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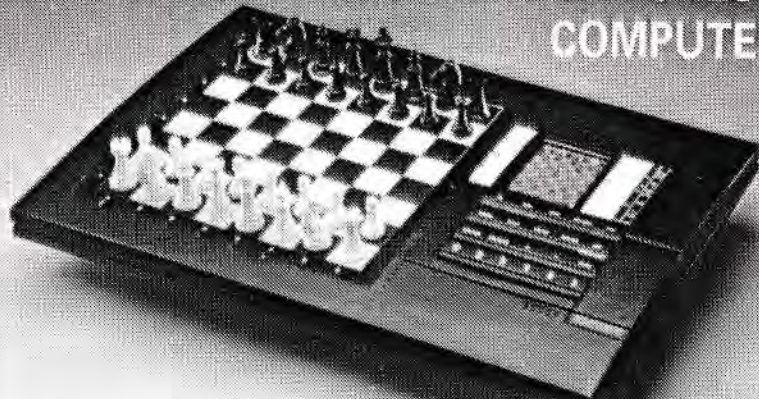
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SCOTTISH C.C.A. MAGAZINE No. 30

EDITORIAL

(by Alan Borwell)

May 1989

Price £1.00

This is our second edition using the new cover and you will see that we have dropped the title of "News Bulletin". In the early days, this was felt to be the appropriate designation, but we hope readers will now agree that we can rightly assume the new mantle! We have had very complimentary comments about No. 29 by readers from overseas, Ireland, England and Wales, and also Scotland - thank you for your kindness and for your support!

There are no Secretarial Notes this time, but Alan Hind is searching urgently for two more players to complete another Quartet Section. These tournaments, and also the Handicap, can be entered at any time in the season, with play commencing as soon as opponents are available.

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held as usual in Glasgow on 4th June 1989 and details are shown on page 2 - we hope as many members as possible will come along and voice their opinions!

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Subscription Rates
1988-89

Life Member - £50, Annual Member - £7 (incl Magazine)
Magazine only - £4 per annum (incl postage)

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Association's Annual General Meeting will be held on Sunday 4th June 1989 at 2.30 p.m. at Chess Suppliers (Scotland) Ltd., 15 Hope Street, Glasgow (Nr Central Station)

Agenda

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Minutes of previous AGM | 5. Election of Auditor |
| 2. Secretary's Report | 6. Subscriptions |
| 3. Treasurer's Report | 7. Any Other Business |
| 4. Election of Office Bearers | |

SCOTTISH CENTENARY CUP FINAL

Play in the Final is now well underway but, so far, there are no results to report. The participants are as follows:

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Pts	Pos
1 J Copley (Shropshire)	•	½		1					
2 E Wood (Manchester)	½	•							
3 D Quinn (Greenwich)			•						
4 A G E Bird (London)	○			•					
5 M Thomas (Nottingham)					•				
6 V W Griffiths (Northampton)						•			
7 D Neil (Carlisle)							•		

It was very nice to receive a letter from Mark Thomas, in which he said "I have informed my (West German) opponent that the Scottish magazine is by far the best and have taken out a year's subscription on his behalf." Thank you, Mark, it is very encouraging to receive such kind observations and support! (Editor)

Correction

An incorrect result was reported in our Magazine No. 29 in last season's Major B tournament. It should have read R.J. Burridge 1½, S.R. Capsey 0½ - our apologies!

HANDICAP TOURNAMENT (by Allan Hislop)

The tournament got off to a start at the beginning of December. There are 25 players taking part, a reduction on last year but the same number of games are being played, i.e. with 2 games per opponent, there are 100 games in progress. Players should read the changes to Rules on page 1 of the December magazine. Handicap players already play to amendment 1 - Handicap Rule 9 on page 11 of the Rules Brochure refers.

OPENINGS TOURNAMENTS

(by Alan Hind)

Section OT (Tchigorin's Defence)						Section OT (Nimzowitsch Defence)							
No	1	2	3	Pts	Pos	No	1	2	3	4	5	Pts	Pos
1 J G Blencowe	•					1 N A Down	•						
2 G Reid		•				2 D V Gibbs		•					
3 G Wood			•			3 B W Grant			•				
						4 G A Morton				•			
						5 GE Wallwork					•		

ICCF THEMATIC TOURNAMENTS

Tournaments for sections of 5-7 players, two games against each opponent. The top two players qualify for each final. The entry fee is £3.50 per group (payable to BPCF) to be sent to: Mr. A.M. Anderson, 3 Winterfield Gardens, Duns, Berwickshire, TD11 3EZ.

TT No. 8/89 KING'S INDIAN

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7
4 e4 d6 5 f4 909 6 Nf3 c5 7 d5
Entries close 1.7.89.
Start 1.10.89.

TT No. 9/89

1 Nc3
Entries close 1.9.89
Start 1.12.89

CHAMPIONSHIP 87-89

Controller: D Savage

No.		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Pts
1	A T HISLOP	●		1	1/2		1/2	1/2	1/2	0	
2	T G JOHNSTON		●	1/2			1/2	1/2	0	1/2	
3	R KILPATRICK	0	1/2	●	1/2		1	1/2	0	1	
4	D M LIVIE	1/2		1/2	●	1/2	1	0	1/2	0	
5	G W G LIVIE				1/2	●	1	0	0	1/2	
6	M MacLEOD	1/2	1/2	0	0	0	●	0	0	0	1
7	G D PYRICH	1/2	1/2	1/2	1	1	1	●	0	0	4 1/2
8	A J SHAW	1/2	1	1	1/2	1	1	1	●		
9	G R SPROTT	1	1/2	0	1	1/2	1	1		●	

CANDIDATES 87-89

Controller: C R Beecham

No.		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Pts
1	I AIRD	●		1/2	1		0	1/2	0	1	
2	C BOYLE		●	1/2	1	1/2	1	1/2	0	1	
3	I S CAMPBELL	1/2	1/2	●	1/2	1/2		1	1/2	1	
4	M DYER	0	0	1/2	●	0	0	0	0	1	1 1/2
5	D HARVEY		1/2	1/2	1	●		1/2	0	1	
6	P MCGOWAN	1	0		1		●	1/2	0	1	
7	I A MARKS	1/2	1/2	0	1	1/2	1/2	●	0	1	4
8	M MOOHAN	1	1	1/2	1	1	1	1	●	1	7 1/2
9	A R WILSON	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	●	0

CHAMPIONSHIP 88-90

Controller: A Maxwell

No.		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Pts
1	C R BEECHAM	●										
2	G H BIRD		●									
3	M T DYER			●								
4	R KILPATRICK				●							
5	G D PYRICH					●						
6	I REEMAN						●					
7	M ROSS							●				
8	G R SPROTT								●			
9	JAB STEVENSON									●		
10	G E WALLWORK										●	

CANDIDATES 88-90

Controller: C R Beecham

No.		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Pts
1	C BOYLE	●											
2	R DICKSON		●										
3	K FRYER			●									
4	S GOWLAND				●								
5	D HARVEY					●							
6	J M HERRIES						●						
7	I A MARKS							●					
8	M McBETH								●				
9	P MCGOWAN									●			
10	J W McINTYRE										●		
11	A TANKEL											●	

Entries to Scottish CCA Quartets and Handicap events can be made at any time, with games starting as soon as opponents can be arranged. All other individual tournaments and the SCCA League begin towards the end of each year, with entries to reach our Secretary, Alan Hind, by mid-October. (Entry forms with our Summer issue).

PREMIERS

Controller: C R Beecham

A	1	2	3	4	5	6
1 JS CAIRNEY	•					
2 NA DOWN		•				1
3 DA FENNELLY			•			
4 PB GRANT				•		
5 T MASON					•	
6 RS MONTGOMERY	○					•

B	1	2	3	4	5	6
1 ME CROASDALE	•					
2 DA GIBB		•				
3 DV GIBBS			•			
4 S GOWLAND				•		○
5 AD PENMAN					•	
6 T THOMSON				1		•

C	1	2	3	4	5	6
1 R BIRRELL	•					-
2 T HALLIWELL		•				-
3 IH MARSHALL			•			-
4 J MERRIFIELD				•		-
5 K SEYFRIED					•	-
6 E THOMPSON	-	-	-	-	-	•

D	1	2	3	4	5	6
1 M COOPER	•					
2 RA GIULIAN		•				
3 A MAXWELL			•			
4 PJ MOIR				•		
5 G REID					•	
6 L STEPHENSON						•

E	1	2	3	4	5	6
1 SL CLARK	•					
2 C DONKIN		•				
3 S MARTIN			•			
4 WS ROACH				•		
5 ZE SADOWSKI					•	
6 IP WHITTAKER						•

MAJORS

Controller: G.V.G. Livie

A	1	2	3	4	5	6
1 F ANDRES	•					
2 A ARMSTRONG		•				
3 RJ BURRIDGE			•			
4 J CASSIDY				•		
5 MH DUNN					•	
6 K McCLELLAND						•

B	1	2	3	4	5	6
1 D COSGROVE	•					
2 D CRICHTON		•				
3 F HALL			•			
4 J McTAGGART				•		
5 D SALTER					•	
6 A WRIGHT						•

C	1	2	3	4	5	6
1 G LLOYD	•					
2 CA MacGREGOR		•				
3 MF PEARCE			•			
4 RF TURNER				•		
5 J WATSON					•	
6 SR MITCHELL						•

D	1	2	3	4	5	6
1 M HANLEY	•					
2 A NISBET		•				
3 R PELLIS			•			
4 I SNEDDON				•		
5 J STALLARD					•	
6 A PETRIE						•

E	1	2	3	4	5
1 B GOODWIN	•				
2 W HARPER		•			
3 NR McEWAN			•		
4 W McGLINCHEY				•	
5 J THORNTON					•

QUARTET FINALS

Controller: R Birrell

POSTAL KNIGHT

Final	1	2	3	4
1 P FERRY	•			
2 K GORDON		•		
3 J McCARTAN			•	
4 HJ MacLEOD				•

POSTAL SHIELD

Final	1	2	3	4
1 JG BLENCOVE	•			
2 RJ BURRIDGE		•		
3 AWI CAMPBELL			•	
4 GD PYRICH				•

QUARTETS

Controller: R Birrell

Q132	1	2	3	4
1 J J BRADY	●	○	○	
2 J ANDERSON	○	●	○	
3 B P CHAPMAN	11	1	●	1
4 D G PARSONS			○	●

Q137	1	2	3	4
1 J ANDERSON	•			
2 A ARMSTRONG		•		
3 AGE BIRD			•	
4 R PELLIS				•

Q133	1	2	3	4
1 D SALTER	●	11		11
2 R F TURNER	○○	●		
3 M H DUNN			●	
4 I TAYLOR	○○			●

Q138	1	2	3	4
1 SR CAPSEY	•			
2 MF PEARCE		•		
3 T TAIT			•	
4 A WRIGHT				•

Q134	1	2	3	4
1 NA DOWN	•			
2 WM GRANT		•		
3 H McKEAN			•	
4 JM WALKER				•

Q139	1	2	3	4
1 BV GRANT	•			
2 CA MacGREGOR		•		
3 T McMORRAN			•	
4 I SNEDDON				•

Q135	1	2	3	4
1 M HANLEY	•			
2 DG PARSONS		•		
3 R STOKES			•	
4 TN TALBOT				•

Q140	1	2	3	4
1 DB McGARVA	•			
2 CC McKAY		•		
3 F McKENZIE			•	
4 R MITCHELL				•

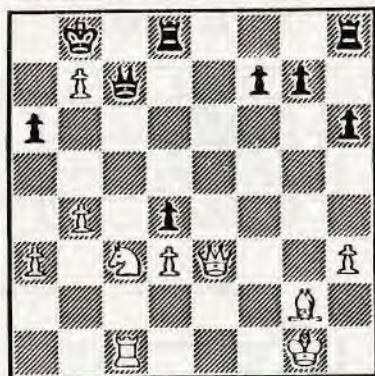
Q136	1	2	3	4
1 W CAMERON	•			
2 BP CHAPMAN		•		
3 ME CROASDALE			•	
4 DG McROBERTS				•

Entries to Quartets can be made at any time to Alan Hind. New sections will be formed when there are four new players awaiting pairings.

WINNING CONTINUATIONS

(selected by John Hawkes)

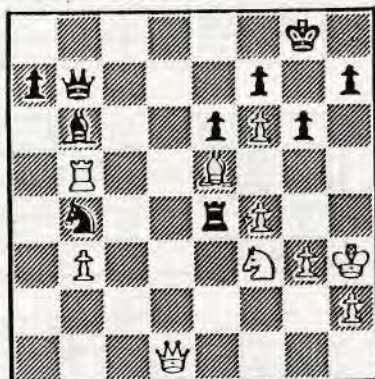
A WHITE TO MOVE



B WHITE TO MOVE



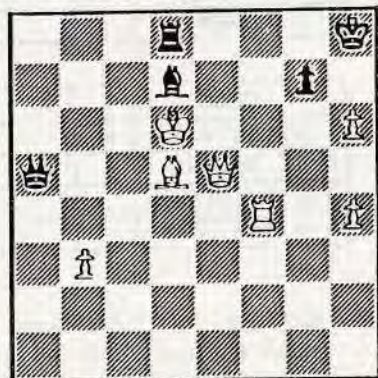
C WHITE TO MOVE



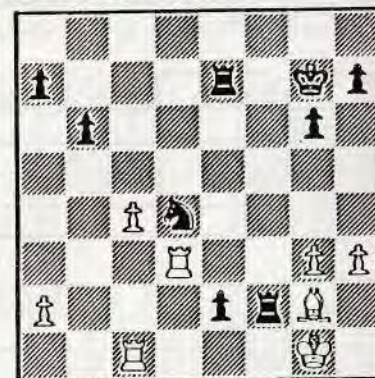
D BLACK TO MOVE



E BLACK TO MOVE



F BLACK TO MOVE



SCOTTISH CCA LEAGUE 1988/89

(Controller : Ken Gordon)

The new league season began in December, with another record number of teams competing in 5 Divisions, each with 6 teams. With a significant number of new teams, it was decided to run two 4th Division sections to give new entries an equal opportunity of promotion. It is particularly pleasing to welcome teams from the more distant regions of Scotland and we hope everyone will enjoy their games and new friendships!

A titanic struggle is expected in Division 1 as Champions Streatham & Brixton, with their Anglo-Scots line-up, try to retain their title against The Establishment, Chess Suppliers and three other useful looking teams. Favourites for promotion from Division 2 should be ex-top league teams Perth Correspondents, Kirkcaldy Kings and Cathcart, whilst Knights of the Square Table look very formidable in Division 3.

DIVISION 1

A CROWWOOD "A"

- 1 B Martin
- 2 P Rodger
- 3 P McGowan
- 4 A Maxwell
- 5 W Hulme

B

- v E1
- v D2
- v C3
- v B4
- v F5

STREATHAM & BRIXTON

- 1 C A McNab v D1
- 2 S R Gillam v C2
- 3 R A Inglis v F3
- 4 Mrs M Inglis v A4
- 5 R Haldane v E5

C BRUTAL REALISM

- 1 M Ross v F1
- 2 P Coffield v B2
- 3 J S Murray v A3
- 4 B Keenan v E4
- 5 A Thomson v D5

D BLACK KNIGHT

- 1 G R Sprott v B1
- 2 I S Campbell v A2
- 3 I Reeman v E3
- 4 T Johnston v F4
- 5 G Wood v C5

E CHESS SUPPLIERS "A"

- 1 A J Shaw v A1
- 2 D M Livie v F2
- 3 C F Boyle v D3
- 4 L R McKenzie v C4
- 5 W S Roach v B5

F THE ESTABLISHMENT

- 1 T S Wickens v C1
- 2 C R Beecham v E2
- 3 T J Craig v B3
- 4 K Fryer v D4
- 5 A Hind v A5

DIVISION 2**A IRVINE**

1	D Gillespie	v E1
2	G McPeake	v D2
3	T Barrett	v C3
4	J Shankland	v B4
5	J Anderson	v F5

B KIRKCALDY KINGS

1	G D Pyrich	v D1
2	A Burnett	v C2
3	I Marshall	v F3
4	T Thomson	v A4
5	M C Grayson	v E5

C PERTH CORRESPONDENTS

1	A P Borwell	v F1
2	D A Gibb	v B2
3	W Rutherford	v A3
4	J Falconer	v E4
5	K A Wilson	v D5

D CATHCART

1	A Grant	v B1
2	A T Hislop	v A2
3	J G O'Donnell	v E3
4	D McRoberts	v F4
5	A Petrie	v C5

E DALMUIR

1	I Aird	v A1
2	M Gannon	v F2
3	W McGlinchey	v D3
4	D McAdam	v C4
5	M Alexander	v B5

F REAL TELECOM

1	R Dickson	v C1
2	J McIntyre	v E2
3	J Carlin	v B3
4	D Neil	v D4
5	S Brady	v A5

DIVISION 3**A KIRKINTILLOCH**

1	A Swann	v E1
2	R Turner	v D2
3	P McConnell	v C3
4	W Harper	v B4
5	D Blackett	v F5

B PAISLEY (YMCA) "A"

1	S McDonald	v D1
2	R Cochrane	v C2
3	G Reid	v F3
4	I Gourlay	v A4
5	A Nisbet	v B5

C WANDERING DRAGONS "A"

1	A J C Ferguson	v F1
2	J Lancaster	v B2
3	S Gowland	v A3
4	D Crichton	v E4
5	H Nimmo	v D5

D CROWWOOD "B"

1	D L Gillespie	v B1
2	W J Hutchison	v A2
3	C M Hutchison	v E3
4	R Henery	v F4
5	J Stallard	v C5

E KNIGHTS OF THE SQUARE TABLE

1	B Eley	v A1
2	R W M Baxter	v F2
3	P Cassar	v D3
4	R C P Freeman	v C4
5	N Down	v B5

F GOVAN KNIGHTS

1	M T Dyer	v C1
2	P Muir	v E2
3	R Stokes	v B3
4	J McKenna	v D4
5	J Mann	v A5

DIVISION 4A**A WANDERING DRAGONS "C"**

1	A Sharp	v E1
2	Ms A McMonigle	v D2
3	G Sanderson	v C3
4	Mrs S Nimmo	v B4
5	Mrs A Donkin	v F5

B PAISLEY YMCA "B"

1	A Cowan	v D1
2	J Galbraith	v C2
3	G Ritchie	v F3
4	L Robertson	v A4
5	Ms J Finlay	v E5

C GLASGOW POLYTECHNIC

1	D Finnie	v F1
2	J Lindsay	v B2
3	J Watson	v A3
4	J Arnold	v E4
5	Ms N Fixter	v D5

D ABERDEEN

1	I Reid	v B1
2	R J Burrige	v A2
3	J Clifford	v E3
4	C Bown	v F4
5	J McKendrick	v C5

E CHESS SUPPLIERS "D"

1	P Ferry	v A1
2	M Hanley	v F2
3	S Young	v D3
4	A O'Brien	v C4
5	Dr A MacGuire-Gibson	v B5

F CHESS SUPPLIERS "B"

1	M J MacLeod	v C1
2	M Mitchell	v E2
3	T Tait	v B3
4	S McCreadie	v D4
5	Ms F McKenzie	v A5

DIVISION 4B**A BNDGAME**

1	M Mochan	v E1
2	A Kilgariff	v D2
3	M McGhee	v C3
4	P Tait	v B4
5	R Holland	v F5

B WANDERING DRAGONS "B"

1	C Donkin	v D1
2	N Clapperton	v C2
3	P McCarron	v F3
4	P Young	v A4
5	C Stewart	v E5

C VICTORIA

1	F Stevenson	v F1
2	R Flood	v B2
3	M M Chalmers	v A3
4	B Jenkins	v E4
5	J Anderson	v D5

D SAUGHTON

1	D Buchan	v B1
2	R Hartley	v A2
3	B Morrice	v E3
4	C McGuire	v F4
5	A H Ali	v C5

E CROMDALE

1	W Cook	v A1
2	J Soovik	v F2
3	B Grant	v D3
4	Mrs J Ronald	v C4
5	I Stockdale	v B5

F WANDERING DRAGONS "D"

1	M Kelly	v C1
2	Mrs I B Orr	v E2
3	D Poots	v B3
4	D Morgan	v D4
5	S Turner	v A5

THE NEW SCCA RATING SYSTEM PART 2

by Graham Wood

My thanks to David Dempster, Robert Inglis, Graham Morton, Martin Ross, Colin MacGregor and James Stevenson for their letters commenting about grading matters. Since I responded to those queries, further changes (mentioned below) have been made to the system.

I give here details of the latest/current version of the SCCA rating system. I hasten to point out that there are several differences in this system from the one used to calculate the ratings shown in Bulletin No. 28. These recent (summer/autumn 1988) amendments were advocated by the ICCF Rating System Working Group and relate principally to factors associated with the calculation of ratings of players playing few games and players who do not have a 'recognised' rating (i.e., those players who have a 'provisional' rating based on less than 30 recorded results).

On behalf of the SCCA, I gratefully acknowledge the permission given by the ICCF to use its system, albeit with some minor and not significant changes which do not affect the mathematics of the procedures.

General principles

- 1 The rating system is a numerical system in which percentage scores (scoring rate) are convertible to rating differences and conversely, rating differences are convertible to scoring probabilities.
- 2 The basis of the system is the normal probability function of statistical probability theory.

(For practical purposes in using a programmable computer, formulae are used which give satisfactory approximations of the figures shown in the tables in points 3 and 4).

3 Table of conversion from percentage score (scoring rate) P into rating difference DP :-

P	DP	P	DP	P	DP	P	DP	P	DP	P	DP
1.00	.677	.83	.273	.66	.117	.49	-.7	.32	-.133	.15	-.296
.99	.677	.82	.262	.65	.110	.48	-.14	.31	-.141	.14	-.309
.98	.589	.81	.251	.64	.102	.47	-.21	.30	-.149	.13	-.322
.97	.538	.80	.240	.63	.95	.46	-.29	.29	-.158	.12	-.336
.96	.501	.79	.230	.62	.87	.45	-.36	.28	-.166	.11	-.351
.95	.470	.78	.220	.61	.80	.44	-.43	.27	-.175	.10	-.366
.94	.444	.77	.211	.60	.72	.43	-.50	.26	-.184	.09	-.383
.93	.422	.76	.202	.59	.65	.42	-.57	.25	-.193	.08	-.401
.92	.401	.75	.193	.58	.57	.41	-.65	.24	-.202	.07	-.422
.91	.383	.74	.184	.57	.50	.40	-.72	.23	-.211	.06	-.444
.90	.366	.73	.175	.56	.43	.39	-.80	.22	-.220	.05	-.470
.89	.351	.72	.166	.55	.36	.38	-.87	.21	-.230	.04	-.501
.88	.336	.71	.158	.54	.29	.37	-.95	.20	-.240	.03	-.538
.87	.322	.70	.149	.53	.21	.36	-1.02	.19	-.251	.02	-.589
.86	.309	.69	.141	.52	.14	.35	-1.10	.18	-.262	.01	-.677
.85	.296	.68	.133	.51	.7	.34	-1.17	.17	-.273	.00	-.677
.84	.284	.67	.125	.50	.0	.33	-1.25	.16	-.284		

4 Table of conversion of difference in rating into scoring probability P for the higher (H) and the lower (L) rated player respectively :-

D	P		D	P		D	P		D	P	
	H	L		H	L		H	L		H	L
0-3	.50	.50	92-98	.63	.37	198-206	.76	.24	345-357	.89	.11
4-10	.51	.49	99-106	.64	.36	207-215	.77	.23	358-374	.90	.10
11-17	.52	.48	107-113	.65	.35	216-225	.78	.22	375-391	.91	.09
18-25	.53	.47	114-121	.66	.34	226-235	.79	.21	392-411	.92	.08
26-32	.54	.46	122-129	.67	.33	236-245	.80	.20	412-432	.93	.07
33-39	.55	.45	130-137	.68	.32	246-256	.81	.19	433-456	.94	.06
40-46	.56	.44	138-145	.69	.31	257-267	.82	.18	457-484	.95	.05
47-53	.57	.43	146-153	.70	.30	268-278	.83	.17	485-517	.96	.04
54-61	.58	.42	154-162	.71	.29	279-290	.84	.16	518-559	.97	.03
62-68	.59	.41	163-170	.72	.28	291-302	.85	.15	560-619	.98	.02
69-76	.60	.40	171-179	.73	.27	303-315	.86	.14	620-735	.99	.01
77-83	.61	.39	180-188	.74	.26	316-328	.87	.13	>735	1.00	.00
84-91	.62	.38	189-197	.75	.25	329-344	.88	.12			

The working formulae

- 5 For the calculation of a rating of a player who has not yet recorded 30 results : $R_p = R_c + (DP * F)$
where

R_p is the rating of the player

R_c is the average rating of all his opponents

DP is the difference in rating based on the scoring rate P and which is obtained from the table in point 3

F is the correction factor depending on the scoring rate P in the following way: $F = -2P^2 + 2P + 0.5$

- 6 Calculation of a change in rating after a game is made by : $\Delta R = k * (W_a - W_e)$

where

ΔR is the change of the rating

W_a is actual game result (win=1, draw=0.5, loss=0)

W_e is the expected result (scoring probability) of the game

k is the rating point value for a game point (or, the development coefficient)

- 7 The expected game result W_e is the scoring probability based on the difference between the rating of the opponent and the rating of the player, and obtained from the table in point 4

- 8 The development coefficient k is used as a stabilizing factor in the system : $k = r * p_l$

where

$$r = \begin{cases} 10 & \text{if } R_o \geq 2400 \\ 70 - (R_o/40) & \text{if } 2000 < R_o < 2400 \\ 20 & \text{if } R_o \leq 2000 \end{cases}$$

$$p_l = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } p_{ln} \geq 80 \\ 1.4 - (p_{ln}/200) & \text{if } 30 < p_{ln} < 80 \\ 1.25 & \text{if } p_{ln} \leq 30 \end{cases}$$

R_o is the old (i.e., most recently calculated) rating of the player

p_{ln} is the total number of recorded rated results by this player until then

- 9 The new rating R_n of a player is calculated by :
 $R_n = R_o + (f * \Sigma \Delta R)$

where

R_n is the new rating of the player

R_o is the old (i.e., most recent) rating of the player

f is the significancy factor

$\Sigma \Delta R$ is the summation of the rating changes in all his games ending during the rating period

- 10 The value of the significancy factor f is determined in the following way :

$$f = \begin{cases} 1.5 & \text{if } q \geq 2 \\ 1.25 & \text{if } 1 \leq q < 2 \\ 1 & \text{if } q < 1 \end{cases}$$

where

$q = |(\Sigma W_e - \Sigma W_a)/s|$ [the vertical bars mean 'the absolute value of the equation']

ΣW_e is the summation of expected game results of the player

ΣW_a is the summation of actual game results of the player

s is given by the formula $s = \sqrt{(n * P * (1 - P))}$

n is the number of games completed by the player in this rating period

P is the scoring probability obtained from the table in point 4 for a difference in rating D between the old rating R_o of the player and the average rating R_c of his opponents

Reporting procedures

- 11 The rating period runs from January 1 until December 31. All games completed in this period in SCCA tournaments (but not the openings tournaments) are suited to be included for the next list.

If SCCA members wish to have results from other events included, then they must notify the following details to the Grading Officer at the outset of the event :

a) the start date, b) the identity of each opponent, c) the grade/rating of each opponent at the start; and then they must notify the Grading Officer of d) the result and e) the end date, as soon as each game finishes.

- 12 Reports of tournaments must be sent before the first of February or within one month after the end of a tournament to the SCCA Grading Officer.

Calculation procedures

- 13 The new ratings for the next SCCA rating list are computed after the closing date in several stages, according to the following procedures.
- 14 Calculation of ratings for new players:
- a) Each player without a rating gets a rating based on the formula of point 5, for his/her games with players who already have a rating,
- b) this process is repeated until no more new players can get a rating. In these repetitions, the ratings of opponents already calculated according to point 14a are also used to calculate new ratings.
- 15 Each player who has a rating based on less than 30 recorded results at the beginning of the rating period, receives a new rating based on all his/her games. This is done with the formula of point 5.
- 16 Finally, a new rating for each player is calculated based on the formula of point 9.
- 17 The new rating for the next SCCA rating list is rounded off to the nearest five or zero.
- 18 If a player who has been inactive for six years or more starts to play again, his/her first results will be treated as results with $f=1.5$ (see formula of point 9).

Rating numbers

- 19 Under the SCCA rating system, each player gets a rating number (grade) based upon a method of statistical probability, calculated from tournament results over a period of many years.
- 20 Ratings based on less than 30 recorded results are deemed 'provisional'. A rating based on at least 30 recorded results is a 'recognised' rating. A rating will be published only if the player has a total of at least 8 recorded results.
- 21 Annually on July 1, a new rating list will be published in which the results of games completed during the previous calendar year (the 'rating period') have been calculated.
- 22 Ratings shown in the list shall be effective for all games with a starting date between July 1 and June 30.
- 23 Players who appeared on previous lists but who do not qualify for a rating because they have been inactive, are nonetheless considered currently at their most recently published rating.
- 24 Players shall be considered inactive if they do not finish a rateable game in a rating period.
- 25 Inactive players shall continue to be shown in three rating lists after being considered inactive.

Example

A player called Graham Wood has so far recorded 40 results, i.e., he has a recognised rating. His latest rating of 1800 was derived from games ending during 1987 and was published in the list dated 1 July 1988.

It's now February 1989 and time to consider the results of games ending/completed during the calendar year of 1988 (i.e., the rating period of 1 January to 31 December 1988).

He has 10 results in that rating period. Games 1 and 2 were League games, and games 3 and 4 were Handicap games, all of which started in November 1987 and in which his start grade was from the rating list dated 1 July 1987. Games 5, 6 and 7 were Candidates games which started in November 1986 and in which his start grade was from the rating list dated 1 July 1986. Games 8, 9 and 10 were 'international' games which started in February 1986 and in which his start grade was from the rating list dated 1 July 1985. The appropriate start grades of all his opponents are similarly recorded.

The data so far is shown in this table:

Rating Period Year = 1988
 Name = Wood, G
 Membership No = r = sum We =
 Latest rating, Ro = 1800 pl = sum Wa =
 Results so far, pln = 40 k = q =
 No "-" in period, n = 10 Rc = f =
 new pln = P = sum R =
 s = Rn =

Game:	Start grade	Oppnt (Wa) rating	RESULT Actual	(We) Expected change	Ratng (R)
1	1700	1800	0.5		
2	1700	1800	1.0		
3	1700	1600	0.5		
4	1700	1600	0.0		
5	1650	1700	1.0		
6	1650	1600	0.5		
7	1650	1650	0.5		
8	1600	1900	0.0		
9	1600	1450	1.0		
10	1600	1600	1.0		

It now remains to work through the formulae in points 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10, which were given on the previous pages, in order to derive the additional figures needed to produce the player's new grade.

You may like to have a go at filling in the missing data before moving to the next page!

Having entered the necessary basic data, the magic key is pressed and the missing figures appear in the table:

Rating Period Year = 1988
 Name = Wood, G
 Membership No = r = 20 sum We = 4.854
 Latest rating, Ro = 1800 pl = 1.2 sum Wa = 6
 Results so far, pln = 40 k = 24 q = 0.776
 No "-" in period, n = 10 Rc = 1670 f = 1
 new pln = 50 P = 0.679 sum R = 27.495
 s = 1.477 Rn = 1825

Game:	Start grade	Oppnt (Wa) rating	RESULT Actual	(We) Expected change	Ratng (R)
1	1700	1800	0.5	0.36	3.362
2	1700	1800	1.0	0.36	15.362
3	1700	1600	0.5	0.64	-3.362
4	1700	1600	0.0	0.64	-15.362
5	1650	1700	1.0	0.429	13.715
6	1650	1600	0.5	0.571	-1.715
7	1650	1650	0.5	0.5	0
8	1600	1900	0.0	0.151	-3.624
9	1600	1450	1.0	0.703	7.119
10	1600	1600	1.0	0.5	12

The sum of the rating changes multiplied by the significancy factor is added to (or subtracted from, if negative) the player's latest rating, and then rounded off to the nearest five or zero, to produce his new grade which will be published in the rating list dated 1 July 1989.

So, in the example above, $R_n = 1800 + (27.495 * 1)$
 $R_n = 1827.495$
 $R_n = 1825$

Now this example is perhaps the most straightforward of all the possible case studies, so a word of caution to anyone with an eager pocket calculator: the system is far more intricate than it may appear at first sight!

Changes to the rules regarding the attaining of norms for the award of the Scottish Master title are currently under review by the Executive Committee and I hope to be able to give the details in my next article.

SCOTTISH CHAMPIONSHIP

1986-88

by Philip Giulian

This was the strongest Scottish Championship for some years. Favourite was Alan Norris, a previous winner and second highest rated Scottish player of all time. Although Alan is only just short of Grandmaster strength, there were several other players in the field who could justifiably claim to have realistic chances of winning. Brian Martin had finished a close runner-up in the previous Championship and had perhaps been unlucky in that event. Richard Beecham was again able to devote more time to his correspondence games and was anxious to regain his former strength, which made him a serious Championship contender. George Pyrich has been a regular finalist and was clearly the second best player in over-the-board chess. As in previous years, the lower-rated players were of much the same grading, although such was the strength this year that there wouldn't be any easy games and perhaps a lower score would be needed to win.

As anticipated, the competitive nature of the tournament led to many hard struggles, although Alan Norris was making the most of small advantages, as in the following game against Brian Martin. To the uneducated eye, it might appear that Brian should have drawn the game without much difficulty, but in actual fact his position was extremely hard, if not impossible, to defend.

White: B. Martin
Black: A. Norris

Modern Defence B06

1 e4 d6
2 d4 g6
3 Nc3 Bg7

4 f4 c6

Alan delays Nf6 which would transpose to the Pirc (Austrian attack), preferring to steer the game into the less well analysed Modern Defence.

5 Nf3 Bg4

6 Be3 Qb6
7 Qd2?

14 Bb3?! d5
15 cxd5

Alan's strategy works as Brian goes astray. Better is 7 Qd3 Nf6 8 h3 Bxf3 9 gxf3 Na6 10 0-0-0 with slight advantage to White as in Kudrin-Martin (London 1987).

7 Bxf3
8 gxf3 Nd7
9 Na4

As far as I can find, this is a new move but alternatives for White are not attractive: (a) 9 0-0-0 Qa5 10 Kb1 b5 11 h4 Nb6 12 b3 Nf6 with advantage to Black, or (b) 9 Bc4 e6 10 Bb3 d5 11 Ne2 Qa6 and again Black is better.

9 Qc7
10 c4 e6
11 Nc3

White's pawn centre looks impressive, but the pawn structure makes it difficult to open the position. Black's strategy is to fix and close the centre so that his knights will be superior to White's bishop.

11 Ne7
12 Rg1 0-0
13 h4 Nf6

White must have regretted not playing 0-0-0 on his last move. Now after 15 ... cxd5 16 0-0-0 dxe4 17 fxe4 Nxe4 wins a pawn.

15 cxd5
16 e5?!

Closes the position to Black's advantage. Better is Rc1.

16 Nd7
17 h5 Nb6
18 hxg6 hxg6

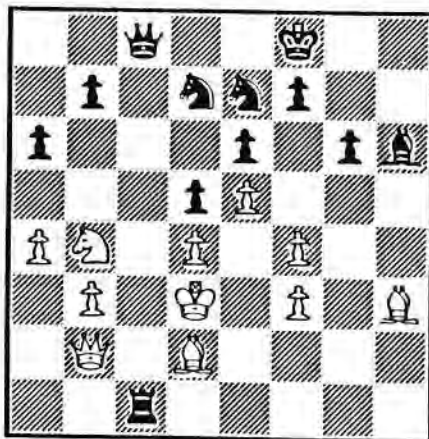
White has succeeded in opening the h-file but Black is in little danger there. Meanwhile, White has to make the awkward decision - either play b3 and weaken the knight on c3, or allow Nc4 followed by Rc8 and possibly Nxb2.

19 b3 Rfc8
20 Nb5 Qd7
21 a4 a6
22 Nc3

If 22 Nd6 Rc6 followed by Nc8 and Black quickly doubles rooks on the c-file, but this happens anyway!

22 Rc6

23 Ke2 Rac8
 24 Rgc1 R8c7
 25 Kd3 Qc8
 26 Qb2 Nd7
 27 Na2 Bh6
 28 Bd2 Kf8
 29 Nb4 Rxc1
 30 Rxc1 Rxc1



31 Qxc1?!

With the queens on, White's position is very difficult, but at least the queen can defend some of the White weaknesses. Now Alan Norris goes onto "automatic pilot" and technique takes over. This is to advance down the queenside, tie up White's defences and then exchange some pieces.

31 Qxc1
 32 Bxc1 Ke8
 33 Kc3 Bf8
 34 Be3 Kd8
 35 Nd3 Kc7

36 Bg4 Nf5

The knight had to be taken but now the white pawns are looking distinctly vulnerable to a later attack.

37 Bxf5 gxf5
 38 Nf2 b5
 39 axb5 axb5
 40 Nh3 Be7
 41 Ng5?

White's position is probably lost anyway, but now the board is blocked and Black has a "good" knight against a "bad" bishop, a combination which is invariably won.

41 b4+

To keep the White king passive.

42 Kc2 Bxg5
 43 fxg5 Nb8

From c6 the knight will defend the pawn on b4 and tie White down to the defence of the pawns on d4 and b3. Meanwhile, the Black king will infiltrate the kingside.

44 f4 Nc6
 45 Bf2 Kd7
 46 Kd3 Ke8
 47 Be1 Kf8
 48 Ke3 Kg7

49 Bd2 Kg6
 50 Be1 Kh5
 51 Kd3 Kg4
 52 Ke3 Kh3
 53 Kd3 Kh2
 54 Ke3 Kg2
 55 Bh4 Kf1
 56 Kd3 Na5
 57 g6 fxg6
 58 Be7 Nxb3
 59 Bxb4 Kf2
 60 Ba3 Kf3
 61 Kc3 Nxd4!
 62 Kxd4 Kxf4
 63 Bc1+ Kg4
 64 Kc5 f4
 65 Kd6 f3!

Resigns

If 55 Be3 Kf5 wins easily.



Weak pawns are vulnerable in closed positions but they are even more difficult to defend in open positions, as Alan Norris demonstrates in the following game in which he beats another of his main rivals.

White: A.J. Norris
 Black: G.D. Pyrich

English Opening A29

1 c4 e5
 2 Nc3 Nf6
 3 Nf3 Nc6
 4 g3 d5
 5 cxd5 Nxd5

The reversed Sicilian has once again become very popular and has been shown to be one of Black's best systems against the English opening.

6 Bg2 Nb6

Not 6 ... Be7?? 7 Nxe5 Nxc3
 8 Nxc6.

7 0-0 Be7
 8 a3 0-0
 9 b4 Be6
 10 d3 Nd4!?

Also possible is f5 and f6 but what about 10 ... a5 11 b5 Nd4 12 Bb2 Nb3 13 Rb1 f6 14 Nd2 Nc5 with equality?

11 Nd2!?

A new move. (a) 11 Bb2 f6 is untried - probably level; (b) 11 Rb1 Nd5 12 Bb2 Nxc3 13 Bxc3 f6 14 Nd2 is slightly better for White.

11 Nd5
 12 Bb2 f6
 13 Nce4 a5
 14 bxa5 Rxa5
 15 e3 Nc6

Also possible is Nb5!?

16 Qc2

16 f5?
 Too ambitious. Better is
 Kh8 or Qd7.

17 Nc3 Nxc3?
 Better is Qd7.

18 Bxc3 Rxa3
 19 Rxa3 Bxa3
 20 Bxc6 bxc6
 21 Bxe5 Qd7

Material is level but
 Black's weak c-pawns give
 White a big advantage.

22 Nc4 Bd6
 23 Ra1 Bxc4?!

Better is c5. Now it is
 impossible to defend the c-
 pawns.

24 Qxc4+ Kh8
 25 Bd4! h5
 26 Rc1 h4
 27 Qxc6 Qd8?!
 28 Rc4 Qg5
 29 Bc5 hxg3
 30 hxg3 Rf6
 31 Bxd6 cxd6
 32 Rh4+ Resigns

If 32 ... Kg8 33 Qe8+ Rf8
 34 Qe6+ Rf7 35 Qxd6, or
 32 ... Rh6 33 Rxh6+ Qxh6 34
 Qc8+ Kh7 35 Qxf5+.



With these two results,
 Alan Norris effectively
 ended the challenges of
 Brian Martin and George
 Pырich. This left only
 Richard Beecham of his main
 rivals as possible winner.
 Richard decided his best
 tactic was to play for a
 draw against Alan, which he
 managed easily. However,
 he wasn't able to match
 Alan's performance against
 the others, although he
 also defeated George
 Pырich.

(Notes by Richard Beecham)

White: C.R. Beecham
 Black: G.D. Pырich

English A29

1 c4!?

I have noticed from past
 gamescores that George does
 not always play well
 against the English. I
 have also noticed that I
 don't always play the
 English very well - so we
 should be in for an
 interesting game!

1 e5
 2 Nc3 Nf6
 3 g3 d5
 4 cxd5 Nxd5
 5 Bg2 Nb6
 6 Nf3 Nc6

7 0-0 Be7
 8 d3 0-0
 9 Be3

This same opening was
 played between Phil Giulian
 v Richard Beecham in the
 1981-82 Championship Final.
 In that game I played 9 ...
 f5 and after 10 Qc1 Qe8
 11 a4 Nd7 12 Nb5 Bd6 13 d4
 e4 14 Nd2 Qh5 15 Nc4,
 Philip won quickly.

9 Be6
 10 Qc1

This move prepares Rd1 and
 d4, it also holds up
 Black's natural plan of f5,
 f4 etc. It is also a good
 preparation for advantag-
 eous exchanges on squares
 g5 or c5.

10 f6
 11 Rd1 Nd4!?

Preventing the "freeing"
 move d4 and making Rd1 look
 rather artificial. It was
 at this point in the game I
 started thinking about the
 endgame. After 12 Bxd4,
 Black will be left with a
 weak pawn on d4 which will
 be required to be supported
 sometime by a pawn on c5.

My strategic plan will be
 to exchange pawns on the
 queenside and leave Black
 with pawns on d4 and c5,
 attack and hopefully win
 the pawn on c5.

12 Bxd4 exd4
 13 Ne4 Qd7
 14 Nc5 Bxc5
 15 Qxc5 Rfd8
 16 Rdc1 Rac8
 17 Nd2 c6
 18 a4

White has built up a strong
 position on the Q-side.

18 Rc7
 19 a5

Forcing Black's N into a
 passive square and also
 played with the idea of Ra4
 bearing down on d4.

19 Nc8
 20 Nc4 Qe7

I was hoping for, 20 ...
 Bh3?, when 21 Nb6! is very
 strong, but George did not
 even consider the move.

21 b4 Bd5

If Black exchanges queens,
 he is left with a weak
 point at b7 which will be
 difficult to defend.

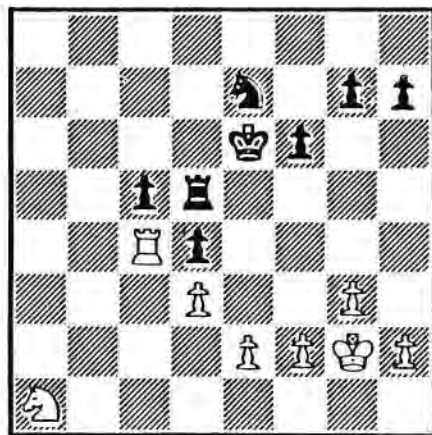
22 Rc2 Bxg2

23 Kxg2 Rd5
 24 Qxe7 Nxe7
 25 Na3

Preventing the rook coming to b5 and transferring the N to c2 where it attacks d4!.

25 Rcd7
 26 Rac1 Kf7
 27 Rc5 Ke6
 28 R1c4 b6
 29 Rxd5 Rxd5
 30 Nc2 c5
 31 axb6 axb6
 32 bxc5 bxc5
 33 Na1!

Black's game is still difficult, with c5 not easy to defend. The N on e7 is no help and the R on d5 is badly placed.



33 Nc6?!

I don't think this is correct, a better plan was 33 ... Ng6! followed by Nf8 and Nd7, when the c-pawn is defended and the pawns on g7 and h7 are defended against White's R to the 7th rank.

34 Nb3 Kd6
 35 Ra4 Re5
 36 Kf1 Re7

Black tries to activate the rook, but

37 Rc4! Re5
 38 f4 Rf5
 39 Nd2 Ne7
 40 Ra4 Rd5
 41 Ne4+ Kc6
 42 Ra7 Nf5
 43 h3 h5
 44 Kf2

The threat of 45 g4 can't be met without losing the pawn of g7. Black chooses to let the c-pawn go and seek salvation in a N and pawn ending.

44 Rd7
 45 Rxd7 Kxd7
 46 Nxc5+ Kd6
 47 Ne4+ Kd5
 48 Kf3 Ne3
 49 g4 hxg4+
 50 hxg4 f5
 51 gxf5 Nxf5

We are told that N and pawn endings are often drawn when one side has the extra pawn. I have not found this to be the case: in the 2nd North Atlantic Team Tournament, I played the weak side against Portugal and was well beaten.

52 Kg4 Ne7
 53 Kg5 Ke6
 54 Ng3 g6
 55 Ne4 Resigns

The threat of Nc5+, Nb3 and Kf6 can't be met without another pawn dropping off.

The above game is without doubt my most creative of the tournament possibly because I respect and admire George's play so much.



Surprise of the tournament was Professor Graham Bird whose only defeat was to Alan Norris. In the following game, Graham shows he isn't afraid of topical opening variations.

(Notes are based on those by Graham).

White: M.A. Hammett
 Black: G.H. Bird

Grünfeld Defence D96

1 d4 Nf6
 2 c4 g6
 3 Nc3 d5
 4 Nf3 Bg7
 5 Qb3 dxc4
 6 Qxc4 c6

Usual is 0-0 but c6 has some merit.

7 e4 Be6
 8 Qd3 0-0
 9 Be2 Na6

The game has transposed to Hort-Bilek (Sousse 1967). That game continued 9 ... Bg4 10 Be3 Nbd7 11 Rd1 Qa5 12 0-0 Rfd8 13 Qc2 with slight advantage to White.

10 Bg5 Qb6

At this stage, there is no threat to the pawn on b2, but after Rd8 there is a real threat.

11 0-0 h6
 12 Bf4 Kh7
 13 Rac1 Rfd8
 14 Rfd1?! Qxb2!?
 15 Rb1 Qa3

16 Ne5?!

Not 16 Rxb7?? Nc5. Care is needed, eg. 16 Qd2 Nc5 17 e5 Nfe4 18 Nxe4 Nxe4 19 Qc2 Nc3 ±.

16 Nb4
17 Qf3 Nxa2
18 Nxa2 Qza2
19 Rxb7 Rdb8
20 Rxe7?

Better is 20 Rxb8 Rxb8 21 Nxc6.

20 Rb2
21 Bf1 a5
22 Rc1 a4
23 Rxc6 a3
24 Bc1?

Better is 24 Rcc7 Qb1 25 Nxf7 a2 26 Ng5+ with an unclear position.

24 Rb3
25 Bd3 Qa1
26 Nxf7 Qxd4
27 Ne5 Qxe5
28 Rxe6 Qxe6!
29 Rxe6 a2
30 Rxf6 a1=Q
Resigns

This was one of the victories which took Graham Bird into joint second place with Richard Beecham, the only players who ever looked likely to challenge the winner, Alan Norris.



Of the other players, only Brian Martin reached 50%. Brian's aggressive approach was reflected in the fact that he did not have a single draw. In the following game, he made fairly short work of beating a disappointing George Pyrich.

White: G.D. Pyrich
Black: B. Martin

Budapest A52

1 d4 Nf6
2 c4 e5

I find it hard to believe that this Black opening is sound and yet it has scored well in grandmaster events.

3 dxe5 Ng4
4 Nf3

George plays the opening quietly rather than the more committed alternatives of (a) 4 e4 Nxe5 5 f4 Nec6, or (b) 4 Bf4 Nc6 5 Nf3 Bb4+ 6 Nbd2 Qe7 7 a3 Ngxe5 threatening mate!

4 Bc5
5 e3 Nbc6
6 a3?! a5

I don't believe this variation can be best for White. 6 b3 immediately is probably level but by playing the move 6 a3 a5, Black now has the possibility of the manoeuvre of Ra6 and then transferring the rook to the kingside. However, the line chosen by George was good enough for White in Snejder-Moroz (USSR 1986).

7 b3 0-0
8 Bb2 Re8
9 Bd3

More aggressive than the older 9 Be2 Ncxe5 10 Nxe5 Nxe5 11 0-0 Ra6 which is about level.

9 Ra6

Not 9 ... Nxce5 10 Nxe5 Nxe5 11 Bxh7+! Kxh7 12 Qh5+ and White is better.

10 e6 dxe6
11 0-0 e5!?

This is a new move. Snejder-Moroz continued 11 ... Nf6 12 Qc2 h6 13 Rd1 Qe7 14 Nc3 Ra8 15 Ne4 e5 16 h3 with clear advantage to White.

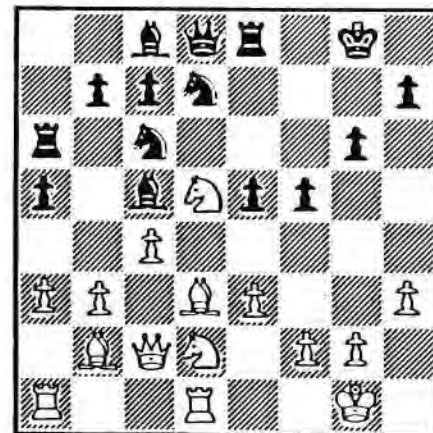
12 Qc2 g6!

This move intending f5 seems to call White's whole strategy into question.

13 h3 Nf6
14 Nc3 Qe7?
15 Nd5! Qd8
16 Rfd1 Nd7

Would have been better on move 14!

17 Nd2 f5



18 g4?

Apparently, with an active position, White is frustrated but it really is very difficult to find a good constructive plan.

However, the move played leads to a suicidal weakening of the White king position.

18 Rf8!
 19 gxf5 gxf5
 20 Kb2

Not 20 Bxf5?? Qg5+ 21 Bg4
 h5.

20 Nf6
 21 Rg1+?

White's position is very bad and Nxf6+ is the best chance.

21 Nxc4+!!
 22 hxc4 Qh4+
 23 Kg2 fxc4
 24 f3 Qh3+
 25 Kf2 Qh2+

Resigns

If 26 Kf1 or Rg2 then g3 threatening Bh3 wins easily.



Finally, a word of apology to George Pyrich. He might have had a poor tournament by his standards but it is a bit much publishing three of his losses. It's just that he was such a good loser!

(Ed: George is kind enough to do some "proof reading" for me. He observed here that he has had "considerable experience of being a good loser", which is typical of his modesty as he is usually a winner! He sets a fine example to others in the spirit in which he plays his games - a Controller's ideal participant!)

Our Games Editor is looking for many more games, preferably annotated. So, come on members, surely you can send him at least one worth publishing!!

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GAMES SECTION



Selected by Douglas Bryson

38 Duncryne Avenue,
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Please send games (preferably annotated) to Games Editor:

Rules for using postcards insist you must correctly repeat your opponent's move before any of your own is considered valid - the correct repeat provides a safety net against a game being ruined prematurely by one moment of carelessness. There is a downside, however, in the ever expanding piles of postcards throughout the house.

Another problem concerns the "confirmation of postmark date" rule. Many of my opponents refuse to confirm the postmark on the grounds that it is unreadable - some even put "?" as if to suggest that they haven't caught me this time but are monitoring the situation.

I point out that I have no control over the legibility of the postmark but to no avail. Since confirmation is required to make a move valid, the game should be broken off until the matter is resolved. Time for ICCF clarification.

All annotated contributions to this column will be published. In view of the large number of players in the leagues and various championship events, it is surprising that so few people consider their own games worthy of publication. After spending a year on a game, I would have thought that most players would have something interesting to say on their play.

From the 1987-89 Scottish Open, C. Trinder from Newbury in Berks annotates his sharp attacking win against A. Crombleholme.

White: C. Trinder
Black: A.K. Cromblehome

Grünfeld Defence D87

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	g6
3	Nc3	d5
4	cxd5	

The classical main line,

4	.....	Nxd5
5	e4	Nxc3
6	bxc3	Bg7
7	Bc4	c5
8	We2	0-0
9	0-0	Nc6
10	Be3	Qc7
11	Rc1	Rd8
12	Qd2	We5?!

The first deviation from main line, More common here is 12 ... Qa5 and 12 ... a6. Both give satisfactory games for Black, although White does retain a slight advantage,

The idea behind 12 ... Ne5 is to exploit the pin of White's a-pawn to further undermine the pawn centre,

13	Bb3	Ng4
14	Bf4	e5
15	Bg3	Bh6

An alternative and probably stronger move is 15 ... Qe7, removing the troublesome pin,

16	Bxe5	Qxe5
----	------	------

17 Qxh6 cxd4

17 ... Qxe4 has been tried before but this gives White a strong attack with 18 Bxf7+ Kxf7 19 Qxh7+.

18	Qh4	Bd7
19	Nxd4	Rac8

19 ... Qxe4 loses to 20 Rfel followed by Re7,

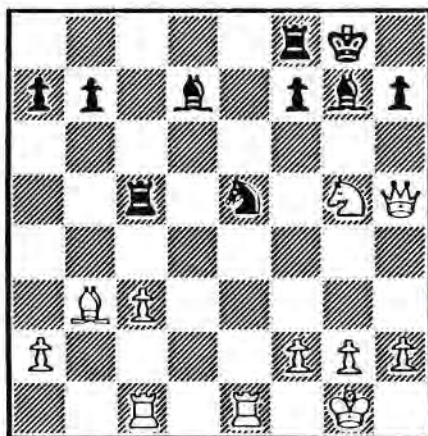
20	Rfel	g5
----	------	----

This adventurous move seriously weakens Black's position on the white squares,

21	Qh5	Qg7
22	Nf3	Rc5
23	e5	

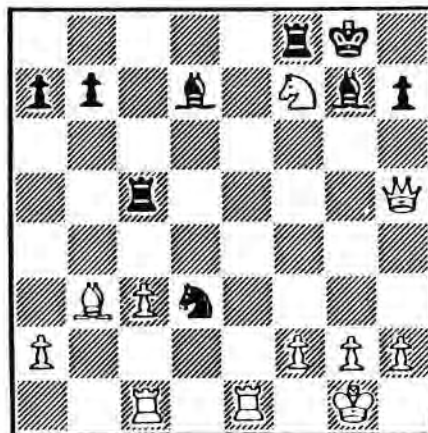
Cutting off Black's rook and denying Black's knight a reasonable retreat square,

23	.....	Rf8
24	Nxg5	Nxe5



25 Nxf7 Nd3

This appears to fork White's rooks and attack White's queen, Other moves lose, eg. 25 ... Nxf7 26 Qxc5, 25 ... Rxf7 26 Bxf7+ and Black is a minor piece down, 25 ... Bg4 and 25 ... Nc6 lose to 26 Ne5+.



26 Re5!

White's winning move. At first glance, this seems a ludicrous move but careful analysis shows it to be best,

26	Bg4
----	-------	-----

Other moves are no better, 26 ... Nxc1 27 Rxc5 and there is no stopping Rg5 winning Black's queen, If 26 ... Nf4 27 Qg5 and White wins the exchange at least, If 26 ... Rxf7 27 Rxc5 and then Black has two possibilities, both losing, 27 ... Nxc5 28 Qxc5 and 27 ... Nxc1 28 Rg5 and Black's queen is pinned again,

Finally, 26 ... Nxe5 27 Nxe5+ when 27 ... Kh8 28 Ng6+ wins the rook on c5. The alternative 27 ... Rf7 28 Qxf7+ Qxf7 29 Nxf7 and White has a winning kingside majority,

27	Qh4	Be2
----	-----	-----

Black has nothing better, 27 ... Nxc1 28 Rxc5 Rxf7 29 Bxf7+ Qxf7 30 Qxg4+ wins, 27 ... Nxe5 28 Nxe5 dis ch Kh8 29 Nxg4 and Black is two minor pieces and two pawns for a rook down, If 27 ... Rxe5 28 Nxe5 dis ch, Then if 28 ... Kh8 29 Nxd3 and if 28 ... Rf7 29 Bxf7+ followed by Nxd3 with a won ending, Finally any passive move, eg. 27 ... a6, loses to 28 Ng5+ Kh8 29 Rxc5 and White has too many threats for Black to parry,

28	Rxe2	Nxc1
29	Re7	Resigns

Black is now completely lost as there is no saving the queen from Ng5 dis ch. The two possibilities are: (i) 29 ... Rxf7 30 Re8+ Qf8 31 Qg4+ and both Black's queen and rook are pinned, If now 31 ... Kh8 32 Rxf8+ Rxf8 33 Qd4+ and the rook on c5 is lost; (ii) 29 ... Nxb3 30 Nh6+ Kh8 31 Rxg7 Kxg7 32 Qe7+ and the rook on f8 is lost leaving a clearly lost endgame,

This second continuation was given to move 32 as "conditional" move and accounts for Black's resignation at this point,



David Salter from Ilkley in West Yorkshire writes concerning SCCA Tournament Q133 which was tragically marred by the death of Ian Taylor. "He had left me in no doubt that he had a great desire to improve his chess and enthusiasm to give me a tougher battle in any future encounter. In tribute to a keen novice denied a chance to fulfil his wishes, I append one of my Quartet games in which Ian was the opponent."

White: D. Salter
Black: I. Taylor

Catalan E06

1	d4	d5
2	Nf3	Nf6
3	c4	e6
4	g3	Nc6
5	Bg2	Ne4?!

Theory would recognise 5 ... dxc4
6 Qa4 Bd7,

6	0-0	Be7
7	Nbd2	0-0

8 b3!? g6?!

Perhaps Black wanted to mirror my intended Q-side fianchetto with a later ... Bf6 and ... Bg7, but the immediate 8 ... Bf6 may have done the trick,

9 Bb2 Nxd2

Afraid of the resulting pawn structure if his knight were captured first? Instead White obtains a good d2-h6 diagonal for the queen,

10 Qxd2 dxc4?
11 bxc4?

At once 11 d5! seems to get Black into the same sort of difficulties as are outlined below,

11 e5?

Now the idea mentioned in the notes to move 8 would have been an improvement,

12 d5

A second chance to make use of two diagonals,

12 e4?

Unpleasant but more tenacious is a line such as 12 ... Nb8 13 Bxe5 f6 14 Bc3 Bg4 15 Nd4 when White's best follow-up may be e4 and e5,

Another try: 12 ... Nd4 13 Nxd4 exd4 14 Qxd4 f6 15 e4 with a later e5 again in mind,

Not recommended for Black is 12 ... Nb8 13 Bxe5 Bf6? 14 Qh6! Bxe5 15 Ng5 which leads to a position similar to the variation (a) below,

13 Qh6! Resigns

Else (a) ... Bf6 14 Ng5 Re8 15 Qxh7+ Kf8 16 Qf7+, or (b) ... f6 14 Ng5 Rf7 15 Nxf7 Kxf7 16 Qxh7+ Kf8 17 Bxe4 Ne5 18 Bxe5 fxe5 19 Bxg6,



From the same tournament, SCCA Q133,

White: M. Dunn
Black: D. Salter

Caro-Kann B19

1 e4 c6

Not since 1976, the days of Paisley Grammar School Chess Club, have I dared ... c5. How tastes change!

2	d4	d5
3	Nc3	dxex4
4	Nxe4	Bf5
5	f3?!	e6

6 c4?

Now the f-pawn's situation definitely pays dividends for Black,

6	.....	Bxe4
7	fxe4	Qh4+
8	Ke2	

Like a reversed Damiano's Defence! But look at the remarkable possibilities if White offers his rook: 8 g3 Qxe4+ 9 Kd2 Qxh1 10 Nf3 Nf6 11 Qe2 (to prepare Bg2) Ne4+! 12 Kc2 Nxc3! 13 Qf2 Qxf1 and Black retains his material advantage,

8	.....	Qxe4+
9	Kf2	Nf6
10	h3	c5
11	Qd3	cxd4

Not initiating a queen exchange as the uncomfortable king may yet succumb to a heavy piece attack,

12	Nf3	Nc6
13	a3	Bd6
14	Be2	0-0
15	Re1	e5
16	Bg5	Qxd3

Rather than allow Bxf6 to double f-pawns,

17	Bxd3	Nd7
18	b4	f5?!

Perhaps premature since the queenside now gets into a tangle,

19 c5 Bc7
 20 Bc4+ Kh8
 21 b5 Na5
 22 c6! bxc6
 23 bxc6 Nb6

Otherwise 23 ... Nxc6 24 Bb5 or
 23 ... Nxc4 24 cxd7 Nb5 25 Re1
 Bd6 26 Rc6 with threats from a4,
 d8, Nxe5. Other variants at
 least keep Black pinned down
 while relieving him of the e-
 pawn.

24 Bb5 Rfe8
 25 Bd2? Nb3
 26 Rad1 e4
 27 Ng5?

The threat of ... e3 has now put
 White into the tangle. The
 problem can be traced to move 25.
 This knight foray adds to the
 material losses.

27 Nxd2
 28 Nf7+ Kg8
 29 Nd6

Hoping to make something of the
 c-pawn?

29 Bxd6
 30 Rc1 e3+
 31 Ke2 Re5
 32 a4 Rc5
 33 Rxc5 Bxc5
 34 Rc1 Bd6
 35 Kd3

There is little to be gained from
 35 c7 Rc8 36 a5 Nd5.

35 a6
 36 a5 Nd5

Not 36 ... axb5 37 axb6, I
 thought, but 37 ... Nc4 seems to
 be OK. After 38 Kxd4 Nxb6
 39 Kxe3, Black still has a win
 but all the ground gained by the
 centre pawns has been lost, so...

37 Bc4 Nxc4
 38 Kxc4 e2!
 39 Resigns

39 Kxd5 d3 40 Kxd6 d2; 39 Kd3
 Nf4+ 40 Kd2 Bb4+; 39 Re1 Re8
 40 Kxd5 Bb4 are among the lines
 that lead to a new queen.



Teichmann once claimed that
 "Chess is 99% tactics".
 The more I play, the more I
 become convinced this is
 true. Nearly all my OTB
 games are decided when
 either I or my opponent
 finds some method of
 winning material. Even in
 correspondence play, it is
 forcing sequences at key
 moments that win games.
 Usually, the postal player
 likes to think that their
 combinations will involve
 greater depth or subtlety -
 however, the following low-
 level encounter will
 disabuse you of this notion.

Kirjeshakki 25 Years

23 Re1

White: K. Kaunonen (Finland)
 (IM, 2465)

This wins the e-pawn so the
 material situation is 2 bishops v
 rook and pawn.

Black: D.M. Bryson

Sicilian (B40)

1 e4 c5
 2 Nf3 e6
 3 d4 cxd4
 4 Nxd4 Nf6
 5 Bd3 Nc6
 6 c3 d5

23 b6
 24 Bd6 Re8
 25 Bxe5 g5

White didn't play 25 Rxe5 since
 Black has a much easier time
 without White's rook. However,
 25 Bxe5 has self-pinned, so g5 to
 prevent White's f4.

An obvious move but not given in
 ECO.

26 Re3 Rd2

7 exd5 Qxd5
 8 0-0 Be7
 9 Be3 0-0
 10 c4 Qd7
 11 Nxc6 Qxc6
 12 Be2 Rd8
 13 Qb3 e5
 14 Nc3 Be6
 15 Rac1 h6
 16 h3 Bc5??
 17 Nd5!

With the idea of Re7, b5, Rd5.

27 g3 Ra2

Now that White can play f4, Black
 intends a6, b5.

28 Kg2 a6
 29 Bd5??

An incredible howler.

29 Ra5
 White resigns.

Missed this one and it is just
 luck that Black has a reasonable
 reply.

17 Nxd5
 18 cxd5 Bxd5
 19 Rxc5 Qxc5
 20 Bxc5 Bxb3
 21 axb3 Rd2
 22 Bc4 Rxb2

	Please send games (preferably annotated) to Games Editor:
Douglas M. Bryson, 38 Duncryne Avenue, Mount Vernon, Glasgow G32 0RQ.	

WORLD C.C. CHAMPIONSHIP SEMIFINAL XV - SECTION 1

(by Alan Borwell)

In January 1984, I received my pairings and commenced play in the XV World C.C. Semifinals. This was my first experience at this level, having qualified by winning a World 15-Player Master Class event with a score of 11/14 points (no draws!) My first problem was that I then had 50 international C.C. games in progress - a situation which I shall certainly avoid in future!

My 16 opponents included 2 IMs and 3 others with ½ IM norms, but I was soon to discover that the non-titled and non-graded players were to cause me the greater problems!

In the early stages of play, I was quite pleased with all of my positions, but two "disasters" were around the corner. Incredibly, in both cases, I thought my opponents had made clerical errors!

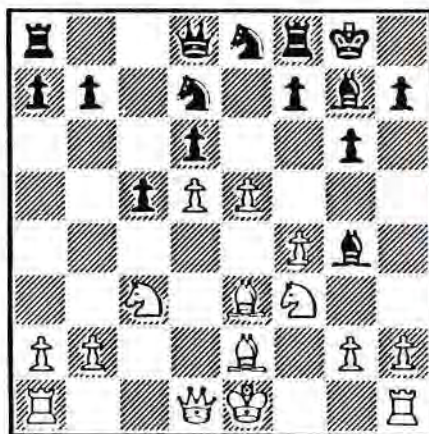
The first of these was against Hannes Olafsson from Iceland.

APB v H. Olafsson (Iceland)
(½ IM)

Benoni Indian Defence A56

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7
4 e4 0-0!

Very challenging! The temptation to play e5 is great but, unfortunately, I had no knowledge of this variation and suspected that my opponent had either made a clerical mistake (or had some deep analysis!) So I played prudently - 5 Be2 c5 6 d5 e6. Even more provocative to lure me forward (with fatal consequences!) 7 e5 (maybe I should have tried 7 d6) Ne8 8 f4 exd5 9 cxd5 d6 10 Nf3 Bg4 11 Be3 Nd7, reaching this position:



How should White continue? I haven't castled and, with my centre brittle, I blunder ahead:

12 e6? (better was exd6 and 0-0) 12 ... fxe6 13 Ng5 Bxe2 14 Qxe2 Bxc3+ 15 bxc3 exd5 16 Ne6 Qf6 17 Nxf8 Qxc3+ 18 Kf2 Nxf8 and Black's central pawns more than compensate for the exchange - I resigned on move 30!



A bad start, but worse was to follow. My unbeaten record against USA players was about to disappear!

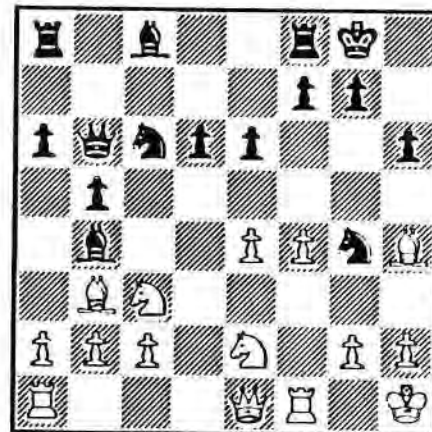
C.V. Carlson (USA) v APB

Sicilian Defence B45

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4
4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 Nc6 6 Bc4.

My opponent told me later that he meant this move to be for one of his other games - it certainly "caught me on the hop!"

6 ... Bb4 7 0-0 d6 Chicken! If 7 ... Bxc3 8 bxc3 Nxe4 9 Qg4 looked too menacing, so White has time to regroup with 8 Nde2 0-0 9 Bg5 h6 10 Bh4 a6 11 f4 b5 12 Bb3 Qb6+ 13 Kh1 Ng4 14 Qe1. How does Black continue?

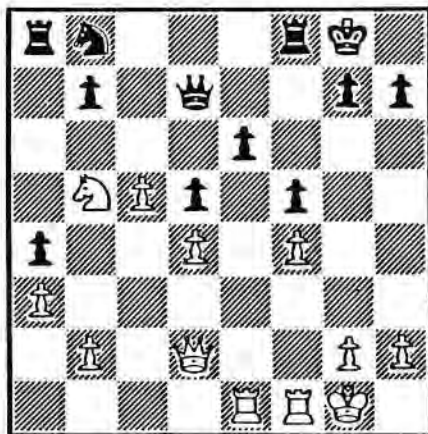


14 ... Bb7?? An instinctive but awful move. The bishop is now misplaced as it is needed to protect e6. White now pressed home his advantage with 15 Qg3 h5 16 h3 Bxc3 17 Nxc3 Nh6 18 Bf6 g6 19 Bxe6! Kh7 20 Nd5 and the rest is too painful to publish!



My next two results were draws against old Russian adversaries, W. Alexejew and L.W. Tschepurnoi. The first of these games was a Sicilian Scheveningen against which I had a minimal advantage until all minor pieces were exchanged. The second was also a Sicilian, in which I played the Sveshnikov Variation as Black and held my higher graded opponent without too much trouble.

Against J Spodny (CS), I thought that I had an advantage, but failed to press it home properly. The following position was reached after my opponent's 16th move:



Here I played 17 Qe2 and thought that I should be able to win by gradually increasing pressure down the e-file and on Q-wing.

The game continued 17... Rf6 18 Rf3 Nc6 19 Re3 Nd8 20 b4 axb3 21 Rxb3 Nc6 22 Reb1 Na5 23 Rb4 Nc4 24 a4 h6 25 Qd3 Kh7 26 Kf2 Ra6 27 Na3 Rxa4 28 Nxc4 dxc4 29 Qxc4 Rxb4 30 Rxb4 Qc6 31 Qd3 Qd5 32 Qf3 Qa2+ 33 Qe2 Qd5, when a draw by repetition was agreed. Could I have done better somewhere around move 25?

Against Atabek (Turkey) IM, I continued over-aggressively after 6 a4 in response to my opponent's Najdorf Variation. He played accurately and I was somewhat fortunate to convert into a drawn bishops of opposite colour endgame.



The next game to finish was a "real cracker", which could have gone either way.

Dr. E. Sprenger (NL) v APB

Q.G.D. Slav Defence (D16)

1	d4	d5
2	c4	c6
3	Nf3	Nf6
4	Nc3	dxc4
5	a4	Bg4

The Steiner Variation.

6	Ne5	Bh5
7	f3	Nfd7
8	Nxc4	

Possible here is 8 g4!? Bg6 9 Nxc4 f6 10 e4 e5 11 d5 Bc5 12 dxc6 bxc6 13 Nd6+ Ke7 14 Nf5+ Bxf5 15 gxf5 Nb6 16 Qc2 a5 17 Nd5+ cxd5 18 Qxc5 Qd6 18 Qxd6+ Kxd6, with an unclear position (Legkij-Huzman, CSSR 1986).

8 e5

9 e4

The usual move here now is 9 Ne4 Bb4+ 10 Bd2 Qe7 11 dxe5 0-0 12 Rc1 Bg6 with a "doubled-edged" game. I had no analysis of the move played.

9 Qh4+?!

Superficially attractive, but what is best? If 9 ...exd4 10 Qxd4 and Black cannot play 10 ... Bc5 because of 11 Qxg7.

10 Ke2!

If 10 g3 Qf6 and Black is threatening both the d- and f- pawns.

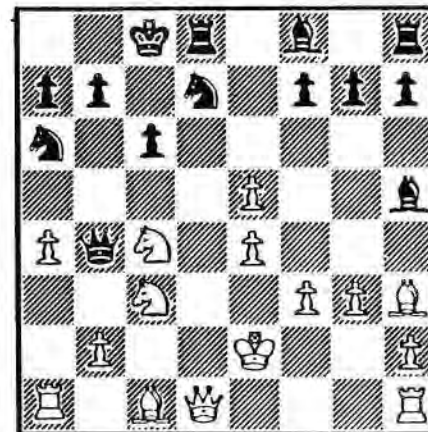
10 Na6

With the White K in the centre, I decided to bring another piece into play. If 10 ... exd4 11 Qxd4 Bc5 12 Qxg7 Qf2+ 13 Kd1 Bd4 14 Nd6+ Kd8 15 Bg5+ Kc7 16 Ncb5+ cxb5 17 Nxb5+!, threatening Rc1+ and Nxd4.

11	dxe5	0-0-0
12	g3	Qe7
13	Bh3!	

Better than 13 Nd6+ Kb8 14 Nf5 Qe6 (not 14 ... Qb4 15 Bf4).

13 Qb4



Who is better here? I was quite hopeful that it could be me, as soon as I had relieved the nasty pin.

14	Nd6+	Kb8
15	Bxd7	Rxd7
16	Qc2	Bxd6
17	exd6	Nc5

Better here is 17 ... Qc4+, when if 18 Kf2 Nb4 19 Qe2 Nd3+ 20 Kg2 Rxd6. This differs from the game because Black's bishop cannot deliver the crucial blow!

18	Be3!	Qc4+
19	Kf2	Nd3+
20	Kg2	Rxd6

Black has recovered his pawn but the White King has escaped to safety.

21 g4 Bg6

22 Rhd1 Rhd8

I was feeling quite happy now but overlooked the strength of White's next move. Perhaps 22 ... Ka8 was better?

23 Bxa7+! Ka8

If 23 ... Kxa7 24 Nb5+ cxb5 25 axb5 dis + Kb8 26 Qxc4 Nf4+ 27 Kg3 Rxd1 28 Rxd1 Rxd1 29 Kxf4 wins.

24 Be3 h5
25 h3 hxg4
26 hxg4 Qe6

Hoping to sacrifice my bishop on e4 but it is too late!

27 Nb5! R6d7
28 Rxd3! Bxe4

A last desperate throw!

29 Nc7+ Resigns

Very nice. White's pieces worked together beautifully. Had my opponent seen and calculated all the possibilities? Where did I go wrong or miss my chances?

Anyway, I don't really mind losing games like this - much better than stodgy draws!!



Around this time, I also managed to lose against Fredericksen (Sweden) from a promising opening.

APB v B Fredericksen (Sw)

Kings Indian Defence E73

1 d4 Nf6
2 c4 g6
3 Nc3 Bg7
4 e4 d6
5 Be2 0-0
6 Bg5 h6
7 Be3 e5
8 d5 Nbd7
9 Qd2 Nc5
10 f3 Kh7
11 h4?

Much better is 11 g4 preventing Black's next ...

11 Nh5
12 g4 Ng3
13 Rh2 f5!

And Black played well to win.



So at the end of 1985, I had 4 draws and 4 losses - not a very auspicious baptism at this level! However, better was to follow, as in my remaining eight games I achieved five points against some notable opponents.

My first win was against Hungarian IM Lajos Monostori and it was all the more pleasing because of the success of my pre-considered "game plan".

L. Monostori (Hun) v APB

Queen's Gambit
(Slav Exchange Var) (D14).

1 d4 d5
2 c4 c6
3 Nf3 Nf6
4 cxd5 cxd5
5 Nc3 Nc6
6 Bf4 Bf5

On the one previous occasion I had played this opponent, I adopted an over-aggressive strategy and he punished me with some excellent positional play. I decided therefore to play more carefully in this game, try to tempt him forward and then counter attack.

7 e3 e6
8 Bb5 Nd7
9 Qa4 Qb6

This is the most active defence of c6 as it exerts pressure on the b-file.

10 0-0

Perhaps better is 10 Nb4 Be4! 11 0-0-0 Rac8 (if 11 ... Be7 12 f3 is good for White) 12 f3 Bg6 13 Nxg6 hxg6 14 Kbl a6 15 Be2!

10 Be7
11 e4?! Bxe4
12 Nxe4 dxe4
13 Nd2

White's pawn sacrifice is designed to take advantage of his slightly earlier piece development and King safety.

13 0-0!
14 Be3

If he recaptures immediately Black captures on d4 threatening Ne2+, picking up the White B on f4.

14 Qc7!
15 Rac1 Nb6
16 Qc2 f5!

Not only securing the e4 pawn for the moment but also threatening an early f4.

17 Nb3 Nd5!

Timely. If White now captures on c6, then Black can reply with 17 ... Nb4 18 Qc4 Qxc6 19 Qxc6 Nxc6 and Black stands better.

Alternatively, 17 ... Nxe3
 18 fxe3 Rac8 19 Qc4 Qxc6
 20 Qxc6 Rxc6 21 Rxc6 bxc6,
 leaving Black a safe pawn
 ahead.

18 Bd2 Rac8
 19 Bxc6 bxc6
 20 Rfe1 Bd6
 21 g3 Qf7!

Now that White has denuded
 his K-side of pieces, it is
 timely for Black to go for a
 K-side attack.

22 Re2?!

I didn't understand this
 move, except perhaps that it
 guards the second rank?

22 Qh5
 23 Qd1 Nf6!

A difficult decision to move
 such a well-placed knight.

The objective here is to try
 to find an even stronger
 square for the knight, eg
 f3!

24 Nc5 Ng4!
 25 h4

Forced, to prevent mate.

25 Rf6

Both defensive and
 offensive.

26 Re1!

Effectively pinning the
 knight against the queen,
 which is not easy to
 unscramble to allow entry of
 the KR.

26 h6!

Threatens g5 and also
 prevents Bg5 in some
 variations.

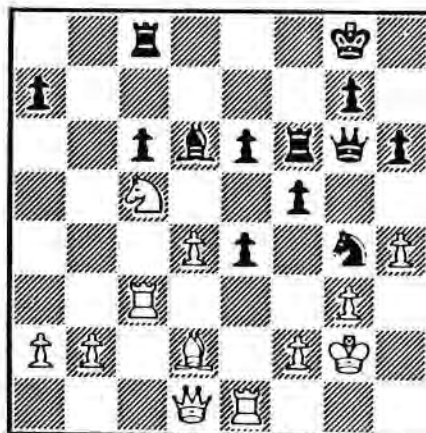
27 Kg2!

Now if Black opens up on
 the rooks file, White can
 play Rh1 with effect!

27 Qg6!

This temporarily blocks what
 Black is trying to achieve,
 ie advance of his g-pawn.

28 Rc3



28 e3!

This return of the extra
 pawn decides the game as it
 disrupts White's pieces and
 gains tempi. Also
 considered was 28 ... Bxc5
 29 Rxc5 f4 but 30 h5! was a
 nuisance. If 28 ... f4 then
 29 Nxe4 ruins the attack.
 The most likely line
 28 ... Nxf2 29 Kxf2 f4
 30 Nxe4 fxg3 dis + 31 Kg1
 seemed unclear.

29 Bxe3 f4
 30 Bc1

The only reasonable move.
 Obviously capture of the pawn
 on f4 leads to loss of
 material.

30 fxg3
 31 fxg3?

Obvious but not the best
 move. I was not sure how to
 continue after 31 f3!?
 Perhaps 32 ... Qh5 33 fxg4
 Rf2+ 34 Kg1 Qxh4 etc

31 Nf2
 32 Qe2 Qf5!

Infiltrating into h3. After
 33 g4 then Qd5+ 34 Ne4 Rcf8
 looked to be winning for
 Black.

33 Bf4 Qh3+
 34 Kxf2 Bxf4

35 Qa6?

Desperation. If 35 gxf4
 Rxf4+ 36 Rf3 Rxf3+ wins
 White's queen.

35 Qh2+
 36 Kf3 Rd8

Why hurry? This removes
 the Q attack on the R but
 also put it on a very useful
 square attacking d4,
 trapping White's K escape.

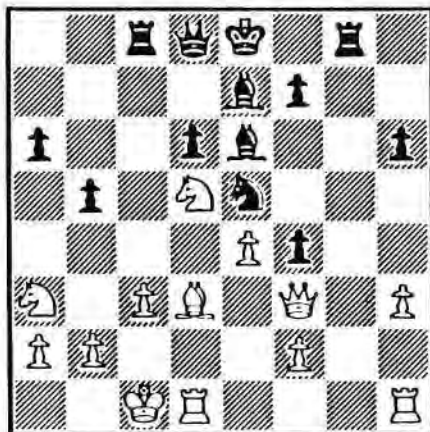
37 Ne4 Rf5
 38 Resigns

A quiet ending! The
 impending dis ch is lethal
 and if White plays 38 gxf4,
 then Rxf4+ 39 Ke3 Rxe4+
 40 Kxe4 Qxh4+ is decisive.



My next game to finish was
 a very great disappointment.
 Everything had gone exactly
 to plan. The opening moves
 with the Sveshnikov
 Variation of the Sicilian
 Defence could be annotated
 to fill a complete book.

My opponent, Kevin Harrison
 of Australia, had exceeded
 the time limit for the first
 time and I was very pleased
 with the position reached
 after my 19th move....



20 Qe2

I even wondered if he was thinking about resignation?! However, I will now demonstrate "how not to play". But what should I have done to convert my superior position into a win?

20 f3

This may not have been best as it drives the White Q to a better square, making b4 less of a threat as Qc2 a4+ becomes possible. Maybe it was now time to play 20 ... Bxd5 21 exd5 b4 22 Nc4 bxc3 23 bxc3 Nxc4 24 Bxc4 Qc7 but 25 Rhe1 makes it difficult for Black to make progress.

21 Qc2 Qa5

22 Bf1!

The only move but effective. Black threatened to capture on d5 and then play b4 when White would not have been able to move his N to c4 (or c2), now the Q has been chased from e2.

22 Bh4?

The beginning of an ill-conceived plan to win a pawn (and lose the positional bind!) What else should have been considered? Not 22 ... Rc5 because White plays 23 Kb1 (threatening b4) and if 23 ... Bxd5 24 Rxd5 Rxd5 25 exd5 gets nowhere for Black as the White K is safe and his Q can occupy f5 menacingly.

Perhaps 22 ... Kd7 when White could try 23 h4 Rb8 24 Bh3 Rgc8, with b4 now a real threat.

23 Kb1 Bxd5
24 Rxd5 Qb6
25 Qd2! Rg6

This is doubtful. Rooks are always better attacking pieces rather than defenders, even in the middle game!

Better perhaps was 25...Ke7 because White cannot really afford to grab the h-pawn.

26 Nc2 Bxf2?

Definitely inferior to 26 ... Qxf2 when 27 Rxd6 Qxd2 28 Rxd2 f2 (threatening Rg1) is much better than the game continuation.

27 h4! Nc4

Having allowed White to escape from the bind, the powerful knight now vacates its best square, taking four moves to reach the rooks file - terrible!

28 Qf4 Ne3
29 Rd3! Ng2
30 Qxf3 Nxb4?

A blunder - but 30 ... Ne1 31 Nxe1 Bxe1 32 Bh3 Rg3 33 Qf5 didn't offer much of an improvement!

31 Qh5

I thought that 31 Rxh4 Bxh4 32 Qh3 was better.

31 Qd8

Trying to guard everything, but my pieces are spread about too much to be effective.

32 Nb4 Qe7

Still living in hope....

33 Qe2 Rg1?

The last fatal mistake. If 33 ... Qf6 34 Nxa6 or Nd5 are good for White, but 33 ... Qa7 offered better chances although 34 e5 looks dangerous.

34 Rxb1 Bxb1
35 Qg4

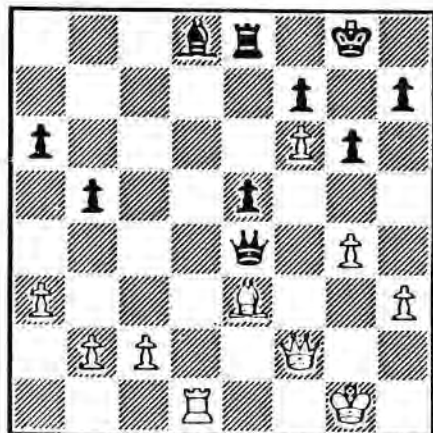
Winning a piece. I couldn't bring myself to resign for another £1.30's (5 x 26p) worth of stamps! I should never have lost this game but it does provide an object lesson in bad positional play.



Now, I had three more draws. The first was a well-played French Defence against an old adversary Peter Klac (Yugoslavia), ½ IM. rated 2505 at the beginning of the event.

The other two I felt were "lost" half points against John Barlow (Zimbabwe) and Spencer Kell (USA).

The critical positions were in Barlow v APB after 27 Rd1 :



Here I played the timely move...

27 Bxf6!
28 Rf1!

The only reasonable reply as 28 Qxf6 Qxe3+ loses at least 2 pawns for White.

28 Rc8

Very frustrating - I simply could not find a better move, eg 28 ... Rf8 or Be7 allows 29 Bc5, and 28 ... Re6 fails to 29 g5.

29 Bd2!

I expected 29 c3 but this is a better move.

29 Bg7

The only winning possibility is to return the extra pawn but not by 29 ... Bh4 when 30 Qxf7+ Kh8 31 Bh6 Rg8 32 Qxg8 Kxg8 33 Rf8 is mate!

30 Qxf7+ Kh8
31 Qe6

This would not have been playable after 29 c3 because White's bishop would have been hanging.

31 Qd4+
32 Kh1 Rd8?

The improbable 32 ... Rg8 offers some winning (and maybe losing!) chances, eg. 33 Bc3 Qe4+ 34 Kg1 Qxc2 and White cannot capture on e5 because of check on c5. However, he could play 35 Qxa6 with at least equal chances.

33 Bg5! Qe4+
34 Kg1 Qd4+
35 Kh2 Qd6
36 Rf6

White is now producing his own surprises!

36 Qd1

My optimism returned (briefly!)

37 Rf2! Qd6
38 Rd2

Simplifying by forcing ...

38 Qxe6
39 Rxd8+ Qg8
40 Kg3!

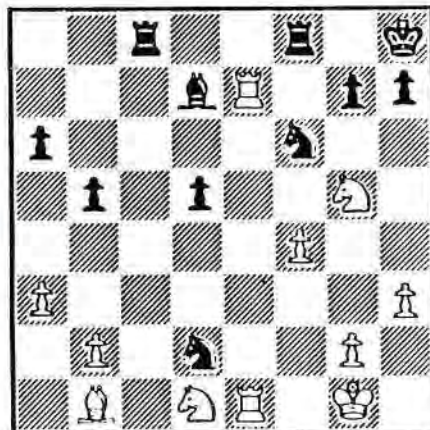
Pretty - gaining a tempo.

40 Qxd8
41 Bxd8 Kg8
42 b3 Kf7
43 Kf3 Ke6
44 Ke4 Bf8
45 a4

Draw agreed. White gains a passed c-pawn but Black can easily block its progress.



Against Spencer Kell (USA), I won a pawn with White, reaching this position:



Here I continued with :

29 Bxh7 Nxb7
30 Rxd7 Nf6
31 Rde7 Nh5
32 Ne6 Rfe8
33 Rxe8+ Rxe8
34 Re5!

Neat. If now 34 ... Nxf4 35 Nxf4! Rxe5 36 Ng6+, winning a piece.

34 Nf6
35 Nc7?!

I felt sure I should win from here and that the best plan seemed to be to eliminate Black's d-pawn. Probably better is 36 Ne3 reducing my back rank problems (not 36 Nc3 Nc4!)

35 Rc8
36 Nxd5 Rc1!
37 Nd5c3 Nc4
38 Re2 a5!
39 Kf2 b4
40 axb4 axb4
41 Na2 Rxd1
42 Nxb4 Kg8

At which point I offered a draw because I saw no way of winning from this position. Again, where did I go wrong in letting the half point slip away?



This left me with three games which were all fascinating and in which I was very optimistic of achieving maximum points.

The first of these was against Brazilian IM Antonio Pacini.

A. Pacini (BR) v APB

English Opening (A21)

- 1 c4 e5
2 Nc3 Nc6
3 Nf3 f5

My favourite formation against the English, although it was the first time I have played this particular variation.

- 4 d4 e4
5 Ng5 Bb4
6 Nh3 Nf6
7 e3 Bxc3+
8 bxc3 d6
9 Nf4 0-0
10 h4

In this kind of position, knights are likely to be better than bishops and Black has two of them!

- 10 Qe8
11 c5 d5

To maximise the two knights, it is essential to keep the position "closed" and to restrict the activity of White's two bishops.

- 12 c4 Ne7

Aiming to establish a strong point on d5.

- 13 Qb3 c6
14 cxd5 Nxd5
15 Bc4 Be6!
16 Nxe6

Not 16 Qxb7 Nxf4 17 Bxe6+ Nxe6 loses a piece.

- 16 Qxe6
17 Qxb7

Well, White has won a pawn but at what cost? He has exchanged his well-placed knight and conceded a dangerous open file to Black's rooks.

- 17 Rfb8
18 Qa6

The only problem now for Black is to relieve the pins on the a2/g8 diagonal - it takes a few moves but White is too under-developed to gain any advantage.

- 18 Kh8

Moving the king this way keeps open the option of an early g5 if White castles K-side.

- 19 g3

Restraining an early f4 by Black but putting yet another pawn on the same colour as his under-developed QB.

- 19 Qd7

Now the knights are free and the QRP is defended to allow Black's rooks to "double".

- 20 a3

Preventing 20 ... Nb4 which was very dangerous for White.

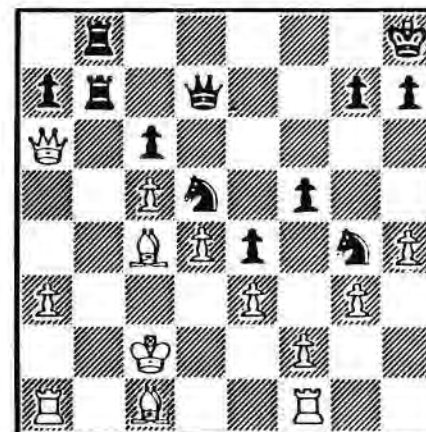
- 20 Rb7
21 Kd2!

A dangerous but original manoeuvre which deserves credit and it nearly solves White's problems.

- 21 Rab8
22 Kc2 Ng4!

- 23 Rf1

Virtually forced. Now I need to get the Q into a more attacking position. With my c6 pawn vulnerable and the need to be able to recapture on d5 with my queen, if necessary, it is not an easy problem to solve.



- 23 Qe6!!

Self-pinning the queen again to enable a disclosed attack on White's c4 bishop!

- 24 Ra2! Rb5!!

I also considered 24 ...Rb4!? but White could reply with 25 Be2! and his position just about holds. The move played is more forcing as it disrupts the Q protection of the white bishop on c4.

25 Kd2!

Excellent defence as knights' checks are eliminated and c2 becomes a useful square for the QR.

If 25 Bxb5 Rxb5! (25...Ndxe3+ is not so clear eg. 26 Bxe3 Nxe3+ 27 fxe3 Qxa2+ 28 Kc3) threatens disclosed attack on White's QR but, even more critical, entry by the Black Q via c4, eg. 26 Rb2 Ndxe3+ 27 Bxe3 Qc4+ 28 Kd1 (Anywhere else and Black plays 28 ... Rxb2+ picking up White's Q) 28 ... Qxf1+ 29 Kc2 Rxb2+ etc.

25 Nh2!

Nicely bringing the KN into the attack and threatening checks on the black squares. If now 26 Bxb5 Nf3+ 27 Kd1 (if 27 Kc2 Rxb5 28 Rb2 Nxe3+ 29 fxe3 Qc4+ 30 Kb1 Rxb2+!) 27 ... Nc3+ 28 Kc2 Nxb5 29 Rb2 Qc4+ 30 Kb1 Nc3+ 31 Ka1 Qxa2+! 32 Rxa2 Rb1+ mate. White therefore decides to concede the exchange.

26 Rc2

If 26 Be2 Nxf1+ 27 Bxf1 Nc3! 28 Bxb5 Qxa2+ 29 Kxc3 cxb5 30 Qxa7 b4+!!

26 Nxf1+

27 Bxf1 R5b7

I could not see a better way to proceed on the Q-side and therefore have to regroup for a final K-side exchange of pawns.

28 Bc4 Qd7

Protecting both c6 and a7.

29 Ba2 h6
30 Rc4 g5
31 hxg5 hxg5
32 Qa4

White is virtually helpless with most of his pieces inactive.

32 f4
33 gxf4 gxf4
34 exf4 Qh3!

Threatening all kinds of havoc!

35 Qc2

If 35 Qd1 e3+ 36 fxe3 Nxe3!

35 e3+
36 fxe3

If 36 Ke1 Qh1+ 37 Ke2 Nxf4+ is conclusive.

36 Qxe3+
37 Resigns

If 37 Kd1 Qg1+ 38 Kd2 Rh7 39 Kd3 Rh3+ 40 Ke4 Re8+ 41 Kf5 Rh5+ mate (there may be quicker ways of mating beginning with 39 ... Qf1+)

A nice game against a charming opponent who battled on well in a difficult position.



The second of this group of games was my most satisfying of the tournament, as it was achieved through a good opening, sustained pressure, a king-side attack and an incredible conclusion.

I had played my well-known Russian opponent before and expected another hard tussle.

APB v S.A. Morosow (SU)

Benoni Indian Defence (A67)

1 d4 Nf6
2 c4 e6
3 Nc3 c5
4 d5 exd5
5 cxd5 d6
6 e4 g6
7 f4 Bg7
8 Bb5+ Nfd7
9 a4 0-0
10 Nf3 Re8
11 0-0 a6

12 Be2 Nf8
13 h3 Nbd7
14 Qc2 Nf6
15 Kh2

Although 13 h3 prevented Bg4, it left a hole at g3 which it seemed wise to protect - it also eliminates a black bishop check on d4 in some variations.

15 Nh5?

I did not see the point in this "provoking" move as I was planning g4 anyway. On the other hand, Black does not have many choices and perhaps he was luring me forward so that he could counter-attack my advanced pawns.

16 g4 Nf6
17 g5! Nfd7

If 17 ... Nh5 then 18 Nh4 threatening Bxb5 would leave Black's K-side pawn in tatters.

18 Bd2 Qc7
19 Rael b6
20 Nd1!

Black's strong fianchettoed bishop needs to be eliminated to enable White's attack to make further progress.

The knight will also be useful to penetrate the weakened black squares around my opponent's king.

20 h6
21 gxh6! Bxh6
22 Rg1

A half open file and the misplaced Black bishop are ample compensation for the pawn exchange.

22 Nf6

Back again - but at least another square at h7 has become available!

23 Nf2 Qd7

Unexpected, but a bit of a nuisance - I have to be careful about protection of h3 for several moves.

24 Ng5!

Gives extra protection to e4 and h3 and allows the white-squared bishop more scope. 24 f5 would have been premature, allowing Black to relieve his position with exchanges.

24 b5

If 24 ... Bxg5 25 fxg5 Nxe4? then 26 Ng4 or Bg4 win for White.

25 Bc3 N8h7

Timely.

26 b3!

Without this, Black could have played b4 and chased the bishop from the key a1/h8 diagonal.

26 Rb8
27 axb5 axb5
28 Bf3

I also considered 28 Qb2 Nxe4 (not 28 ... Bg7 29 Nxb7! wins) 29 Bg4!? Black could try 28 ... Qe7 29 e5 dxe5 30 Bxe5! Rb7 31 Nxb7 Nxb7 32 Bf3. On the principle of no need to rush things, I played the text move to further increase my bind.

28 Bg7
29 Nxb7 Kxh7
30 f5!

Just the right moment for this advance; Black cannot take because of Rxg7+ etc and he cannot put a piece on e5.

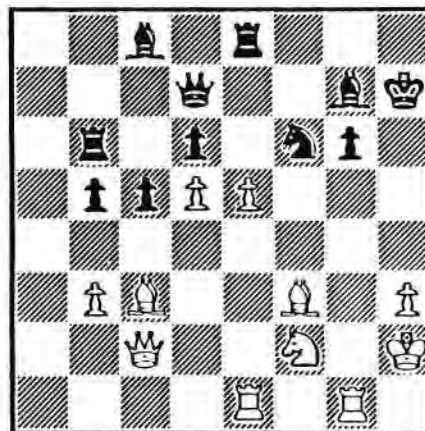
30 Rb6!

An ingenious defence of the rank which almost succeeds.

31 fxg6+ fxg6

32 e5!?

There were occasions afterwards when I wondered if this was the best move here but if I had not played it then the extraordinary sequel of moves would never have happened!



32 dxe5
33 Qxg6+ Kh8!

Not 33 ... Kg8 34 Rxe5 Ng4+ 35 Qxg4 Qxg4 36 Rxe8+ Kf7 37 Bxg4 Kxe8 38 Bxg7 wins. The trouble now is that Black has a hidden attack on my queen and I cannot check him on the h-file anywhere.

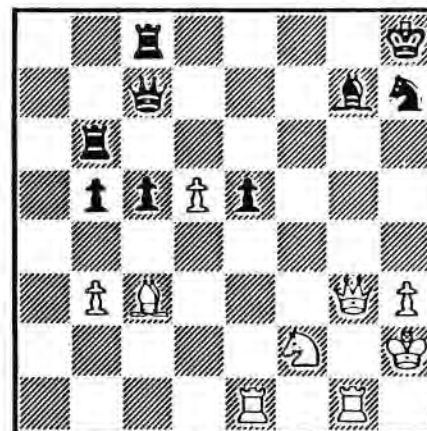
34 Qg3!!

I looked long and hard at alternatives, particularly Rxe5, Bxe5, Kh1, Rg5 etc.

The best of these was 34 Rxe5 but 34 ... Rxe5 35 Bxe5 Ng4+ 36 Qxg4 Bxe5+ 37 Kh1 Qxg4 38 Bxg4 Bb7 was unclear (as was 38 Nxb7). If 36 Bxg4? Bxe5+ 37 Kh1 Rxb6 38 Bxd7 Rxb6+ 39 Kxg1 Bxd7 is winning for Black.

34 Nh7
35 Bg4! Qc7
36 Bxc8 Rxc8

Obviously not 36 ... Qxc8 37 Qxg7+ mate.



37 Rxe5

An amazing position of pins and counter pins - such occasions make you marvel at the infinite possibilities of the game of chess. This sequence required careful calculation from move 35.

37 Rf8

Best. Black now threatens Rxf2 followed by Bxe5+.

38 d6!

The classic "interference" move.

38 Rxd6

There really is no viable alternative because White would otherwise capture twice on g7. If 38 ...Rxf2+ 39 Qxf2 Qxd6 40 Rxc7 Kxc7 41 Qg3+.

39 Rxc5!!

This took me several hours to find and I nearly missed it because I thought 39 Re8 won until I saw 39 ... Rd7!! at the last minute.

39 Resigns

If 39 ... Rxf2+ 40 Qxf2 Rc6 dist+ 41 Kh1 Bxc3 42 Rxc3! Rxc3 43 Qd4+ mating. If 40 ... Rd2 dist+ 41 Kxc7 Rxf2+ 42 Kg3 and White's material advantage is conclusive.

If in every tournament you could guarantee at least one game like this, then all the time used would be more than worthwhile!



My final game to finish was against the notable W.D. Baturinskij, a high-ranking Russian KGB official and principal adviser to Anatoly Karpov in recent World Championship matches. At times, I felt I could have been playing Karpov as what seemed to me to be a clearly better position simply seemed impossible to win!

APB v W.D. Baturinskij (SU)

Sicilian Defence (B82)

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 1 | e4 | c5 |
| 2 | Nf3 | e6 |
| 3 | d4 | cxd4 |
| 4 | Nxd4 | Nf6 |
| 5 | Nc3 | d6 |
| 6 | f4 | a6 |
| 7 | Be3 | Qc7 |
| 8 | Be2 | Be7 |
| 9 | 0-0 | Nc6 |
| 10 | Kh1 | Bd7 |
| 11 | Qe1 | 0-0 |
| 12 | Qg3 | Nxd4 |
| 13 | Bxd4 | Bc6 |
| 14 | Rae1 | b5 |
| 15 | a3 | Qb7 |
| 16 | Bd3 | b4 |
| 17 | axb4 | Qxb4 |
| 18 | Ne2 | Qb7 |
| 19 | e5 | Nh5 |

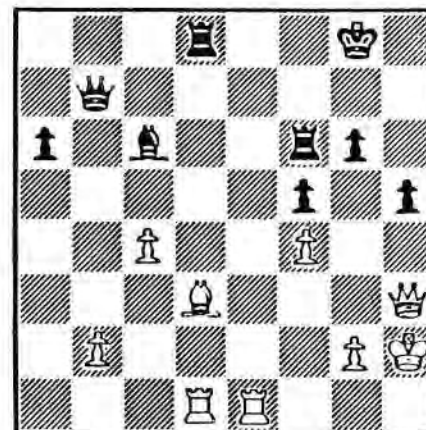
All very thematic so far but this was unexpected.

- | | | |
|----|-----|------|
| 20 | Qh3 | g6 |
| 21 | Ng3 | dxg5 |

- | | | |
|----|------|-------|
| 22 | Bxe5 | Nxg3+ |
| 23 | hxg3 | Rad8 |
| 24 | g4 | f5 |
| 25 | gxf5 | exf5 |
| 26 | Rd1 | h5 |

To prepare for Bc4 and also defend the bishop to enable c4.

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 27 | Kh2 | Bb5 |
| 28 | c4 | Bc6 |
| 29 | Rfe1 | Bf6 |
| 30 | Bxf6 | Rxf6 |



I was very optimistic that this position was advantageous to White. Apart from the only "free" passed pawn, I felt that my pieces were placed better and Black's king was more vulnerable. Therefore, I pressed forward with ...

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 31 | c5 | Rdf8 |
| 32 | Bc4+ | Kh7 |
| 33 | Rd6! | |

33 Rxd6

If 33 ... Qxb2 34 Re7+ Kh8 35 Be2!

34 cxd6 Be4
35 Qa3

I made this move after 15 days' leave and 5 playing days. It was probably the critical stage of the game. Other possible moves which I considered were Rd1, Qh4, b3, g4. None of these seemed to give the winning chances offered by Qa3, even though it meant conceding my g2 pawn.

35 Rd8
36 Rd1

I also looked at 36 Bxa6 Qd5 36 Rc1 Qxd6 and 36 Re2 Qc6. Again Rd1 seemed more dynamic.

36 Bxg2
37 d7! Qe4!

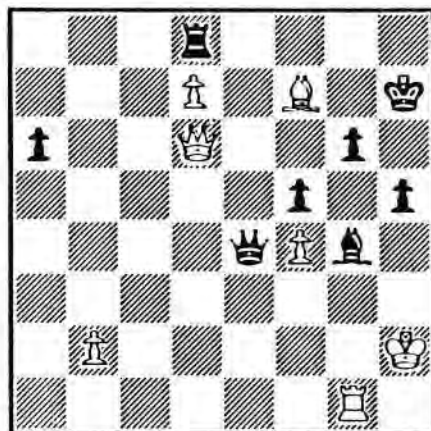
Not 37 ... Rxd7 38 Qf8! wins.

38 Qd6! Bf3
39 Rg1 Bg4

If 39 ... g5 40 Bd3! Qxf4+ 41 Qxf4 gxf4 42 Bxf5+ Kh8 43 Rc1! (Not 40 Rxc7 Qc2+ 41 Kh3 Bg4+ 42 Kh4 Qh2+ mate!)

40 Bf7!

Looks a killer at first glance but my opponent must have calculated this position extremely carefully.



40 Kg7!!

I expected his resignation as I had not even considered this reply! The trouble now is that I have totally committed my bishop. If 41 Qxg6+ Kf8 42 Qg8+ Ke7 43 Qe8+ Kd6! (not 43 ... Kf6 44 Qxd8+ Kxf7 45 Qc7 wins).

41 Re1 Kxf7!

Of course, this is the best move as the Q capture on e1 would lose to the manoeuvre Qxg6+, Qg8+, Qe8+ etc.

42 Rxe4 fxe4
43 Qxa6 Rxd7
44 Qc4+

At which point my opponent accepted my offer of a draw. I had envisaged 44 ... Be6 45 Qxe4 Rd2+ 46 Kg3 Rxb2 47 Kh4 Rb5 etc.

A disappointment not to achieve the full point but full marks to my opponent for his accurate defence.

The most up-to-date situation in the section is shown on the next page.

My disappointment at not achieving promotion to the 3/4 Finals or 60% for another Semifinal place was balanced with my belief that I could have scored significantly better. If I had been playing fewer games, without as many other commitments, I am sure I could have reached at least the second target. With participants having an average rating of 2390, such a tournament beginning now would be in Category VI with 10 pts required for a ½-IM title norm (no title norms were available under the old system.)

I enjoyed playing at this level of tournament and look forward very much to competing again in a World Semifinal.

WORLD C.C. CHAMPIONSHIP SEMIFINAL XV - SECTION 1

The most up-to-date situation in the section is :

Player	Country	ICCF Title	ICCF Grading 1988	APB Result	Pts	O/s
Klaic	YU	½ IM	2520	½	12	-
Baturinski	SU		2535	½	11	1
Olafsson	IS	½ IM	2495	0	10½	2
Spodny	CS		2445	½	10½	-
Frederiksen	SW		(2200)	0	10	2
Tschepurnoj	SU		2460	½	8½	3
Carlson	US		2425	0	8	1
Borwell	GBS		2280	-	7	-
Kell	US		2345	½	6½	1
Monostori	HU	IM	2430	1	6½	1
Sprenger	NL		2420	0	6	2
Barlow	ZI		2470	½	6	1
Alexejew	SU		2275	½	5	3
Pacini	BR	IM	2395	1	4½	2
Atabek	TR	IM	2285	½	4½	-
Harrison	AU		2340	0	4	2
Morosow	SU		2330	1	3½	3

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Games: to Games Editor
Letters: To the Editor,
Secretary or any of
our Controllers or
Executive Committee
Members.

FROM OVERSEAS. . . . (by Ian Marks)

Ian Marks is an avid reader of CC magazines from other countries, including the APCT News Bulletin from USA. The following is from an article in this magazine written by Stephan Gerzadowicz, for which we are most grateful.....

"Victor Contoski is the Captain of Team USA v Poland. I got to know him when he asked me to play Board 1. Makes one wonder whose side he's on....

The Gabby Epic, CON-GERZ I, was in the March 1988 APCT NB. Here's CON-GERZ II.

Contoski-Gerzadowicz

- | | | |
|----|------|------|
| 1 | e4 | g6 |
| 2 | d4 | Bg7 |
| 3 | Nc3 | c6 |
| 4 | Nf3 | d6 |
| 5 | Be2 | Nd7 |
| 6 | 0-0 | Qc7 |
| 7 | a4 | Ngf6 |
| 8 | h3 | 0-0 |
| 9 | Be3 | e5 |
| 10 | dxe5 | dxe5 |
| 11 | Qd3 | |

Unusual. Now ... Nf4 will cost White a bishop. He normally avoids that with 11 Qd2, Rfd1, Bf1.

- | | | |
|----|-------|-----|
| 11 | ..... | Nh5 |
| 12 | Rfd1 | Nf4 |
| 13 | Qc4 | |

Now I think Black should play 13 ... a5!, followed in some order by ... Re8, ... Bf8, ... Nb6, and ... Be6, perhaps with a timely ... Nxe2+ tossed in. I think this now because I've seen what happened without ... a5.

"Life can only be understood backwards; but it must be lived forwards." - Søren Kierkegaard

The move Black played is near conclusive evidence of gills.

- | | | |
|----|-------|-------|
| 13 | ..... | Nb6 |
| 14 | Qb4 | Re8 |
| 15 | a5 | Nxe2+ |

Otherwise 16 Bc4 ±. (But really to put as many moves as possible between ... Nb6 and ... Nd7, so the loss of time is less obvious. If you sympathise with that piece of reasoning, you have scaly skin.)

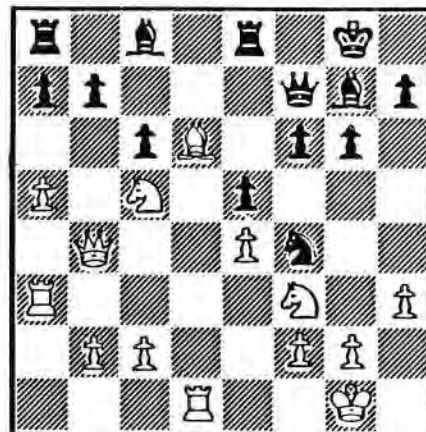
- | | | |
|----|------|-----|
| 16 | Nxe2 | Nd7 |
| 17 | Nc3 | Nf8 |
| 18 | Bc5 | f6 |
| 19 | Bd6 | Qf7 |

This is why ... f6, of course. It's getting to be an easy position for Black to play. He has so few reasonable moves that decision-making is simplified.

"Simplicity, simplicity, simplicity! I say let your affairs be as two or three, and not a hundred or a thousand; instead of a million count half a dozen, and keep your accounts on your thumbnail."

- Henry David Thoreau

- | | | |
|----|-----|-----|
| 20 | Na4 | Ne6 |
| 21 | Nc5 | Nf4 |
| 22 | Ra3 | |



A thumbnail position - I can't move the queen rook, queen bishop or queen. 22 ... Rd8 or 22 ... Bf8 will prompt 23 Nd3, trading off my only well-placed piece. I can't (or shouldn't) move pawns a-f. And if I don't notice 22 ... Kh8!?, it's narrowed down to the g or h-pawn. So I have a 50% chance of "finding" the best move. Chess is easy. Thanks Henry.

- | | | |
|----|-------|----|
| 22 | | g5 |
|----|-------|----|

23 Rb3

White cannot be blamed for this. He clobbered me in our other game, played at the same time, and I sure haven't seemed all that dangerous in this one. It's natural he should think me totally harmless.

It appears 23 Qb3 is necessary. I would have replied 23 ... Ne6, planning ... Kh8, ... Qh5, ... Nf4 etc. I think Black is better. Wonder how that happened. I guess White shouldn't have played 22 Ra3. Could it possibly be that his queenside stuff was an unjustified over-extension? That he's trading g2 for b7?! Who knows?

23 Qh5

Suddenly threats! ... g4 or ... Nxe2! or ...

- | | | |
|----|------|-------|
| 24 | Qc4+ | Kh8 |
| 25 | Rxb7 | Nxb3+ |
- White resigns.

26 gxh3 Bxh3 and 27 ... Qg4+. If he sidesteps with 26 Kf1, 26 ... Nf4 27 Kg1 (else ... Qh1+) Nxe2.

(Notes by Stephan Gerzadowicz)



INTERNATIONAL REPORT

(by Philip Giulian)

David Kilgour has become the fifth Scot to reach the World Semi-Finals after his victory in his World Master Class Section. Our congratulations to David! It can surely only be a matter of time before one of our players goes even further and joins Douglas Bryson in the 3/4-Final.

Scotland has received an invitation for a player to participate in the John Kellner Memorial Tournament organised by the Correspondence Chess League of Australia. In fact, we have two invitations because I have received a personal one as well. This has come about because of the friendship developed between the Australian organiser and myself in our capacities as team captains in the current friendly international match between our two countries. These invitations are an important step forward for Scotland, as this is only the second time we have received a non-grandmaster invitation for an individual tournament. Simon Gillam has been nominated to represent us.

Some years ago I played in the over-the-board Olympiad in Argentina and came back with the remarkable result of having drawn all of my six games. So far in the correspondence Olympiad, I am well on the way to emulating that feat, having drawn my first five games. Colin McNab has been our most successful player, having taken his personal score to 2½/3 by winning against Singapore.

The North Atlantic Team Tourney has ended with Scotland just about half way with 37½ out of 72. This was rather a disappointing finish as at one stage we had a chance of winning the event. I feel sure we will do better next time.

Despite my poor score, Glasgow continues to lead the European Town Teams Tourney with 20½/31. However, the defending champions, the Dutch team from Rosmalen, are close behind with 18/27. It should be a close finish as we have some promising positions in our remaining games.

In my World Semi-Final, I have lost to Nikitin (USSR), which is perhaps not too surprising as he is one of Kasparov's main seconds. This defeat makes my score 8/12.

In the European Ladies Championship, Rosie Giulian has drawn with Staller (W. Germany) to make her score 1½/2.

Results:

Men's Olympiad (Scotland 9/13)

Bd 1 Bryson 1 v Singapore	Bd 4 Borwell 1 v Portugal
Bd 2 McNab 1 v Singapore	Bd 5 Giulian ½ v Belgium
Bd 3 Wickens ½ v Singapore	Bd 5 Giulian ½ v Portugal
Bd 4 Borwell ½ v Hungary	

Ladies' Olympiad (Scotland 8½/13)

Bd 3 McLure 1 v Finland

Scotland (3½) v Italy (12½)

Bd 2 G D Pyrich 0 0	Bd 9 K D Anderson ½
Bd 3 KWC Stewart 1 ½	

Scotland (5) v Argentina (1)

Bd 11 K D Anderson 1 1	Bd 14 C R Beecham 1 1
------------------------	-----------------------

Scotland (12½) v Israel (18½)

Bd 2 S R Gillam 1 0	Bd 6 K W C Stewart ½
Bd 3 G D Pyrich 1 0	Bd 7 G R Sprott 0 0
Bd 5 G Wood 1 1	

Scotland (3) v Ukraine (6)

Bd 3 S R Gillam 0

Scotland (10½) v The Clergy (12½)

Bd 1 I S Campbell 1 0	Bd 9 I Sneddon ½ ½
Bd 4 DL Gillespie 1 ½	Bd 13 B Goodwin 1 1
Bd 5 R Inglis 1 1	Bd 14 M Ross 0 0
Bd 7 D G Parsons ½ 0	

Scotland (2) v Australia (2)

Bd 12 T J C McNab 1 1	Bd 15 D L Gillespie 0 0
-----------------------	-------------------------

Scotland (0) v USA (2)

Bd 18 DL Gillespie 0 0

Bd AUSTRALIA	SCOTLAND
1 V Pedersen	G D Pyrich
2 N Yule	A P Borwell
3 G Shmeleff	A McGowan
4 G Lambert	R Inglis
5 G Bullock	J Seyfried
6 J Mackie	A T Hislop
7 J Kuiper	K W C Stewart
8 G Pikes	I Marshall
9 C McKenzie	R J P Kynoch
10 A Sims	I Mackintosh
11 M Bruere	J M T Ryan
12 J Ramsden	J C T MacNab
13 G Ercilides	A D Penman
14 S Field	A Docherty
15 T Passlow	D L Gillespie
16 C Glanville	Mrs M Inglis
17 P Jonovic	I W S Mitchell
18 D Roebuck	D G Parsons
19 A D Holloway	J Stallard
20 H Larsen	I Sneddon
21 G R Kelly	B W Grant
22 P J Hughes	E Thompson
23 M J Silling	D V Gibbs
24 J D Smith	B Goodwin
25 A Hopp	F R Ross



Bd SCCA	RAILWAYS
1 G D Pyrich	T Johnston
2 C Boyle	D Malcolm
3 M T Dyer	P Willoughby
4 M A Swystun	M A West
5 J Anderson	J Montague
6 I Mackintosh	J Kennedy
7 I Marshall	D Fewkes
8 C Donkin	T Grindlay
9 B W Grant	J C Raybould
10 I W S Mitchell	H W Mason
11 S Gowland	G Bristow
12 J Stallard	M J Davies



Bd SCOTLAND	IRELAND
1 T J Craig	J Nolan
2 M T Dyer	J F Gibson
3 G D Pyrich	J Delaney
4 C Boyle	K Riordin
5 A T Hislop	J Corby
6 K Seyfried	L Brady
7 M MacLeod	A Dennehy
8 M Mitchell	J Griffin
9 I A Marks	J Noone
10 K W C Stewart	D Fennelly
11 N A Down	T Fayne
12 E Thompson	A McDonagh
13 I Mackintosh	J Killane
14 R Inglis	B Gallaher
15 I Marshall	F Humphrys
16 A D Penman	D Kennedy
17 K Gordon	H Scarry
18 Mrs E Hartford	M Miskelly
19 J Merrifield	A Duffy
20 C Donkin	J Kennedy
21 J M T Ryan	S Nesson
22 D L Gillespie	F Armstrong
23 T McMorran	L Lynch
24 D G McRoberts	C Rafferty
25 R Pells	P McNamara
26 I Sneddon	A Bent
27 Mrs M Inglis	T Conlan
28 R Mitchell	
29 J Stallard	C Sloan
30 Mrs S Nimmo	R Bowe

These matches, which began some time ago, should provide excellent opportunities for our players to test their abilities against overseas and English opposition. Unfortunately, Norman Yule of Australia suffered a serious accident and his games against Alan Borwell have been "voided". We send Norman our best wishes and hopes for a full recovery.

Bd USA	SCOTLAND
1 J DeMauro	P M Giulian
2 D Kopec	G D Pyrich
3 S Kell	A P Borwell
4 J Eade	T J Craig
5 D Willis	R Inglis
6 D Manski	J Seyfried
7 P Deatherage	K W C Stewart
8 R Aiken	I Marshall
9 Ms I Aronoff	Mrs R Giulian
10 R Bornholz	R J P Kynoch
11 S Greene	M MacLeod
12 R Abelson	D J Savage
13 D P Eilmes	I Mackintosh
14 D G Arganian	J M T Ryan
15 W Neil	A W I Campbell
16 P Dyson	A D Penman
17 R Wong	A Docherty
18 R Henock	D L Gillespie
19 W Hutchinson	Mrs M Inglis
20 R Posey	I W S Mitchell
21 J Evans	D G Parsons
22 S Chase	J Stallard
23 F Norcutt	I Sneddon
24 M Rahn	P C H Vaughn
25 M Fredrich	E Thompson
26 B Elliott	D V Gibbs
27 T Hailey	B Goodwin

There are some familiar figures in the USA team, eg. Danny Kopec, who is a past winner of the Scottish OTB Championship, whilst Alan Borwell and Spencer Kell met recently in the World CC Semifinals. Another interesting game will be on Board 9, where there will be a battle of the ladies! The USA team is very strong and will provide tough opposition for our players.

"100 CLUB"

This is a club for members who really would like to help with the development of the Scottish Correspondence Chess Association. Currently there are almost 80 units issued but we need to increase this to 100 - please help us!

The subscription is only £1 per month per unit, with two prizes each month currently approx £22 and £15 respectively - members may apply for more than one unit if they so wish!

A monthly bankers order form can be obtained from our Treasurer, George Pyrich, 53 Dunnikier Road, Kirkcaldy, Fife, KY1 2RL. If you return it to him before the 10th of the month, then you will be eligible to be in the draw for that month.

Recent winners:

	December
1st	A Taylor
2nd	K B McAlpine
	January
1st	G D Pyrich
2nd	J Wilson
	February
1st	J S Murray
2nd	J S Murray

C C OLYMPIAD XI PRELIMINARIES

(Section 2)

1 CZECHOSLOVAKIA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 A LANC $\frac{1}{2}$ IM 2430										
2 J AMBROZ -										
3 M WEINER IM 2435										
4 R MACHALA 2380										
5 J KOLIN 2335										
6 P MISKOVSKY 2480										

2 BELGIUM	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 A VAN OSMAEL $\frac{1}{2}$ IM 2530										
2 J ROOSE 2330										
3 E VAN LEEUWEN 2140								1	1	
4 D WEYNS -										
5 V LEROY 2265									$\frac{1}{2}$	
6 H VEEN -								0		

3 SINGAPORE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 H F GLASER 2380									0	
2 A CHIA -									0	
3 K-S TEO -					0	0			0	
4 C-W LEONG -				$\frac{1}{2}$	0		1	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	
5 N-Y WONG -						$\frac{1}{2}$				
6 B TEO -										

4 ARGENTINA	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 J S MORGADO GM 2475										
2 B MARCUSSI IM 2470										
3 P BUJ IM 2445										
4 R A REDOLFI IM 2385			$\frac{1}{2}$							
5 A LAURENCENA 2405										
6 C G PAPIER IM 2315										

5 PORTUGAL	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 F SILVA $\frac{1}{2}$ IM 2280										
2 R SILVA PEREIRA $\frac{1}{2}$ IM -									$\frac{1}{2}$	
3 H NETO $\frac{1}{2}$ IM -			1						0	
4 J D DE SOUSA -			1				1			
5 A OLIVEIRA $\frac{1}{2}$ IM -									$\frac{1}{2}$	
6 C QUARESMA -										

6 FINLAND	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 T PERMAN $\frac{1}{2}$ IM 2355										
2 H SABEL 2395								$\frac{1}{2}$	0	
3 K TANNI -			1					$\frac{1}{2}$		
4 S SJÖMAN 2420										
5 K KAUNONEN IM 2465			$\frac{1}{2}$						$\frac{1}{2}$	
6 R WIKMAN IM 2405										

7 BRAZIL	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 G FRAGA PORTILHO 2355										
2 S HONCE DE CRESCE -										
3 M SILOS BIAVA $\frac{1}{2}$ IM 2440										
4 A PACINI $\frac{1}{2}$ IM 2360			0		0					
5 O ALCANTARA SOARES 2350										
6 P A GUENEZ BRIAO -										

8 NORWAY	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 T STRAND $\frac{1}{2}$ IM 2370									$\frac{1}{2}$	
2 K W STRAND IM 2445							$\frac{1}{2}$		$\frac{1}{2}$	
3 F LARSEN 2325		0				$\frac{1}{2}$			$\frac{1}{2}$	
4 P STIGAR -			$\frac{1}{2}$						$\frac{1}{2}$	
5 Ø HJERTENES -										
6 Ø BREKKE -		1								

9 SCOTLAND	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 D M BRYSON GM 2565			1					$\frac{1}{2}$		
2 C A MCNAB (FIDE) IM(2435)			1		$\frac{1}{2}$	1				
3 A J NORRIS / A.P. BORNWELL		0	1		1			$\frac{1}{2}$		$\frac{1}{2}$
4 T S WICKENS $\frac{1}{2}$ IM 2470			$\frac{1}{2}$							
5 P M GIULIAN 2370		$\frac{1}{2}$			$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$		$\frac{1}{2}$		$\frac{1}{2}$
6 A KILGOUR 2365										

10 HUNGARY	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1 S BRILLA-BANFALVI GM 2545										
2 J FÖLDI IM 2450										
3 F FABRI 2550									$\frac{1}{2}$	
4 I MÜLLNER 2345										
5 T FLORIAN 2415									$\frac{1}{2}$	
6 I FODOR $\frac{1}{2}$ IM 2195										

2nd NORTH ATLANTIC TEAM TOURNAMENT

The above event has now concluded and the detailed results are shown on the previous pages. With nine games for adjudication, the position is:

Current Standings	Pts	%	Adjudications
1 England	44½/72	61.81	-
2 France	40/72	55.56	-
3 Canada	37/68	54.41	4
4 USA	38/70	54.29	2
5 Portugal	37½/70	53.57	2
6 Scotland	37½/72	52.08	-
7 Iceland	34½/69	50.00	3
8 Spain	30½/69	44.20	3
9 Ireland	30/69	43.48	3
10 Wales	21½/71	30.28	1

ICCF INDIVIDUAL TOURNAMENTS (by Alan Borwell)

Members of the Scottish Correspondence Chess Association are eligible to compete in ICCF promotion tournaments, which are structured to encourage participation by C.C. players of all standards. You can choose between World or European-only sections ranging upwards from third class, second class to first class. Higher Class and Master Class events require evidence of C.C. playing strength with entries.

Tournaments are organised in 7 or 15 player sections, except World III Class which is 7-player only. They begin as soon (in theory) as entries have been received from seven different countries. Sometimes, in practice, there are two players from the same country, particularly from USSR or DDR. After you have selected a Class, you need to win a Section to be promoted and to score more than one-third of the points to avoid relegation!

The entry fee of £3.50 (for 7-player groups) or £4.50 (for 15-player groups) should be made payable to BPCF and sent to Mr. Michael Anderson, 3 Winterfield Gardens, Duns, Berwickshire, TD11 3EZ.

READERS' LETTERS

Letter re SCCA Grading List received from Robert Inglis, who was a very active OTB and CC player in Scotland until he became an Anglo-Scot when he moved residence to Coulsdon in Surrey some years ago :

"I was shocked and amazed when the recent grading list, based on the new ICCF system, was published. My 1987 grade was 2180 and as I won the only two games I completed in the last season, I expected a small rise. But no - my grade dropped 175 points to 2005, despite a 100% score!!

After writing to the grader, Graham Wood, it seems the drop can be attributed to two factors:

1. I played a very low graded opponent (1400) in the SCCA league last year. Even though I won both games, the net result of playing such a weak player was to decrease my grade by 70 points. It seems that if I had played 30+ games, an adjustment would have been made to avoid this anomaly.
2. Players with less than 30 games now suffer a mystical 5% reduction in grade - 105 points in my case.

If I had completed a few more games, neither of these drops in grade would have happened.

The grading system is intended to show players' relative strengths. Anomalies as above should not exist. It is especially important that grades are accurate as entry to tournaments may depend on grades. The new grading system adopted by the SCCA has weaknesses. They must be removed if the system can have any credibility.

Finally I only found out about the workings of the system (eg. the 5% reduction) by writing to Graham Wood. Could the next bulletin outline the workings of the system so SCCA members understand how grades are calculated and what they indicate."

Editor's comment: I have considerable sympathy with Robert's situation as I also have experienced a similar effect from playing only two games in SCCA events each year. However, Graham's reply, which follows, and his article on Grading provide more insight into the problem.

Reply from Graham Wood, Grading Officer.

"The problem from which Mr. Inglis (and some other players) is suffering is the effect of the originally allocated grade in the SCCA system. That grade (still a provisional one), based on very few games (14 between 1981 and 1986), was calculated using the "old" SCCA system - a system quite different in its workings from the new ICCF one.

As a start to implementing the new ICCF system to calculate SCCA ratings, all players with less than 30 recorded results had all their results worked through again according to the new ICCF system. So these players should, in effect, largely discount their previous ratings shown in SCCA lists as they have been given a completely fresh start entirely within the workings of the new system.

To compare his previous grade with the new one (which incorporated the results of only 2 more games), therefore, certainly is misleading and not sufficiently reliable!

The ICCF Rating System has been developed/reviewed/modified over a number of years (since 1976). Indeed, it was only recently (July /August 1988) when final amendments were made. The members of the ICCF Rating Commission had been concerned about the grades obtained by players playing few games being misleading (ibid!). The Rating Commission in fact sought the views of other interested parties and the SCCA was one of the responders. As a consequence, several changes were made to the ICCF Rating System and these changes can also now be incorporated in the SCCA system and will be used in future calculations.

Since it was known by the SCCA that the new rating system was not in its final version (and it is still subject to review), it was pointless spending copious amounts of time preparing and publishing an explanatory article on the detailed workings thereof.

The basics have already been described in an article (Bulletin 25/26, Dec 1987, pp 39-44) entitled "Part 1" and signifying that in "Part 2" the inner depths of the system would be presented. It is now the appropriate time to write this article (which is included elsewhere in this magazine).

And now for some points of purely statistical significance!

- 1) Inferences drawn from small samples (eg less than 30 results) should be treated with great circumspection.
- 2) It is solely differences in grading which are significant, not the actual grades themselves. It is human nature, however, to assign significance to the grades themselves, but it is only reasonably reliable for with players who are playing more than a few games regularly against groups of players whose grades do not differ widely from each other.
- 3) During the transition from one established means of assessment to another (chess ratings, examination grades, and so on), it is likely to take quite some time before the new results 'stabilize' or genuinely reflect the new method of assessment: one just has to accept that this is the case and be patient.

There are a number of different chess rating systems in operation throughout the world (some reviewed by Prof. Elo in his major works on the calculation of chess ratings) which are known to have what could be termed - statistically speaking - serious deficiencies. These systems are still being used consistently not least because it takes a major commitment and a considerable amount of time (and that is the 'spare' time of unpaid volunteers) and effort to change them. The ICCF Rating System, which the SCCA has adopted, has been developed over a long period of time to cater specifically for the special requirements of calculating grades in correspondence chess. Grading systems do have deficiencies but the one developed by the ICCF has the least of all!

Editor's postscript:

Really the best way for players to ensure greater accuracy is to play a larger number of games in SCCA events. This would help to minimise the influence of the gradings originally allocated under the old system.

" FERNSCHACH "

This monthly magazine contains official results as well as information about ICCF events, now in both German and English. It has been given a fresh image and contains many interesting games, which are very well annotated. It can be obtained through Chess Suppliers (Scotland).

WINNING CONTINUATIONS
from page 8

SOLUTIONS

- A** 1 Nd5! Rxd5 2 Rxc7 dxe3
3 Rc8+! 1:0
Persitz-Atabek (XI W Ch
Semi-Final)
- B** 1 Bxb4 Bxb4 2 Nxd7 Qf4+
(... Nxd7 3 Qe4) 3 Kb1
Nxd7 4 Bb5! wins a piece
by the threat of Rd4
1:0.
Fouglevich-Bernard (C.C.
1970).
- C** 1 Rxb6! Qxb6 2 Qd7! 1:0
Dean-Delaune, III North
American CC Champ.
- D** 1 ... Rxb2! 2 Rxb2 Qd1+
3 Rb1 Qd2! 0:1
If 4 Rb2 Qc1+ 5 Rb1 Qxa3
mate.
Heidelberg-From, Danish
CC Champ, 1982.
- E** 1 ... Be8+! 0:1
a) 2 Ke7 Qa7+ 3 Kxd8 Qd7
mate; b) 2 Ke6 Qb6+ 3
Kf5 Qg6 mate.
Dannenberg-Dr Dünhaupt,
6th DFM 1958-60.
- F** 1 ... Rxc2! 2 Kxc2 Nc2!
0:1
Kiviahö-Ehrnrooth,
Finnish CC.

CHESS

Following the acquisition of
CHESS, Sutton Coldfield, Ltd
by Pergamon Press, a new-
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to be published monthly.
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as a Consulting Editor and on
an Advisory Board, which also
includes Garry Kasparov and
Raymond Keene.

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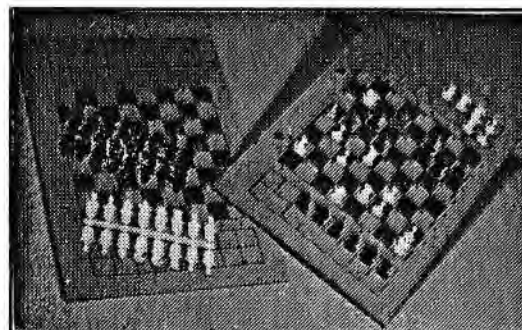
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