55	110	161	68	61	28	737	3	62	69	40	111	146	155	136	27	148	897
148	77	16	117	168	33	58	85	50	95	847	96	151	86	59	168	5	118	23	78	53	837
35	56	75	52	67	60	47	142	111	8	653	15	112	143	154	61	68	149	76	145	166	1089
136	45	54	21	162	49	62	27	160	69	785	70	41	4	63	152	39	28	147	156	137	837
15	66	149	78	57	86	167	94	59	84	855	85	60	95	34	87	144	79	52	67	22	725
74	163	36	137	44	159	70	9	48	141	881	142	153	16	71	42	157	138	165	38	75	997
79	22	87	166	65	24	83	156	63	26	771	33	64	45	84	31	66	35	88	29	80	555
150	39	14	89	164	81	154	41	158	93	983	94	43	160	47	82	37	90	21	162	51	787
37	138	73	12	91	152	43	140	71	10	767	17	72	141	158	49	92	19	74	139	164	925
88	165	80	23	40	157	64	25	82	155	879	46	83	32	65	44	161	30	81	36	89	667
13	90	151	38	139	72	11	92	153	42	801	159	48	93	18	73	140	163	50	91	20	855

Figure 4 and Figure 5 also reentrant zebra tours with two magic rows. They are like 'twins' as only four move numbers are interchanging places – 45 with 49 and 46 with 48. Such twin tours are rare.

65	26	3	168	115	154	69	24	19	164	807
28	1	40	159	166	67	22	161	58	17	719
169	116	155	64	25	20	163	114	153	70	1049
4	167	66	27	2	57	18	165	68	23	597
41	158	29	170	39	160	59	16	21	162	855
156	63	54	117	140	101	152	71	56	113	1023
103	92	5	42	105	30	131	38	85	60	691
118	141	80	157	62	55	82	149	100	15	959
53	106	31	102	91	84	139	112	151	72	941
6	43	104	93	132	137	86	61	130	37	829
79	90	119	142	81	150	99	14	83	148	1005
32	133	52	107	44	129	36	73	138	111	855
143	94	7	136	89	96	147	126	87	98	1023
120	49	78	9	134	145	124	47	128	13	847
51	108	33	76	11	122	45	110	35	74	665
8	135	144	95	48	127	88	97	146	125	1013
77	10	121	50	109	34	75	12	123	46	657

4.

65	26	3	168	115	154	69	24	19	164	807
28	1	40	159	166	67	22	161	58	17	719
169	116	155	64	25	20	163	114	153	70	1049
4	167	66	27	2	57	18	165	68	23	597
41	158	29	170	39	160	59	16	21	162	855
156	63	54	117	140	101	152	71	56	113	1023
103	92	5	42	105	30	131	38	85	60	691
118	141	80	157	62	55	82	149	100	15	959
53	106	31	102	91	84	139	112	151	72	941
6	43	104	93	132	137	86	61	130	37	829
79	90	119	142	81	150	99	14	83	148	1005
32	133	52	107	44	129	36	73	138	111	855
143	94	7	136	89	96	147	126	87	98	1023
120	45	78	9	134	145	124	47	128	13	843
51	108	33	76	11	122	49	110	35	74	669
8	135	144	95	46	127	88	97	146	125	1011
77	10	121	50	109	34	75	12	123	48	659

5.

Tours with magic lines are always interesting but the author could get only two magic lines. Readers are urged to look for tours having more magic lines.

References:

1. A. Dickins; A Guide to Fairy Chess, 1971, p.11
2. D.B. Pritchard; The Encyclopaedia of Chess Variants, 1994, p.227
3. G.P. Jelliss; *Knight's Tour Notes*, Volume 10, Augmented Knight & Leaper Tours, 2019, p. 31 – 33
4. A. Kumar; Studies in Tour of Zebra {2,3} on 5xn board, *idee & form* No.153, p.5187-5189, January 2022
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Domestic Tournaments

by Michael Blake

Space this issue has prevented a full update on our domestic tournaments. David Kilgour is in the process of arranging with Iain Mackintosh to become the new webmaster and all tournaments are featured on the website.

The Scottish League is a team based tournament and features three leagues. Last year, all three divisions were won by teams from BCCA who sadly disbanded after 118 years of service to players.

This season we are joined by England (EFCC) and NATCOR, we wish their teams great success and hope they are able to continue in the league next year.

Our Association teams are, Knights of the Board A, Brutal Realism and Knights of the Board B.

KOTB A comprise Allan Buchan, Ian Whittaker, Robert Montgomery and Gordon Anderson.

Brutal Realism are Kevin Thurlow, Wilf Taylor, James Murray and Colin MacGregor.

KOTB B are Andrew MacMillen, Raymond Burridge, David Carswell and Alan Sedstrem.

Please remember that SCCA players get free entry to the League, it would be really good if we could get more players from Scotland forming teams and entering this tournament.

SCCA/L1/2025, SCCA League Div 1 2025

TD Murden, Clive (IA)

			1	2	3	4	5	6	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	Team Captain
1	🇬🇧 England A	2353		2	1.5	2.5	2	3	11	57	3	6	19	1	1	Rice, Peter
2	🇬🇧 White Rose A	2375	2		2	2.5	0.5	3	10	58	3	6	17	3	2	Beckett, Phillip J.
3	🇬🇧 NATCOR A	2434	1.5	2		2.5	1	2	9	56	2	4	16	4	3	Lockwood, Austin
4	🇬🇧 England B	2255	1.5	1.5	1.5		1.5	2.5	8.5	44	-2	2	19	1	4	Spanton, Tim
5	🇬🇧 Knights of the Board A	2388	2	0.5	1	1.5		2	7	53	1	2	13	7	5	Whittaker, Ian P.
6	🇬🇧 Social A	2237	1	1	1	1.5	1		5.5	30	-7	0	18	2	6	Blake, Michael J.

SCCA/L2/2025, SCCA League Div 2 2025

TD Murden, Clive (IA)

			1	2	3	4	5	6	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	Team Captain
1	🇬🇧 White Rose B	2129		2.5	2	2	4	3	13.5	75	9	8	18	2	1	Beckett, Phillip J.
2	🇬🇧 Brutal Realism	2111	1.5		1.5	3	4	2	12	70	7	5	17	3	2	Murray, James S.
3	🇬🇧 NATCOR B	1990	2	1.5		2	3	3	11.5	63	5	6	18	2	3	Gould, Iain C.
4	🇬🇧 England C	2006	1	1	2		3.5	3.5	11	57	3	5	19	1	4	Illingworth, J. B.
5	🇬🇧 Social B	1704	0	0	1	0.5		3	4.5	23	-10	2	19	1	5	Blake, Michael J.
6	🇬🇧 England D	1558	0	0	0	0.5	0		0.5	3	-14	0	15	5	6	Grummitt, William

SCCA/L3/2025, SCCA League Div 3 2025

TD Murden, Clive (IA)

			1	2	3	4	5	6	Score	%	+/-	Team results	FG	RG	Place	Team Captain
1	🇬🇧 White Rose C	1871		4	4	4	2.5	4	18.5	97	18	10	19	1	1	Beckett, Phillip J.
2	🇬🇧 NATCOR C	1518	0		2.5	2	2	3.5	10	58	3	6	17	3	2	Moore, John
3	🇬🇧 England E	1451	0	0.5		2	2.5	2.5	7.5	41	-3	5	18	2	3	Clark, Michael
4	🇬🇧 Social C	1553	0	1	2		1	3.5	7.5	41	-3	3	18	2	4	Blake, Michael J.
5	🇬🇧 Knights of the Board B	1511	0.5	1	0.5	2		2	6	37	-4	2	16	4	5	MacMillen, Andrew N.
6	🇬🇧 England F	1116	0	0.5	1.5	0.5	2		4.5	22	-11	1	20	0	6	Ward, Bill