

Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No.75

Autumn 2001

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Editorial and News

by Iain Mackintosh

The feedback we receive about the e-mags and printed editions isn't huge, but it is generally positive, and we appreciate your comments and suggestions for improvement. Some of you are still getting to grips with the e-mag technology, and, if so, it pays to persevere - there aren't many shortcuts, but your patience will be rewarded by gaining skills which allow you to do much more with your computer!

Since edition 74, we have opened a secure area for SCCA members on our website where magazines, games and other publications can be downloaded directly to your computer. One by-product of this is to get round the size restrictions put in place by some internet suppliers - if your email provider can't handle our e-mag size, then go to the website and download your copy from there.

The e-mag size tends to be dictated by the amount of coloured graphics which are included in the content. This quarter's edition will probably be larger than last time due to the increase in board diagrams and other picture material. The download time is almost exactly the time you need to make a decent cup of coffee!

For those of you receiving printed copies, the formatting changes introduced in edition 74 seemed to have worked well, and have generally increased the amount of material carried per page. 24xA4 pages is settling down to be the standard number, and seems to be a reasonable balance between content and printing costs.

After a couple of editions containing administrative reports, this issue concentrates on the playing side with games galore, and on reviews of recent chess materials - software, books and websites. Nickolai Gurtovoi from Latvia has kindly sent in more of his very original uncastled games, and another good friend now resident in Australia, John Mackie, demonstrates that even the best credentials don't make for the best analysis!

No edition would be complete without a sizeable contribution from Bernard Milligan, and he duly weighs in with his usual variety of column inches. Raymond Baxter contributes an update from the recent ICCF grading list, and yours truly looks at a few more chess websites.

We are always grateful for contributions to the Association's magazine, or indeed any other aspect of our organisation. If you can help in any way, whether by controlling a tournament, submitting a magazine article, or annotating some games for the Games Column, please get in touch and we'll do whatever we can to accommodate you.

Recent news has been dominated by the events in the US and Afghanistan, and we share our thoughts with our many chess friends worldwide who have been touched in some way by the consequences. After the special playing cessation, it was heartening to see ICCF able to hold its Congress and carry on business as usual.

On the playing side, the ICCF Congress in Rimini confirmed the titles we had expected - SIM for Tom Craig; IM for George Sprott and IA for Iain Sneddon. Congratulations again to all three!

The most recent ICCF grading list makes pleasant reading, with three of our top players achieving 2500+ grades - David Kilgour (2516), Doug Finnie (2505) and Phil Giulian (2502). Close behind are Colin McNab (2483), Douglas Neil (2460) and Tom Craig (2418).

In domestic play, Richard Beecham is once more hurtling through the field in the current Championship. Just as we went to press, Richard confirmed he had gained the full point against David Kilgour, and now stands on 8/8, with only two results to come (Bernard Milligan and Michael Jessing). If last year's whitewash was unprecedented, it will test our stock of superlatives were he to repeat it! Robert Beacon has taken a leaf from Richard's book with a very fine 5/5 performance in this year's Premiers, section A.

Our friendly internationals continue on a wide front, with the most recent addition being the match against the BFCC which started in August. Norway have indicated their interest in a friendly, and we remain keen to organise play against other countries and organisations.

Jim Anderson has now started to plan next year's domestic events, which, as you may remember, will feature mixed modes of email and postal play according to player preferences. Jim also has the job of mailing all the Scottish clubs and congresses to publicise SCCA activities, so he will be busy for some weeks to come!

Remember that you can now access the website using easy-to-remember names:

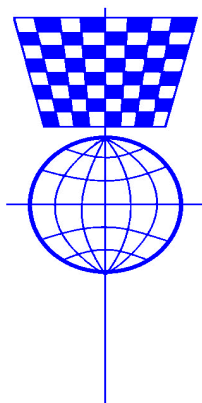
<http://www.scottishcca.co.uk>

<http://www.scottishcca.com>

<http://www.scottishcca.org>

A useful feature is that office bearers can prefix their titles to form email addresses, eg. treasurer@scottishcca.co.uk. Mail sent to these addresses is redirected to the office-bearer's own personal email account, and can be easily switched if an official changes, or is away on holiday.

SCCA Page



Titles Confirmed at Rimini ICCF Congress

SIM Title Tom Craig
IM Title George Sprott
IA Title Iain Sneddon

Scottish Championship 2001-02 - can Beecham do the whitewash again?!												
2001/2002	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Pts
1	Armstrong, A	■	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-	w/d
2	Beecham, C R	1	■	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	8
3	Brown, Dr A C	1	0	■							1	2
4	Cumming, D R	1	0		■	½	0		0	0	1	2½
5	Jessing, M	1			½	■					1	2½
6	Kilgour, D A	1	0				■				1	2
7	Mackintosh, I	1	0		1			■			1	3
8	May, M A	1	0						■		1	2
9	Milligan, B	1			1					■	1	3
10	Reeman, I F	1	0		1						■	1
11	Sneddon, I	-	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	■	w/d

Membership

£8 is all it takes to get started! For £8, you become an annual member, you receive four copies of the SCCA magazine by email, and you can play email chess in our introductory tournaments.

After that, you pay as you go, depending on which types of event you want to play in. For example, a further £2 lets you play in friendly international matches; £3 per event gets you a place in the Challengers, Minors, Majors, Premiers or Quartets.

Higher graded players may wish to play in the Candidates and Championship events, which cost £5 per entry. All SCCA members are eligible to play in ICCF events, covering a wide range of playing strengths, and including thematic tournaments. Entry fees for ICCF events are shown on the SCCA website.

Interested? Email the SCCA secretary at:
secretary@scottishcca.co.uk

100 Club

The 100 Club is an important source of revenue for the SCCA, and we are trying to increase the numbers of units sold - currently 70, but we'd like to hit three figures! Subscription is only £1 per unit per month, and there are two prizes to be won at each monthly draw. Recent winners have included the following, most of whom have now made more out of this caper than they could have done in the stock market:

September	1st	A Grant
	2nd	W M Cook
August	1st	P M Giulian
	2nd	K B McAlpine

Interested? Email the SCCA treasurer at:
treasurer@scottishcca.co.uk



Winning Without Castling

by Nikolai Gurtovoi

Editor's note: Nikolai Gurtovoi first appeared in the SCCA magazine in March 1995 with a series of articles on the subject of avoiding castling. He followed this up with a second series in 1997, and he is currently playing in the 21st Anniversary tournament. Nikolai remains true to his philosophy, and has now submitted a set of briefly annotated games for this edition. By way of a reminder, here is what he said back in March 1995:

Once Steinitz spoke of his special attitude to the King: "I play the King all over the board! I make him battle! With his help, I have a superfluous piece. What about Morphy? He castles; he hides his King in a safe place..."

120 years later, these bold thoughts by the first world champion are highly topical in our day.

Many outstanding chess players, Capablanca, Alexander Alekhine, Botvinnik, Mikhail Tal, Bobby Fischer, Tigran Petrosian, Anatoly Karpov, Garry Kasparov, have played very well without castling. Their uncastled play has inspired my correspondence chess!

Castling has several defects:

1. it is a waste of tempo
2. the King is outside the play
3. pieces are in disharmony (that is why the King is in danger)

And now to some more recent games from the Gurtovoi collection!

21st Latvian CC Championship, 1999-2000

White: Nikolai Gurtovoi
Black: Roman Safonov
Irregular Opening [A00]
[Annotator Nikolai Gurtovoi]

1.g3 d5
2.d4 c5
3.Bg2 e6
4.Nf3 Nc6
5.c3 Nf6
6.Nbd2 cxd4
7.cxd4 Bd6

8.b3 0-0
9.Bb2 Ne7
9... Bd7



10.Kf1!? Bd7
11.Ne1 Bb5
12.a4 Ba6
13.Bf3 Rc8
14.Kg2
Idea 15.h4
14... g5
15.e4 dxe4
16.Nxe4 Nxe4
17.Bxe4 f5
18.Bd3 Bxd3
19.Nxd3 f4
20.gxf4 gxf4
21.Qg4+ Kf7
22.Qh5+ Kg8
23.Rhg1 Nd5
24.Nc5 Qe7
25.Rae1 Rf6
26.Nxe6 Rxe6
27.Qxd5 Kf7



28.Kf3! 1-0



21st Latvian CC Championship, 1999-2000

White: Yanis Vetsbralis
Black: Nikolai Gurtovoi
Queen's Pawn Opening [D00]
[Annotator Nikolai Gurtovoi]

1.d4 d5
2.Nf3 Nf6
3.Nc3 c6
4.g3 Bg4
5.Ne5 Bh5
6.Bg2 Nbd7
7.Nd3 e6
8.a3 Bd6
9.Bf4 Qc7
10.0-0
10.Qd2
10... h6
11.b4 Ke7
12.f3 Rhc8
13.Bxd6+ Qxd6
14.Nf4 a5
15.Nd3 Bg6
16.Qd2 Bxd3
17.Qxd3 b6
18.Rab1



18... c5! ♞
19.e4 dxe4
20.fxe4 Qxd4+
21.Qxd4 cxd4
22.e5





Winning Without Castling

by Nickolai Gurtovoi

22... Nxe5!
 23.Bxa8 Rxc3!
 24.bxa5 bxa5
 25.Rfe1 Nfd7
 26.Rbd1 Rxa3
 27.Rxd4 f5
 28.Rdd1 Rc3
 29.Ra1 Rc5
 30.Ra2 Kf6
 31.Rea1 Nc4
 32.Kf2 e5
 33.Bg2 e4
 34.Bf1 Nde5
 35.Be2 g5
 36.h3 f4
 37.g4 f3
 38.Bxc4 Nxc4
 39.Rd1



39... h5!
 39... Ke5? 40.c3!=
 40.Rd8
 40.gxh5 Rf5!±
 40... hxg4
 41.hxg4 Ne5
 42.Kg3 e3
 43.Rd4 f2
 0-1



21st Latvian CC Championship,
 1999-2000

White: Nickolai Gurtovoi
 Black: Karlis Strautinsh
 King's Indian Defence [E61]
 [Annotator Nickolai Gurtovoi]

1.d4 Nf6
 2.c4 g6
 3.Nc3 Bg7
 4.Bg5 d6
 5.e3 h6
 6.Bh4 0-0
 6... Nbd7

7.Bxf6 Bxf6
 8.Bd3 Nbd7
 9.Nf3 Bg7
 9... Kg7!?
 10.g4 c5
 11.g5!? cxd4
 12.gxh6 Bxh6
 13.Nxd4 Nf6
 14.Rg1 Kh7
 15.h4 Qa5
 16.Kd2 e5
 17.Nb3 Qd8



18.Qf3?!
 18.h5!±
 18... Kh8
 19.Rg2 Qe7
 20.Rag1 Rg8
 21.Kc2 Be6
 22.Nd2 Rad8
 23.Rg5!? Rdf8
 24.Qh1 Rg7
 25.f4 exf4
 26.exf4 Qd7
 27.h5 Bxg5
 28.hxg6+ Kg8
 29.fxg5 Ne8
 29... Ng4!?
 30.gxf7+ Rfxf7
 31.Kc1 Rf4
 32.Qh6 Bf5
 33.Nd5



33... Rf4?
 33... Bxd3! 34.Nxf4 Rh7! 35.Qe6+
 Qxe6 36.Nxe6 Bxc4! 37.Nxc4 Rc7=
 34.Bxf5 Qxf5
 35.Re1! 1-0



21st Latvian CC Championship,
 1999-2000

White: Arthur Nille
 Black: Nickolai Gurtovoi
 Queen's Pawn Opening [D02]
 [Annotator Nickolai Gurtovoi]

1.Nf3 d5
 2.g3 Nf6
 3.Bg2 c6
 4.d4 Bg4
 5.Nc3 Bxf3
 6.Bxf3 e6
 7.0-0
 7.h4
 7... Nbd7
 8.Bf4 Be7
 9.e4 dxe4
 10.Nxe4 Nxe4
 11.Bxe4 h5
 12.h3 g5
 13.Be3 f5
 14.Bg2 Qc7
 15.f4 Kf7!?
 16.Kf2
 16.c4 idea 17.d5 ♞
 16... Rag8
 17.Qf3 Nf6±
 18.Qe2 h4
 19.fxg5 Ne4+



20.Kg1
 20.Bxe4? Qxg3#
 20... Nxc3
 21.Qd2 Nxf1
 22.Rxf1 Rh5



Winning Without Castling

by Nikolai Gurtovoi

23.Bf4 Qd8
24.c3 Bxg5
25.Qe2 Rh6
26.Bh2 Rhg6
27.Rf2 Bc1
28.Kh1



28... Rxc2
29.Rxc2 Qd5
30.b3 Rxc2
31.Qxc2 Bb2
32.c4 Qxc2+
33.Kxc2 Bxd4
0-1



20th Latvian CC Championship,
1997-1998

White: Andris Latsis
Black: Nikolai Gurtovoi
Sicilian Dragon [B75]
[Annotator Nikolai Gurtovoi]

1.e4 c5
2.Nf3 d6
3.d4 cxd4
4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 g6
6.Be3 Bg7
7.f3 Nc6
8.Qd2 h5
9.Bc4 Bd7
10.0-0-0?!
10.a3!? Rc8 11.Ba2 ♞
10... Ne5
11.Bb3 Rc8
12.Kb1 Qa5
13.Nd5 Qxd2
14.Bxd2 Nc4
15.Nxf6+ Bxf6
16.Bc3



16... Ne3! ♞
17.Rd2 h4
18.Re1 Nc4
19.Rdd1 Rh5
20.f4 b5
21.Rd3 a5! ♞
22.a3 Rxc5
23.g3 Nxa3+
24.bxa3 Rxc3
25.Ne2 R3c5
26.Rc1 a4
27.Bd5 e6
28.Ba2 Ke7
29.g4 g5
30.f5 b4
31.axb4 Rb8
32.c3



32... Bb5!
33.Kc2 Bxd3+
34.Kxd3 Rc7
35.h3 Be5
36.Rc2 Kf6
37.Ng1 exf5
38.exf5 Re8
39.c4 Bf4
40.Ne2 Re3+
0-1



VII Baltic Sea Tournament, 1997-
1999

White: Toivo Lukats (EST)
Black: Nikolai Gurtovoi (LAT)
Sicilian Dragon [B75]
[Annotator Nikolai Gurtovoi]

1.e4 c5
2.Nf3 d6
3.d4 cxd4
4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 g6
6.Be3 Bg7
7.f3 h5
8.Qd2 Nc6
9.Bc4 Bd7
10.Bb3 Qa5
11.0-0-0 Rc8
12.h3 h4
13.Kb1 Rh5
14.Rhe1 Ne5
14... b5!?
15.Qe2!?! Kf8
16.f4 Nc6
17.Nf3 Be8
18.Bf2 Nd7
19.Rd5 Nc5
20.Rxh5 gxh5
21.e5 Nxb3
22.cxb3 dxe5
23.Nxe5 Nxe5
24.fxe5 f6!?
25.Qd3 Rc6
26.Bh4 fxh5
27.Rf1+ Kg8
28.Nd5 Re6!?
29.Nxe7+ Kh8



30.Qg3?! Qd2! ♞
30.Qd5 Qd7!
30... Bg6
31.Bg5 Bg6
32.Nf5



Winning Without Castling

by Nikolai Gurtovoi

33.a4 Re8?!
 33... b5! ♣
 34.Qf3 e4
 35.Qe2! =



35... Qd3+
 36.Qxd3 exd3
 37.Kc1 Rc8+
 38.Kd1 Bf7
 39.Nxg7 Bxb3+
 40.Kd2 Kxg7
 41.Bf6+ Kg6
 42.Bc3 Bxa4
 43.Rf6+ Kg5
 44.h4+ Kg4
 45.Rg6+ Kf4
 46.Kxd3 Rd8+
 1/2-1/2



Loeffler Memorial, 1995-1999
 White: Pablo Gritti
 Black: Nikolai Gurtovoi
 Sicilian Dragon [B75]
 [Annotator Nikolai Gurtovoi]

1.e4	c5
2.Nf3	d6
3.d4	cxd4
4.Nxd4	Nf6
5.Nc3	g6
6.Be3	Bg7
7.f3	h5
8.Bc4	Nc6
9.Qd2	Bd7
10.0-0-0	a6
11.h4	Ne5
12.Bb3	b5
13.Bg5	Rb8
14.Qe2	Qc8
15.f4	Nc4
16.e5	dx e5

17.fx e5	Ng4
18.e6?!	fx e6
19.Nd5	Bf6
20.Nf4	Kf7
21.Qe4	Rg8
22.Nxh5	gxh5
23.Qh7+	Rg7
24.Qxh5+	Kg8
25.Qxg4	



25...	e5! ♣
26.Qe4	exd4
27.Bxf6	exf6
28.Qxd4	Qc6
29.Qf4	Rb6 □
30.Rd4	Qxg2
31.Bxc4+	bxc4
32.Rhd1	Bg4
33.Re1	Bd7
34.Red1	



34...	c3!
35.b3	Bg4
36.Rd8+	Kh7
0-1	

if 37.Rf1 Re6! Idea 38... Re2 ♣



Loeffler Memorial, 1995-1999
 White: Nikolai Gurtovoi
 Black: Jorge Eduardo Deforel
 Open Bird [A03]
 [Annotator Nikolai Gurtovoi]

1.f4	d5
2.Nf3	Nf6
3.e3	g6
4.Be2	Bg7
5.d3	0-0
6.Nbd2	c5
7.c3	Nc6
8.Qc2	Qb6
9.Nf1	Bg4
10.Bd2	d4
11.e4	Rad8



12.Rd1?!	
12.c4! ♣	
12...	c4!
13.Ng3 □	dx c3
14.bxc3	cx d3
15.Bxd3	Bxf3
16.gxf3	e5
17.f5	Rd7
18.Ke2	Rc8
19.Qb3	Qc7
20.fxg6	hxg6
21.h4	Na5
22.Qc2	Nc4
23.Bc1	Qa5
24.Qb3	Nb6
25.c4	Na4
26.Bd2	Qa6
27.Bb4 □	Nc5
28.Bxc5	Rxc5
29.h5	Ra5
30.hxg6!	Rxa2+
31.Kf1	Ra3
32.gxf7+	Kxf7
33.Qc2	Qa5
34.Nf5	Rc3?
34... Ra2! =	



Winning Without Castling

by Nickolai Gurtovoi

35.Qg2 Qa4?
 35... Rcx3!=
 36.Qxg7+ Ke6
 37.Qxd7+□ Qxd7



38.Be2!! Qa4
 39.Rd6+ Kf7
 40.Rh6!+- Rc1+
 41.Kg2 Ne8
 42.Rh7+ Kf8
 43.Rdd7! 1-0



MegaCorr2 Reviewed

by Bernard Milligan



This is the second CD from Tim Harding and follows the same format as the previous one. The CD is principally billed as a DataBase CD but contains much more which the customer will find of great interest.

Despite some minor faults, the CD is well worth buying, if only for the fact that it contains 42 issues of the excellent Chess Mail magazine.

The CD is set up in website format and double clicking on the file CLICK ME.HTM in the root directory launches your browser. You can then browse through the contents of the CD in the same manner as you would when browsing through a website. My preference would have been to make things easier for the customer by setting up the CD to auto run on insertion, so that the web browser on my PC opened automatically at the first page on the CD.

The web format of the CD works well but I did find a number of links that didn't work correctly. This appears to be because some links on some web pages were linking to files of a slightly different name on the CD. This resulted in photographs not being displayed or pages being listed as unavailable when I clicked on a link.

I'm also not certain of the accuracy of everything on the CD. Tim has listed the final issue of our SCCA magazine as early 2001. As we all know, it is still in production with both email and printed copies available to subscribers!

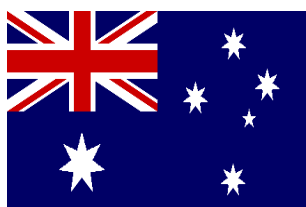
The games DataBase contains over 357,000 games and comes in PGN, CBF, CBH and Chess Assistant formats. I would consider the DataBase small, by comparison to those available from other publishers, but the games are correspondence ones and well worth having in your collection.

I was disappointed to find that the General Themes, Tactics, Strategy and Endgames Keys had not been installed in the CBH version of the DataBase. It is a simple matter to install them myself using ChessBase 8, but a little extra work by Tim would have saved me the effort.

I felt that many of the games were previously available from other sources, so I was surprised to see that the source for all of them was listed as MegaCorr2. I certainly found one of my annotated games, complete with my annotations, which I thought I owned the copyright to. My permission was not requested for its inclusion and I would certainly not have objected to its use had I been asked. I would however have preferred it if the source of the game, in the game data, had been listed as the Scottish Correspondence Chess Association Magazine, where it was originally published.

Still, this is a CD I would recommend buying.





Ich bin kein Berliner

by John Mackie

Editor's note: John Mackie is another long-standing contributor to the SCCA magazine, and is also playing in the 21st Anniversary tournament. The article from which this game is taken first appeared in "Chess Post" in May 2001, as part of the "BCCS Hall of Fame" series written by John Hawkes (another kenspeckled figure in these parts!).

One of the first BCCS members, John Mackie was the man who engineered the split of "British" correspondence chess from the BCF. John Mackie is now retired and lives near Canberra, Australia. Here is a game where he lost to Sheehan by following Berliner's analysis!

XII ICCF World Cup

White: J Mackie

Black: M Sheehan

Grunfeld Defence [D87]

[Annotators John Mackie and John Hawkes]

1.d4 Nf6
2.c4 g6
3.Nc3 d5
4.cxd5 Nxd5
5.e4 Nxc3
6.bxc3 c5
7.Bc4 Bg7
8.Ne2 Nc6
9.Be3 0-0

9... cxd4 10.cxd4 Qa5+ might transpose into the text on Kf1, but White has options: 11.Bd2 (11.Wd2 0-0 12.Rd1 Bd7 13.0-0 Qxd2 14.Rxd2 Rfc8 15.Rb1 Na5 16.Bd3 a6 17.Rb6 Rc7 18.Rdb2 Rd8 19.Bd2 Nc4 20.Bxc4 Rxc4 21.Rxb7 Bxd4 turned out drawn in Espinosa-Honfi, III Olympiad Prelims 1955) 11... Qa3 12.Rb1 0-0 13.0-0 Bg4 (13... Qd6 14.d5 Ne5 15.Bb4 Qc7 16.Bb3 Ng4 17.d6!+- Moskajic-Zivkovic, Yugoslavia, corr 1984)

14.d5 b5? (dodgy) 15.Bc1 Qc5 16.Bxb5 Nd4 17.Be3 Qxb5 18.Rxb5 Bxe2 19.Bxd4! Bxd1 20.Rxd1 Bxd4 21.Rxd4 Rfc8 22.g3 Rc2 23.Rb7 Kf8 24.Ra4 a5 25.e5 Rc5 26.Rd4 Ke8 27.e6! fxe6 28.d6! exd6 29.Rxd6 Rd8 30.Rxe6+ 1-0
 Barnsley-Wollin, British Championship Candidates 1976

10.Rc1 Qa5
11.Kf1 cxd4
12.cxd4 Qa3



Both NCO and Jonathan Rowson's "Understanding the Grunfeld" reckon that this refutes the idea of 10.Rc1. 5th CC World Champion Hans Berliner, in his article "The Grunfeld is quite ill" (Chess Mail 7/99), "busts" 12... Qa3 as follows: 13.Rc3! Qd6 14.h4!!

13.Rc3 Qd6
14.h4 h5
15.f3 Bxd4
16.Nxd4 e5
17.Bh6 Qxd4
18.Qc1

Following Berliner's analysis, which at this juncture comments "... and the following Qg5 will be overwhelming"

18... Re8
19.Rd3 Qb6
20.Qg5 Nd4
21.g4

Berliner here states "... and the attack is very strong"



21... hxg4

22.h5

The strongest continuation?

22... Nxf3

23.Qxg6+ Qxg6

24.hxg6 Be6

25.Bxe6 Rxe6

26.gxf7+ Kxf7

Black looks decidedly underwhelmed, and this particular Grunfeld far from sick!

27.Be3 Rf6!

After this strong move, White is quite lost. In John Mackie's words, "After 21... hxg4 it was just a waste of postage!"

28.Rh7+ Ke6

29.Ke2 Nd4+

30.Bxd4 exd4

31.Rg3 Rg8

32.Rxb7 Rf4

33.Kd3 Rf3+

34.Rxf3 gxf3

35.Rb1 Ke5

36.Rb5+ Kf4

0-1



John Mackie is recovering from a heart condition at present, and is tired but cheerful. A get-well card from Hans Berliner, with an update on that analysis, would be good medicine!



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(Scotland)**

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ChessBase 8 Review Part 4

by Bernard Milligan

I have previously covered searches with ChessBase in an article on ChessBase 7. Still, I thought it would be worth another look.

ChessBase is great as a research tool, particularly if you have a large database as I do. It's great to have a position on screen and search through a large database to find other games that have reached that position. The speed of searches has been greatly improved in ChessBase 8, so searching through a million plus game database is very quick. Still, not everyone has a large database, and the makers have helped greatly with this by adding an online search facility. If you have Internet access on your PC then from the Edit tab you can now select Find Position in/chessbase-online.com. This can be very helpful, as their online database may have examples of more recently played games than you have in your own database. Their online database has more than two million games and with advance search tools on their server results of searches are displayed within a few seconds.

In the last article I covered a number of search options but left out position search and opening report. Both of these have been covered in a previous ChessBase 7 article and remain much the same apart from the speed of the searches being improved in ChessBase 8. One thing that I now feel that I didn't make clear is that both should be used with care. Take the following position:



It was reached after the moves 1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 a6 4.e3 e6 5.Bxc4 c5 6.0-0 Nf6 7.Qe2 cxd4 8.exd4 Be7 9.Nc3 0-0 10.a4 b6 11.Be3 Bb7.

At this point the game has reached an identical position as reached in the A Szopa game at move 12. The vital difference is that White has saved a tempi by not playing Bd3. Despite my extensive databases I didn't find the Szopa game until I did an online search at the ChessBase site. I had been following a line that seemed good for Black but I missed the transpositional possibilities. Databases help a lot but we must use them with care.

Chess Informant <http://www.sahovski.com>



Chess Informant 81 - this volume brings a selection of 978 fully annotated games from all the important tournaments played from February 1st till May 31st 2001. Of the top 25 players from the latest FIDE Rating list, 19 annotate their games in volume 81. Chess Informant 81, EE, book and CD are all available NOW. All buyers of Chess Informant 81 CD will get a free supplement: Volume A of Encyclopaedia of Chess Openings, 3rd edition.



Encyclopedia of Chess Openings, Volume A, 4th Edition - this update brings you theoretical and practical developments in the English, Reti System, Benoni family, Volga Gambit and Dutch Defence openings.



Top 12+1 - the second volume of the new Chess Informant serial publication brings about 400 rated games of the Top 12+1 players (based on April and July 2001 FIDE rating list), plus rapid, blitz and all other non-rated events played in the first half of the year. Theoretical articles and surveys, detailed statistics, crosstables and graphs offer an all-comprehensive insight into opening repertoires of the giants.



World Champion Alekhine



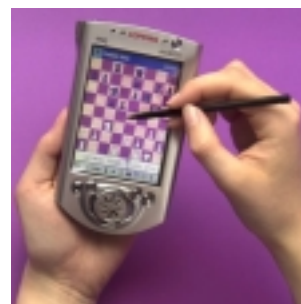
ChessBase have now released the English version of the excellent CD "World Champion Alekhine" by Robert Huebner.

The CD contains over 2000 games, and just over 400 of these are annotated. 50 text files are included in the main database, most of which relate to tournaments. There are also 13 videos on the CD where top players give comments on Alekhine. A training Database contains 102 test games where the reader can test themselves against the clock to find the best moves. Each game may have several test positions and should keep even the serious student occupied for a good few hours.

Huebner has also included a database of 40 tasks where you are given a position and a task to solve. The next game in the database is the line solving the task with annotations by Huebner. One of the best parts of the CD is a small Huebner about Alekhine database where 25 games are superbly annotated by Alekhine, Huebner and others.

The CD doesn't give an account of the life of Alekhine, but does contain a lot of background information, including some 174 bitmap photos to look at.

Pocketfritz



Pocketfritz is the latest chess playing program from ChessBase and has the advantage that you don't have to haul around a large PC to use it. This program runs on any pocket PC using Windows CE 3.0 (or compatible). There have been many systems over the years, but this is definitely the strongest portable system that I have come across. Ok, it may not cause a lot of sleepless nights for GM's but if you're graded 2100 or less, you may find yourself losing frequently. Even IMs can find themselves playing a tough game.

The display quality of the game is good and the moves are executed by using a stylus on the screen. The openings book is derived from Shredder's tournament repertoire, and has a new and more compressed format which only requires 500 Kbytes of storage space on the Pocket PC. Pocketfritz can even be used to access the Internet and the ChessBase server in Hamburg with the giant database located there.

Fritz 7 is also due out at the end of October and I would recommend visiting the ChessBase website for a sneak preview. There is a demo version available which allows you to play online. I may give details of how I managed to lose my first Internet game in the next issue.



For full details of the ChessBase product range, visit their website on:
www.chessbase.com





Book Reviews

by Bernard Milligan



<http://www.batsford.com>

Chess: The Search for Mona Lisa by Eduard Gufeld, 251p, £16.99

This is one of my favourite books of the year so far. Being a Correspondence player I like books with a lot of theory that I can refer to in my games. I do however also like books which tell you something about a player and the events surrounding their life and games. This book covers the games, chess ideas and life of GM Eduard Gufeld. Its 116 games are well annotated and on their own would serve as a good reference manual. The stories surrounding Gufeld's life and games are a first class read. I could just as easily take the book from the shelf to read these and skip the games if I wanted a nice relaxing evening. Gufeld has played the best and beaten the best. This book is definitely value for money.

Winning with the Sicilian Dragon 2 by Chris Ward, 224p, £15.99

This complicated opening isn't easy for players to master so they will be pleased that this repertoire book is filled with a great deal of instructive text. The book covers 135 of the latest games and 29 of these were played by the author. I liked the way that Chris shows how to go from the opening to the middlegame and how to hold onto the initiative. Readers will find games such as Tebb v Ward instructive from start to finish. Variations covered in detail include the Classical, Levenfish and Yugoslav. With so many Correspondence players playing the Sicilian this book is well worth buying.

The Latvian Gambit Lives! by Tony Kosten, 224p, £15.99

GM Tony Kosten's last book on this opening was in 1995 and this new book is nicely updated. The book contains tons of new Latvian games and can best be described as 224 pages of comprehensive analysis. The backbone of the book has to be the large number of high quality correspondence games used. Kosten does a good job of informing the readers of which lines are good for White, and which are good for Black. The book is well organised and easy to follow.

The Ultimate Colle by Gary Lane, 160p, £14.99

A well made openings book from Gary Lane covering a system beginning with the straightforward opening moves: 1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.Bd3, the so called standard Colle. It has been a few years since I saw a new book on this system so this is a welcome addition to the library. The introduction to the book is clear and includes some historical notes and I found the rest of the book highly instructive. As well as the standard Colle the book covers variations such as Colle-Zukertort with 1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6

3.e3 e6 4.Bd3 c5 5.b3 which can be reached by a variety of different move orders. Also included are the Colle against Queen's Indian Defences, the Colle against the Benoni and King's Indian and some seldom played lines like the game Portisch-Larsen Montreal 1979 where Black goes for an early excursion of the light squared Bishop.

EVERYMAN CHESS

<http://www.everyman.uk.com/>

Attacking with 1.e4 by John Emms, 160p, £14.99

In "Attacking with 1.e4" John Emms covers an openings collection including the closed Sicilian with the development of the Bishop to g2, the Bishop's opening which is nicely and well covered (31 pages) and even some transpositions to the King's Gambit declined are nicely covered. Against the French, Emms comes up with 2.d3 the, King's Indian attack, once a dangerous weapon from the great Bobby Fischer. The Pirc and Modern Defence are both well covered with the dangerous and straightforward 4.Be3. The last chapter deals with unusual moves such as Nimzowitsch, Owens and St. George Defence. John Emms' book is set out in the style of a survey book.

Attacking with 1.d4 by Angus Dunnington, 160p, £14.99

In "Attacking with 1.d4" Angus Dunnington covers perhaps some more aggressive openings. These include the Queen's gambit accepted with 3.e4, The Queen's gambit Declined and Slav Defences, King's Indian and Benoni: The Four Pawns Attack, Grünfeld Defence with 4.f4, Nimzo-Indian Defence with 4.f3 and the Dutch Defence. Angus Dunnington's book concentrates on theory and practical games.

French Classical by Byron Jacobs, 176p, £14.99

This book covers the French after the opening moves 1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6. The book is detailed and the games up to date. The first 62 pages, after the introduction, cover the modern line 4.e5. The next 87 pages cover variations which arise after 4.Bg5 such as the Burn and McCutcheon. The remainder of the book is devoted to some minor odds and ends where either Black or White avoid the main lines. Jacobs has made some good use of Correspondence games and indeed all the 78 games in the book are well annotated. The end of each chapter also has a nice concise summary.

Symmetrical English by David Cummings, 160p, £14.99

This is the first book by IM David Cummings who represented Canada in the 2000 Chess Olympiad. It is very instructive and contains detailed analysis. The book covers variations such as The Hedgehog, The Double Fianchetto Defence 1.c4 c5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3 b6 4.Bg2 Bb7 5.0-0 g6, the pure Symmetrical English with 1.c4 c5 2.Nc4 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7, the Main Line 1.c4 c5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.Nf3 Nf6 and others. The ideas behind the various lines in the Symmetrical English are well explained by the author.



ICCF Grading Update

by Raymond Baxter

A new ICCF grading list has been published. The new grades are based on results up to 30 June 2001, and will apply to internationally graded games starting between 1 October 2001 and 31 March 2002. The following grades have changed. If your name does not appear on this list, then either you do not have an international grade, or it is the same as that published in the Winter 2000/01 magazine (no. 72). A provisional grade is marked with an asterisk.

No.	Name	Results	Grade	No.	Name	Results	Grade
004	Aird, I	57	2374	264	Lloyd, G	13	2090 *
317	Almarza-Mato, C	156	1897	LM04	Lumsden, J P L	31	1947
LM18	Anderson, G M	57	2174	352	McDonald, G R	46	1757
121	Anderson, J	15	1931 *	148	McEwan, N R	23	1923 *
049	Armstrong, A	71	2013	LM84	Macgregor, C A	32	1851
016	Bailey, E A	20	2007	391	McIntee, C	30	2054
386	Ballan, M	44	1959	LM32	Mackintosh, I	138	2252
015	Baxter, R W M	55	2321	216	Macmillen, A N	104	1838
LM11	Beecham, C R	206	2246	001	McNab, C A	119	2483
LM09	Borwell, A P	393	2287	LM02	McRoberts, D G	44	2052
215	Brown, A C	44	2257	LM66	Marshall, I H	127	1903
038	Campbell, I W S	173	2057	LM91	May, M A	17	2273 *
173	Cook, W M	24	2086 *	178	Milligan, B	91	2415
364	Coope, D W	126	1944	LM78	Mitchell, I W S	42	1932
204	Copley, J	71	1902	333	Montgomery, R S	22	2269 *
LM27	Craig, T J	234	2418	234	Murray, S A	15	1987 *
166	Cumming, D R	121	2169	202	Neil, D	34	2460
358	Dearnley, A	122	2336	225	Norris, A C	105	2105
340	Finnie, D S	146	2505	379	Phillips, G H	122	2264
086	Gillam, S R	115	2364	048	Pyrich, G D	477	2398
LM51	Guilian, P M	369	2502	136	Reeman, I F	68	2169
124	Goodwin, B	26	2221 *	311	Saxton, G	36	1969
LM56	Hartford, Mrs E A	151	1939	057	Sneddon, I	87	2350
63	Harvey, D	28	2053 *	LM65	Sprott, G R	125	2386
014	Herries, J M	28	2019 *	294	Stewart, D J	118	2325
114	Hilton, S H	95	1544	LM46	Stewart, K W C	66	2242
LM10	Hislop, A T	159	2013	336	Teunisse, F	20	1964 *
LM48	Kilgour, D A	231	2516	365	Thompson, B	102	1993
260	Knox, A	16	1935 *	LM79	Thomson, T	295	2181
256	Lennox, C J	80	2387	LM80	Watson, Joe	111	2346
LM03	Livie, G W G	85	2303				



Games Column

by Bernard Milligan

The recent tragic events in America have shocked us all and it is hard to believe that anyone could stoop to such levels. My deepest sympathies and condolences go to all those affected. My thoughts are with you.

As always I seem to be struggling at the last minute with a shortage of games. Sincere thanks to those who have taken the time to send some in.

We begin with one of two games sent in by George Pyrich.

EU/MSM/VI/1-5, 1999

White: B Hibner

Black: G Pyrich

King's Indian Defence [E77]

[Annotator George Pyrich]

1.d4	Nf6
2.c4	c5
3.d5	b5
4.cxb5	a6
5.bxa6	Bxa6
6.Nc3	d6
7.f4	g6
8.Nf3	Qa5
9.Bd2	Bg7
10.e4	

10.Qc2 with g3, Bh3 to follow is an interesting and untested setup.

10... 0-0

11.Be2

The 2 main alternatives are:

a) 11.e5!? Nfd7 12.Ne4 (12.e6 is the critical choice) 12...Qc7 13.e6 fxe6 14.dxe6 Qb7 was fine for Black in Vedrunes-Mary, AJEC corr. 1992;

b) 11.Bxa6 Qxa6 12.Qe2 Nfd7 13.Qxa6 Nxa6 14.0-0 Rfb8 with the ideal Black set-up in Henderson-Wall, Aberdeen 1996. With the text, White transposes to a line of the King's Indian, 4 Pawns Attack.

11... Nbd7

11...Bxe2 12.Qxe2 Qa6 is playable also.

12.0-0 Rfb8

13.e5?!



Better is 13.Rb1 Bxe2 14.Qxe2 Qa6 (Instead 14...Ne8?! leads to unclear positions 15.e5 Nb6 16.e6 [Maybe 16.b3 when 16...Nc7 17.Rfd1 Qa6 18.Qxa6 Rxa6 19.Be3 Nd7 20.Rbc1 is unclear but likely better for White] 16...f5 is probably equal) 15.Qxa6 Rxa6 16.b3 Ne8 17.a4 Nc7 18.Ne2 Rab6 19.Ba5 R6b7 20.Nd2 Na6 21.Bc3 Nb4 22.Bxg7 Kxg7 23.Kf2

With an edge for White though Black shouldn't lose.

13... Ne8

14.e6

Maybe 14.Ne4 was better when 14...Bxe2 15.Qxe2 Rxb2 16.e6 Nf8 is unclear.

14... fxe6

15.dxe6 Ndf6

Better than 15...Nf8 16.Nd5 Qd8 17.Bxa6 Rxa6 18.Ng5 with good attacking chances for White.

16.f5

I expected 16.Nd5 when 16...Qd8 17.Nxf6+ Bxf6 (17...Nxf6 18.Bc3) 18.Bc3 Bxc3 (18...d5?! is dubious after 19.Ne5 Qd6 20.Nd7 Bxc3 21.bxc3 Rb2 22.Bxa6 Rxa6 23.f5 looks very shaky for Black) 19.bxc3 Ng7 20.Bxa6 Rxa6 21.Qd5 Ra3 is about equal.

16... Rxb2?!



With hindsight 16...gxf5 is much better. After 17.Nh4 Rxb2 18.Bxa6 Qxa6 19.Nxf5 Qd3 Black is clearly better.

17.fxg6

Alternatively:

a) 17.Bxa6 Qxa6 18.fxg6 hxg6 19.Rb1 Rab8 20.Rxb2 Rxb2 21.Bc1 Rb7 22.Qc2 Qc4 and Black is much better;
b) 17.Qc1 Bxe2 18.Nxe2 Qa3 looks fine for Black with Nf6-e4 to follow.

17... Bxe2

17...hxg6 looks natural but allows 18.Nd5 Qd8 19.Bxa6 Rxa6 20.Bc3 Nxd5 21.Bxb2 Bxb2 22.Qxd5 Bxa1 23.Rxa1 Nc7 24.Qe4 Kg7 25.Ng5 when White is clearly on top; and 17...Rxd2?! looks tempting but is dubious 18.Qxd2 Bxe2 19.Nxe2 Qxd2 20.Nxd2± and with a2-a4 to follow, White is better.

18.Nxe2?!



18.gxh7+ was much better 18...Nxb7 19.Nxe2 Qa4 20.Qe1 Rxa2 21.Rxa2 Qxa2 22.Nf4 is quite unclear. In the long run the Black c and d pawns will be a factor but White has the manoeuvre Qe1-e4-b7 with attacking chances.

18... Qa4!

Better than 18...Qa6 19.Nf4 (19.gxh7+ Nxb7 20.Nf4 Nc7; and 19.a4 Ne4 20.Nf4 N8f6 are both interesting lines) 19...Rxa2 20.Rxa2 Qxa2 21.Ng5 with real attacking chances.

19.Qe1?!

He should have settled for 19.Qxa4 Rxa4 20.Nc3 Ra7 21.Rfb1 (21.gxh7+ Nxb7) 21...Rxb1+ 22.Rxb1 hxg6 23.Rb8 with equal chances.

19... hxg6

20.Nc3

20.Nf4 Ne4 is good for Black.

20... Qc2



Games Column

by Bernard Milligan

21.a4

Better than 21.Rc1 Qd3 22.Rd1 Ng4 with a strong attack.

21... Bh6!

22.Rf2



Clearly best (the d2B daren't move!) and 22.Rb1 allows 22... Bxd2 23.Rxb2 Qxb2 24.Qxd2 Qxd2 25.Nxd2 d5 26.Rb1 d4 27.Nce4 Nxe4 28.Nxe4 c4 and the Black pawns roll home.

22... Bxd2

23.Qxd2 Qxd2

24.Rxd2

24.Nxd2 d5 was no better for White.

24... Rxd2

25.Nxd2 Nc7

Black is now winning.

26.Re1 Ra6

26... d5 comes to much the same.

27.Nf3 d5

28.Ng5 d4

29.Nb5

29.Nce4 Nxe4 30.Nxe4 c4 31.Ra1 Rxe6 is no better.

29... Nxb5

30.axb5 Rb6

31.Rb1 Nd5

32.Ne4 c4

33.Nc5

Likewise 33.Rd1 Nf4 34.Kf1 Nxe6; and 33.Kf2 d3 don't save White.

33... d3

34.Kf2 Nc3

The d-pawn rolls home so....

0-1



We continue with a short contribution from Peter Jack. There is always something appealing about gambit wins.

ICCF EU/III/1148

White J P E Jack

Black R Leupolt

Kings Gambit [C35]

[Annotators: Paul Motwani/Peter Jack]

This game first appeared in 'The Scotsman' on 17th January 1998. GM Paul Motwani asked for games to be submitted by the readers and the one he considered most interesting would be published. I am pleased that he chose the one below. Despite a few weak moves by Black the game shows yet again the importance of development and the folly of moving one piece too often. GM Motwani's notes are in italics.

1.e4 e5

2.f4 exf4

3.Nf3 Be7

4.Bc4 Nf6

5.e5 Ng4

6.d4

6.0-0 0-0 7.h3 d5! 8.Bb3 (8.exd6 Qxd6 threatens... Qc5+)

8...c5! 9.hxg4 c4

10.Ba4 b5 11.Bxb5 Qb6+ is a neat trick for Black from Kennaugh - Hebden, Hawick, 1994.

6... d5

7.exd6 Qxd6?!

Black's Queen can become a target for White to attack with Nc3 - e4 so

"theory" recommends 7...Bxd6 8.Qe2+ Kf8! Swan - Motwani, Oban, 1994.

8.0-0 Ne3?

This can't be good.

9.Bxe3 fxe3

This pawn now becomes a target.

10.Nc3



10.Ne5 looks very good too.

I thought about Ne5 but was unsure.

10...

Qh6

Presumably to try to support the e3 pawn.

11.Bxf7+

What the hell!

11...

Kd8

11...Kxf7 12.Ne5+ also gives White a ferocious attack.

After this I started to have a good feeling about this game.

12.Qd3

Be6

13.Bxe6

Qxe6

14.Rae1

Nd7

15.Rxe3

Qc6

16.Rfe1

Bd6

17.Qxh7

1-0

Taking the Queen allows mate, while if the rook moves Black goes three pawns down. Depressing. After this I felt no worries at all about facing the Cunningham Defence. The next time I played against it I was thrashed.



Our next game is from Jonathan Lennox and is another from his World Championship campaign.

ICCF World Ch 24.

White: C J Lennox

Black: K Rakay

Nimzo-Indian Defence [E20]

[Annotator: Jonathan Lennox]

1.Nf3

Nf6

2.c4

c5

3.d4

cxd4

4.Nxd4

e6

5.Nc3

Bb4

6.g3

Ne4

7.Qd3

Bxc3+





Games Column

by Bernard Milligan

The game has transposed from an English Opening to the Romanishin variation of the Nimzo-Indian, a line that helped Kasparov become World Champion in 1985. 7...Qa5 is normal here, in fact Rakay's move is not even mentioned in NCO, but I did find a reference in BCO 2 (I never throw out old books!).

8.bxc3 Nc5
9.Qd2 b6
10.Nb5 0-0
11.Nd6

White has some advantage according to BCO 2, but after my opponent's reply I was not so sure.

11... Bb7



12.Nxb7

I was reluctant to exchange my knight, leaving c4 defenceless, but the alternatives were hardly attractive.

12... Nxb7
13.Bg2 Qc7
14.Ba3 Rd8

Here I considered h4-h5 and Rh4, but Black's c-file counterplay makes keeping the King in the centre unwise.

15.0-0 Nc6

16.Qg5

With all Black's pieces huddled in one corner, the plan for White is clear. Black's reply creates a target, but the immediate 16... Nca5 would allow 17.Be7 Re8 18.Bf6.

16... h6
17.Qh5 Nca5

Now White must choose the best way to give up a P, and I decided it was worthwhile to lose a tempo.

18.c5 bxc5
19.f4 d5
20.g4 Nc4

21.Bc1 f6

This was my opponent's second choice; with his previous move he had sent the conditional 21...4815!

22.g5 Qf7



Now Rakay sent the helpful conditional 23.Qxf7+ Kxf7 and 23.Qh3 hxg5 24.fxg5 f5 so it was easy for me to decide to block the position and rely on a sacrificial breakthrough on h6.

23.g6 Qc7

It would not help to defend h6 by 23...Qf8 as White could manoeuvre a Rook in front of his Queen on the h-file before playing Bxh6, and the Black King would then have no escape.

24.f5 e5

25.Rf3 Nb6

This nonchalant move, presumably intending 26...Nd6, suggests that Black's sense of danger let him down.

26.Rh3 Kf8

Now Rakay realised that he was in trouble and offered a draw, but in such circumstances that only provides encouragement.

27.Bxh6 Ke8

28.Bxg7 1-0

Resignation might appear premature, but in fact it came after an interval of nearly two months! The critical continuation would have been 28...Qxg7, 29.Qg4 Rd7, 30.Rh7 Qg8, 31.Qh5.



The next two games come from our beloved leader Iain Mackintosh. Given Iain's ability to describe a game of chess in terms of a football match,

I am undecided if he should be referred to as a literary genius or a comedian. I will leave the verdict in your benevolent hands.

Scotland v Brazil, 2000

White: I Mackintosh

Black: F Sorroche

Sicilian Defence [B65]

[Annotator Iain Mackintosh]

Another email match, which caused some confusion early on because Francisco, a retired Spaniard living in Sao Paulo, couldn't adjust to the time zone difference! After some rambling exchanges about Copernicus, we eventually abandoned time recording and rattled off both games in 25 days flat - averaging well over 2 moves per game per day!

1.e4 c5
2.Nf3 d6
3.d4 cxd4
4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 Nc6
6.Bg5

The Richter-Rauzer, which I've always enjoyed playing as White.

6... e6
7.Qd2 Be7
8.0-0-0 0-0
9.f4 Nxd4
10.Qxd4 Qa5
11.Bc4 h6
More usual is 11... Bd7
12.Bh4 e5
13.fxe5 dxe5
14.Qd3 Bg4
15.Rdf1 Rac8
16.Bb3 Rxc3
17.Qxc3 Qxc3
18.bxc3 g5





Games Column

by Bernard Milligan

Up to here, we had been following the 1959 game between Szabo-Pietzsch, which ended ½-½. Francisco now deviates from 18... Ba3+ and we are on our own.

19.Be1?

19.Bg3 looks better with hindsight. I was concerned over the potentially doubled and isolated g-pawns, but the bishop just gets in the way later on.

19... Ba3+
20.Kb1 Nxe4
21.Bd5 Rd8
22.c4 Be2
23.Bxf7+ Kg7
24.Bd5 Nf6

I had expected 24... Bxf1 25.Rxf1 Nd6

25.Rf2

I remember looking at 25.Rxf6 Kxf6 26.Bc3, but I've no idea why I didn't play it!

25... Bxc4
26.Rf3 Bxd5
27.Rxa3 Bxg2
28.Rg1 Rd1+
29.Kb2 Bc6
30.Rxa7 Nd5



Once the dust settles, Black has a pawn for the exchange, but maintains the better initiative.

31.h4 Kf6
32.Ra8 Nf4
33.hxg5+ hxg5
34.Rf8+ Ke6
35.Rg8 Kf6
36.a3 Ne2
37.Rf1+ Nf4
38.Rf8+ Kg6
39.Rg1 Ne2
40.Rgf1 Nf4

Round about here, a draw by repetition seemed on the cards, but Francisco wanted more - our other game wasn't going so well for him.

41.Rg8+ Kf5
42.Rf8+ Ke4
43.Rg1 g4
44.Rg8 Bd7
45.Rg7 Ne2
46.Rh1 b5
47.Rh4

Trying to rid myself of that static bishop.

47... Bf5
48.Bb4 Rg1
49.Rb7 Nd4
50.Bc5 Rg2
51.Bxd4 Kxd4



Having got rid of the bishop, I wondered here if it had been worth the effort, but the game still looked fairly level.

52.Rc7 Rf2
53.Rc3 Ke4
54.Rc5 Kf4
55.Rxb5 Rxc2+
56.Kb3 Rc1

And now realisation dawned that the White king is neither a defender nor able to usher home the a-pawn.

57.a4 e4
58.Kb2 Re1
59.Rb4 Re2+
60.Kc1 Re3
61.Rh1 g3

The Black phalanx lumbers forward!

62.Rg1 Re2
63.a5 Ra2
64.Rb2 Ra1+
65.Rb1 Rxa5
 Extinguishing that little light.
66.Rb4 Ra1+
0-1

After 67.Rb1 Rxb1+ 68.Kxb1 Bh3 69.Kc2 Kf3 70.Kd1 g2 71.Kd2 e3+ it is terminal. I thought about issuing a rematch challenge to a beach football game, but decided against it.



Scotland v Brazil, 2000

White: F Sorroche

Black: I Mackintosh

Ruy Lopez [C20]

[Annotator Iain Mackintosh]

For my generation, one of the side effects of pulling on the blue jersey is a desire to get up the park and play an attacking game - even when you are up against one of the glamour sides in the world game...

1.e4 e5
2.Nf3 Nc6
3.Bb5 f5

And down came the well-thumbed Mikhail Tseitlin book from the shelf once more.

4.Nc3 Nf6
5.Qe2 Nd4

This variation hails from the Marshall-Capablanca era.

6.Nxd4 exd4
7.e5

This diverts from the main line, 7.exf5+

7... Ng4
8.h3 Nh6
9.Nd1 Qe7
10.0-0



And with this, I lost radio contact with theory - the only two games on my database to go this far (Spassky-Bisguier 1955, and Jusic- Gyimesi 1991) both continued 10.c3

10... c6
11.Bc4 d5
12.Bb3 Be6
13.Re1 Nf7
14.c3 Qh4

Time for a burst of play up the left wing.



Games Column

by Bernard Milligan

15.d3 **Bc5**
 With some support play from the inside-right.
16.cxd4 **Bxd4**
17.Be3 **Bxe3**
18.Nxe3



Two red cards, but not a dirty match.

18... **0-0**
19.Nf1 **f4**
 A simple, but effective pass.
20.Nd2 **Ng5**
21.Nf3 **Nxh3+!**

And now the knight makes a telling run from deep in its own half.

22.gxh3 **Qxh3**

Allowing the main striker to home in on goal.

23.Bd1 **Rf5**
 Another attacker arrives from deep.
24.Qf1 **Qh6**
25.Qg2 **Rh5**



Interchanging attackers to pull defenders out of position.

26.Nh2 **Rg5**
27.Bg4 **Bxg4**
28.Nxg4 **Qg6**

29.f3 **h5**
 Fewer players on the field, but still plenty of threats.
30.Qh3 **Qxd3**
31.Rad1 **Qg6**
32.Rd2 **hxg4**
 Regaining the sacrificed material with interest - Black continues to control the play.

33.fxg4 **Re8**
34.Rg2 **Rgx5**
35.Rxe5 **Rxe5**
36.g5 **Qe4**
37.Qc8+ **Re8**
38.Qh3 **Qe3+**



Eliminates any White counterplay and sets up an irresistible central thrust towards the White goal-line.

39.Qxe3 **fxe3**
40.Kf1 **d4**
41.Ke2 **c5**
42.Ke1 **d3**
43.Rg3 **c4**
44.a4 **Re6**
45.Rh3 **e2**
46.Rh1 **Rb6**
0-1

And a little pressure on the right flank concludes the earlier left-wing and central attacking formations.

BM: Has Iain started a trend here? Will my postbag now be flooded with strangely annotated games where the moves are compared to trout fishing or the likes??!!



And we round off with another contribution from George Pyrich. In one of our games I joked with George that strong players play 1.d4 when he played the same opening move against me as appears in this game. From the depth of annotation I think George pretty well knows what he is doing.

Reg Gillman Memorial, 1999

White: I Priedite

Black: G Pyrich

Nimzowitsch-Larsen Opening [A01]

[Annotator George Pyrich]

1.b3

Perfectly playable, of course!

1... **e5**
2.Bb2 **Nc6**
3.c4 **f5**
4.e3 **Nf6**
5.Nc3 **g6**

Alternately 5...d6 6.d3 g6 7.Nf3 Bg7 8.Be2 0-0 9.0-0 h6 10.Nd5 Ne7 11.d4? (much better 11.Nxf6+) 11...Nexd5 12.cxd5 e4 13.Nd2 Nxd5 14.Bc4 c6 15.Bxd5+ cxd5 16.f4 when Black was much better in De Andrade - Van Riemsdijk, Sao Paulo 1995

6.g3

I didn't really expect White to play 6.d4 exd4 7.exd4 Bg7 8.d5 Ne4 9.Qc1 Ne5 10.f4?? (Much better was 10.Qc2 when it's about equal) 10...Qh4+ winning for Black in Plaskett- Spassky, London 1980; 6.d3 is interesting. White can a number of different setups - Be2 or Bg2, O-O or O-O-O (after Qd2 or Qc2) - which is best is hard to say!

6... **Bg7**

7.d4!





Games Column

by Bernard Milligan

Already a surprise and a good move. I'd expected something like 7.Bg2 0-0 8.Nge2 d6 9.d3 Be6 10.Nd5 Bf7 11.0-0 Nxd5 12.cxd5 Ne7 13.e4 Qd7 14.Rc1 Bh6 15.f4 with rough equality.

7... e4!?

The alternative 7...d6 8.dxe5 Nxe5 9.Bg2 0-0 10.Nge2 c6 11.0-0 is maybe slightly better for White; but 7...exd4 8.exd4 Ne4! with equality is better.

8.Nge2

8.d5!? Ne5 9.d6 c6 10.Qd2 0-0 11.0-0-0 is unclear.

8... d6

9.Nf4 Ne7

Better than 9...0-0 10.h4 Ne7 11.h5 g5 12.h6 Bh8 13.Nh3 g4 14.Nf4 c6 15.Qd2 d5 when White is better; and 9...g5?! cannot be correct 10.Nh5 Nxh5

11.Qxh5+ Kf8 and White stands well.

10.h4

10.d5! was perhaps stronger e.g.

10...Ng4 (not 10...c6? 11.dxc6 bxc6

12.Qd2 g5 13.Nh3 h6 14.Rd1 d5; or

10...0-0 11.h4 c6 12.dxc6 bxc6 13.Qd2

Qc7 14.Rd1 Rd8 15.Be2 which are both

good lines for White) 11.Be2 Ne5 when White has an edge.

10... h6

11.Be2

There were 2 interesting alternatives:

a) 11.Qd2 0-0 better than the other moves and

b) i) 11...c6 12.d5 c5 (12...g5? 13.hxg5 hxg5 14.Rxh8+ Bxh8 15.Nh3 g4 16.Nf4 when White is well on top) 13.h5 g5 14.Ne6 Bxe6 15.dxe6 0-0 16.0-0-0 with a clear plus for White;

ii) 11...Bd7 12.d5 Ng4 13.Be2 Ne5 14.0-0-0 a6 15.Kb1 0-0 16.g4 b5 (Maybe

16...Qe8 was better 17.gxf5 Bxf5

(17...gxf5 looks risky after 18.Rhg1)

18.Qc2 looks slightly better for White)

17.gxf5 Bxf5 18.cxb5 axb5 19.Nxb5

and Black has little for the pawn; 12.d5

a6 13.0-0-0 Qe8 14.Kb1 Rb8 15.Be2 b5

with slightly better chances for White.

11... 0-0

I didn't like 11...c6 12.d5 c5 13.Qd2 0-0

when again White has better chances

14.0-0-0

12.d5 a6

13.Qd2 Qe8

Maybe 13...Bd7 when 14.Rd1 b5!?

a) 14...Rb8 15.Ne6 Bxe6 16.dxe6 Qc8

17.Nd5 is clearly better for White;

b) 14...Qe8 15.c5 (15.Ne6) 15...Nc8 16.Bc4 b5 17.cxb6 Nxb6 is about equal; 15.cxb5 axb5 16.Bxb5 Bxb5 17.Nxb5 is unclear but probably fine for Black.

14.Kf1



14.c5!? leads to a murky position after

14...dxc5 15.d6 cxd6 16.Qxd6 Bd7

17.Qxc5 Rc8 18.Bc4+ Kh7 19.Qb6 Ng4

20.Qxb7

14...

Qf7

15.Kg2

Bd7

16.a4

Rae8

17.a5



17.Rad1 is equal after 17...Ng4 18.b4 g5

19.hxg5 hxg5 20.Nh5 Be5; but 17.c5!?

is interesting after 17...g5 (17...Ng4 is a

bit risky after 18.cxd6 cxd6 19.Bxg4

fxg4 20.Nxe4 Bxb2 21.Nxd6 Qf6

22.Nxe8 Rxe8; as is 17...dxc5 18.Ne6

c6 19.Nxf8 Bxf8 20.dxc6 Nxc6 21.Bc4

Be6 22.Bxe6 Qxe6) 18.hxg5 hxg5

19.cxd6 cxd6 (maybe 19...gxf4 can be

tried as after 20.dxe7 f3+ 21.Kg1 Rxe7

22.Bc4 Rd8 23.d6 Be6 24.Nd5 Rxd6

25.Nxe7+ Qxe7 26.Qc2 Rc6 27.a5 Bxc4

28.bxc4 Black might be ok) 20.Nh5

Nxh5 21.Bxh5 Ng6 22.Rac1 Rc8

23.Ne2 when White is a bit better.

17...

Ng4

18.c5

Definitely not 18.Bxg4? fxg4 19.Nxe4 Nxd5 with great attacking chances for Black e.g. 20.Nxd5

Rxe4 21.Bxg7 Kxg7 22.Nxc7 Bc6

23.Nd5 Qf3+ 24.Kg1 Re5 25.Rd1 Bxd5

26.cxd5 Rxe3 and the R can't be taken

as after 27.fxe3 Qxg3+ 28.Qg2 Qxe3+

29.Kh2 Rf2 Qh3+ is hard to meet.

18...

Ne5

18...Be5 allows 19.c6! bxc6 20.dxc6

Nxc6 21.Bc4 Be6 22.Nxe6 Rxe6

23.Nd5 Bxb2 24.Nxc7 and White is

almost winning.

19.b4

19.Ba3? loses after 19...Nf3 20.Bxf3

exf3+ 21.Kxf3 Bxc3 22.Qxc3 Nxd5

23.Nxd5 Qxd5+ 24.Ke2 Bb5+ when it's

all over; but 19.Na4 Nf3 (much better

than 19...Bxa4 20.Rxa4 Nf3 (20...dxc5?

21.Bxe5 Bxe5 22.Bc4 Bd6 23.Ne6 is

strong for White) 21.Qc2 Bxb2 22.Qxb2

and White is doing well) 20.Qc2 Be5

21.cxd6 cxd6 22.Nb6 is about equal.

19...

Nf3

20.Qd1

20.Bxf3 exf3+ 21.Kxf3 g5 22.hxg5

hxg5 23.cxd6 cxd6 24.Ne6 f4! is clearly

good for Black.

20...

g5

Better than 20...Be5 when 21.Bxf3

exf3+ 22.Qxf3 g5 23.hxg5 hxg5 24.Nd3

g4 25.Qd1 Bxc3 26.Bxc3 Qxd5+

27.Kg1 Ng6 28.Nf4 is fine for White.

21.hxg5

hxg5

22.Ne6

22.Nh5 Be5 23.cxd6 cxd6 is slightly

better for Black.

22...

Bxe6

23.dxe6

Qxe6

24.cxd6

24.Bxf3 exf3+ 25.Qxf3 dxc5 26.bxc5 g4

is also good for Black.

24...

cxd6

25.Bxf3

exf3+

26.Qxf3

g4

27.Qd1



Games Column

by Bernard Milligan



27.Qxb7?? Rb8 28.Qxa6 Rxb4 29.Qe2 Qc8 and Black wins.

27... Rc8

Black has an edge now.

28.Na4

28.Rc1 Nc6 29.Qd2 Nxb4 30.Ba3 Nc6 was no better.

28... Nd5

29.Qb1

Better was 29.Bxg7! when 29...Qe4+ 30.Kg1 Kxg7 31.Nb6 Rh8 32.Rxh8 Rxh8 33.Qd4+ Qxd4 is unclear but likely equal 34.exd4 Nxb6 35.axb6 Rc8 36.Re1=

29... Rc4

30.Bxg7 Kxg7

31.Ra3



Better is 31.Nb6! Nxb6 (31...Rxb4 32.Qd3 Rb5 33.Rad1 Nxb6 34.Qc3+ Kg6 (34...Qe5?? 35.Qc7++-) 35.Qc7 Rf7 36.Rxd6 Rxc7 37.Rxe6+ Kf7 38.Rxb6 Rxb6 39.Rh7+=) 32.axb6 Qd5+ 33.Kg1 Rfc8 34.Qb2+ Qe5 35.Qxe5+ dxe5 36.Rd1 R8c6 37.Rd7+ Kg6 38.Rhh7 Rxb6 39.Rhg7+ Kh5 40.Rh7+ Kg5 41.Rhg7+ Rg6 42.Rxg6+ Kxg6 43.Rxb7 Rc1+ 44.Kg2 Rb1 45.Rb6+ Kg5 46.Rxa6 Rxb4=

31... Rfc8!±

32.Rd1

32.Qa1+ Kg6

32... Rh8

32...Rxb4 33.Qd3

33.Rb3

The only move. 33.Rh1 Nxe3+ 34.Rxe3 Qd5+ 35.f3 Qd2+ 36.Re2 Qxe2+ 37.Kg1 Qe3+ 38.Kg2 gxf3+ 39.Kf1 Rxh1#; 33.Qd3 Nxb4 34.Qxd6 Qe4++

33... Qh6

34.Rh1 Qxh1+

35.Qxh1

Rxh1

36.Kxh1

Kf6!

Development advantage.

37.Nb6

37.Kg2 Rxb4 38.Rxb4 Nxb4 39.f3 Nc6 40.fxg4 fxg4 41.Nb6 Nxa5 42.Kf2 Ke5+

37...

Nxb6

38.axb6

Ke5

With an advantage in development.

38...Rc6 39.Rd3 Rxb6 40.Rd4 Ke5 41.Kg2 d5 42.f4+ Ke6 43.Kf2 Rc6 44.Rd2 Rc4 45.Rb2 d4 46.exd4 Kd5 47.Re2 Rxb4 48.Re5+ Kxd4 49.Rxf5 Rb2+ 50.Kg1 b5 51.Rg5 b4 52.Rxg4 b3+

39.Kg2

39.b5 a5 40.Ra3 a4 41.Rd3 Rb4 42.Ra3 Kd5+

39...

Kd5

40.f3

Not the best move here and it helped my cause.

40...

Rc2+

41.Kf1

gxf3

42.b5

42.Rd3+ Kc6 43.Rd4 Rg2 44.Rf4 Rxg3 45.Rxf5 Kxb6+

42...

axb5

0-1

An enjoyable game where I felt I got a bit lucky when Ingrida played a few passive moves.



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<http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html>

Our first subject this time is Mark Crowther's legendary site, "The Week in Chess". Mark's career took a turn for the better when he changed his name from Leslie to avoid being badgered for Crackerjack pencils by schoolchildren up and down the country. He's living more quietly now, and producing good stuff.

To get to the TWIC site, you need to run the gauntlet of the London Chess Center (sic) which sponsors it. This is the web version of the Euston Road, London emporium run by chess entrepreneur Malcolm Pein, who, as far as I know, has never had to change his name. He has, however, now opened another branch of the shop in West Palm Beach, Florida, just in case you're passing.

The Chess Center is certainly a commercial enterprise, with flashing ads for software and books constantly coming at you, and a suggestive shopping trolley making beguiling overtures. I'm already a "Chess Monthly" subscriber, so I was fortunately able to spurn these advances with minimal damage to both conscience and wallet.

At the time I visited, TWIC360 was current - that's the 360th weekly magazine of chess news and games collections. Every Monday, there's another painstakingly compiled edition of tournaments, news, interviews, and lashings of top-class games from all over the world available for you to download free.

This service is really excellent, and I commend you to try it if you haven't already visited. News is distributed in both HTML (web) and text format, while the games are in both PGN and ChessBase notation. Roughly the last three years worth of magazines are available for download, and there is an index of events, articles and interviews for 2000 and 2001 to help you locate anything of particular interest.

TWIC is a busy site, and I heard a tale of 6 computer servers being needed to handle the load at peak periods such as world championships and mega-tournaments. This being so, the Chess Center is certainly a bountiful sponsor, but equally, TWIC beats conventional advertising in terms of getting customers to the door!

Supporting Mark's herculean efforts are a couple of other weel-kent chess authors - John Watson (happily recovered from a stroke) and John Henderson.

John Watson handles the book reviews section of the site, and, in my opinion, writes with authority and objectivity on the worth of theory and analysis provided by current chess authors. He is both an accomplished player and author in his own right (he has published "Secrets of Modern Chess Strategy" and "Guide to the Modern Benoni" - definitely a modernist). John provides good insight into the thought patterns of player/writers and their practicality for most mainstream chess players and potential readers.

John Henderson is no stranger to the Scottish chess community, and was previously associated with Malcolm Pein when running Chess Suppliers (Scotland) in Glasgow for a spell. These days, John is a well travelled chess journalist who pops up in any number of magazines and newspapers, covering events and player interviews in all corners of the globe. John's output is prolific, and he always manages to find some item of interest or humour to enliven his articles. (I first met John resplendent in Bermuda shorts playing in the Scottish Championships at St Andrews. I last met him looking less colourful on his way out of Tynecastle, but that location does take its toll of you...)

I hadn't realised until recently that TWIC does an obituaries column. I suppose there are enough Popovs to justify one, but it's still a sombre section amid the more upbeat news of tournament thrills and spills. Still, the tone is somewhat lightened by some illustrative games from the departed masters, and it put me in mind of Tony Santasiere's "Romantic King's Gambit" book. This was published after the author's death in 1974, and is a lovely example of how to celebrate a spirited life rather than mourn a death.

The final element of TWIC that I looked at was their "Fantasy Chess League". This is a truly daft section which follows the themes made popular by newspaper games based on football and cricket. In this variation, the theoretical novelty is to predict the results of matches in the German Chess Bundesliga. I may be in a minority here, but my interest level in doing that remained resolutely zero. My good wishes to those of you who take up the challenge, but I dread being caught in a corner by someone telling me how good they were at playing it...!

Overall, this site fully justifies its reputation for being bang up-to-date and informative. TWIC's coverage is graphic, and its commentary is invariably lucid and entertaining. If I carped a little about the advertising, the obits and the fantasiers, then think of it as no more than minor grumblings from a trainee curmudgeon. Mark Crowther is to be complimented in originating and sustaining over many years such a quality offering!



chess publishing

(<http://www.chesspublishing.com/>)

Chess Publishing is a companion site to TWIC, and part of Malcolm Pein's stable of revenue-earning chess enterprises (The US Chess Federation also have some part to play here, but I didn't check whether they were part-owners or merely agents). Although you can browse parts of the site as a guest, access to the vast library of materials is by subscription (fees are detailed below).

The basic idea of the site is to categorise the ECO classification of chess openings into 12 main sections (slightly confusingly known as sites), each presided over by an expert writer and annotator who constantly updates his tranche with analysis of recent games and theoretical innovations. It's a kind of online Informator, and the method of organisation and depth of analysis make it of interest to both CC and OTB players.

The 12 tranches are as follows:

1. 1.e4 e5
2. French
3. Sicilian Dragons
4. Open Sicilians
5. Anti-Sicilians
6. Hard-Hitting Defences to 1.e4
7. 1.d4 d5
8. d-pawn Specials
9. King's Indian
10. Nimzo and Benoni Systems
11. Daring Defences
12. Flank Openings

The authors are mainly from the UK GM and IM school, and I noted Paul Motwani, Andrew Martin, Aaron Summerscale, Bogdan Lalic, Tony Kosten and Ian Rogers among the credits. There are now more than 5000 pages on the site, packed with GM annotations and insights.

I browsed a number of sample games from the website and was amused to see that the method of animation was identical to that used for annotated games on the SCCA website - the javascript code and board graphics supplied by ChessBase 8. As an alternative to ChessBase, the games can also be read by ChessPub, a proprietary PGN-format reader which can be downloaded from the Chess Publishing site.

The depth of annotation was good (you might argue it always is in the shop window, but I think this window is representative of the inside of the shop), and the sources of the insights were wide and authoritative. The various sections of the site are updated at least monthly.

There are three main fee bands for paying customers:

- a. Single site, £14 per annum
- b. Three sites, £28 per annum
- c. Twelve sites, £70 per annum

Malcolm will cheerfully take your dollars or euros if you prefer. Once you have joined, you are allocated a username (of your own choosing) and a password in order to protect your privileges. Microsoft's Internet Explorer is the recommended browser (it handles the animated games better than Netscape).

Members are able to influence which material gets priority attention by voting each month for the opening variation or line which they would most like to see enhanced. When changes are made, members are alerted by means of an email bulletin service.

Managing all this information can be something of a headache, and newcomers are probably best advised to go for the single or three-site options until they gain experience of sifting through what's really important to their playing needs.

Andrew Martin has helpfully dispensed some free advice on opening repertoires based on his own coaching experience. I repeat these here for reference - you may find them useful even if you don't end up subscribing.

Strategic Repertoire. For White, 1.e4 and then the Bishop Opening; the c3 Sicilian; French Tarrasch; Caro Kann Exchange; Scandinavian (d4 deferred); Pirc Classical; Alekhine (4.Nf3); and Nimzowitsch (2.d4). For Black, against 1.e4, play e5 and then the Marshall Gambit against the Ruy Lopez, and against 1.d4 Nf6 and the King's Indian.

Limited Time Repertoire. For White, the Trompowski. For Black, the Scandinavian (against 1.e4) and Slav systems (against 1.d4).

Unorthodox Repertoire. For White, Bird's Opening. For Black, the Nimzowitsch (against 1.e4) and 1... Nc6 (against anything else!).

Gambit Repertoire. For White, the Blackmar Diemar. For Black, the Scandinavian (against 1.e4) and the Tarrasch, Von Hennig-Schara (against 1.d4).

Conceptually, this site is a good application of web technology to chess openings, combining the explanatory ideas found in books with the rapid refresh of new games to maintain currency of ideas. For less than the price of an average book, you can take a year's subscription to a single site and try it for size.



Website Reviews

by Iain Mackintosh



Chess in India has taken off in a big way since the success of Viswanathan Anand in securing the FIDE world championship. With its huge population, it is surely only a short time before Vishy is joined by more super-GMs. Here we look at a couple of Indian websites - Chess Mate, which is largely aimed at the Indian OTB population, and AICCF, which is the home of the All-Indian Correspondence Chess Federation.



<http://www.chess-mate.com/>

This site opens with the exhortation to "Become a Woman IM!!". I've been instructed to do a few things since I took this job, but this wasn't one of them. What are these guys up to? Is Vishy lonely over there? Was this what transcendental meditation was meant to deliver?

Closer inspection reveals that all you have to do is win the national girls championship to more or less bag WIM status, though there are no instructions as to how to enter if you didn't have the foresight to be born with the correct gender. With all the debate about chess being treated as a sport by the Olympians, and the consequent imposition of drug and gender testing, this site is one to keep an eye on...

More restfully, I turned to the chess academy page, which looked a great idea in such a vast country. Manuel Aaron runs it, and gets his members to play games against each other which are then analysed and commented on by trainers. Each member receives a daily tactical exercise sheet to test analytical and problem-solving abilities. Online access is given to ChessBase and Fritz - another good idea in a country where many individuals can't afford the licences.

Another Aaron, this time Arvind, runs the publicity side of things, and has compiled a paean of praise dedicated to the aforementioned Viswanathan Anand (Vishy wins, Arvind eats). Arvind has also done some talent spotting, picking out Pentyata Harikrishna and Koneru Humpy as the boy and girl respectively most likely to follow Anand's route to the top - it will be interesting to see if they succeed as predicted.

Over the last 15 years, the Indian subcontinent has won enormous business in the computer industry by turning out squads of highly numerate and logical analysts and programmers. Chess skills demand similar qualities, and production of chess websites are inevitable when the two streams mix. This site is more enthusiastic than professional at present, but it is off to a very encouraging start, and I expect it to be a powerhouse over the next few years.



<http://www.geocities.com/aiccf>

AICCF have been developing their website and bulletin in the same timeframe as ourselves in Scotland, and I've swapped material with Dr Ambar Chatterjee in recent months to share ideas and experiences. You'll enjoy his letterbox picture if you make it to the AICCF homepage!

In the last year or so, Yahoo, in keeping with most internet service providers, have given Geocities users lots more disk space to play with. This has allowed Ambar and Santhosh Paul to expand their horizons and fully upload the two most recent editions of the bulletin to their site. The use of colour and graphics makes this service very appealing, and they have tried to avoid slow download times by dividing each bulletin into three chunks.

Interesting features from the bulletin include the Auto-chessography, where players give biopics of themselves, including their grading development (graphically plotted over time), their favourite books, openings, games, chess quotes, etc.

Extensive rating tables are available on the site, and there are games collections from the championships and bulletin back numbers available for downloading in PGN format. The games are entertaining and the quality of analysis is good.

There is a picture gallery of some officials, and I came across a snapshot of Vikrant Chole who I played in the friendly international between our two countries in recent times (I'm aging rather more rapidly than he...). Also spotted was the AICCF champion Anil Kumar, who finished 2nd to Doug Finnie in the Reg Gilman Memorial section D.

The AICCF website, like Chess Mate, is growing rapidly, and is sure to become a cornerstone of CC in India. With such a large Indian population worldwide, it will perform a valuable service in linking together Indian players and their many chess friends. Ambar deserves congratulations for his excellent work so far!



SCCA Bulletin 21st Anniversary

by George Pyrich

SCCA Bulletin/Magazine 1980-2001

Edition 72 was the last published under the editorship of Alan Borwell, assisted by his wife Moira. Alan had been involved in producing every edition from number 1 in January, 1980. The magazine of course continues in both email and printed format, but we thought it fitting that we should hold an anniversary tournament to celebrate the "coming of age" of the SCCA's premier publication! Even more fittingly, shortly after the commencement of play, Alan was made Honorary Life President at the 2001 AGM, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to CC in Scotland and internationally. He's not playing in the event, but he is acting as TD!

Bulletin 21st (SIM Norm 11; IM Norm 10)				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Pts
	1	A J C Rawlings	ENG	■											0				0
	2	C J Lennox	SCO		■														
	3	C M Fordham-Hall	ENG			■													
	4	R P Marconi	CAN				■												
	5	B Milligan	SCO					■		0						½			½
	6	C R Beecham	SCO						■										
	7	D Blair	IRL					1		■					½				1½
	8	N Gurtovoi	LAT								■								
	9	S Tatlow	ENG									■							
	10	J J Mackie	AUS										■						
	11	G D Pyrich	SCO											■	½				½
	12	I Mackintosh	SCO	1						½				½	■	½	½		3
	13	J F Campbell	USA					½						½	■				1
	14	G R Sprott	SCO											½		■			½
	15	E Greiner	USA															■	

Latest Updates

Early results in this event are mostly draws, but Bernard Milligan managed to blunder against David Blair, and Iain Mackintosh won a nice attacking game versus Alan Rawlings. A cessation of play was held from 13-19 September, in line with ICCF events, as a mark of respect following the tragedy in the US.

ICCF Page



<http://www.iccf.com>

Members of the Scottish CCA are eligible to play in ICCF postal and email tournaments, which cover European and World, Open (O - under 1900), Higher (H - 1900-2100) and Master (M - over 2100) classes. Entries to H or M class events for the first time require evidence of grading strength, or promotion from a lower class. O and H classes have 7 players/section, with M class having 11. It is possible to interchange between postal and email events when promotion from a class has been obtained.

New World Cup tournaments start every 2-3 years, with 11-player sections of all grading strengths, and promotion to 1/2 finals and final. Winners proceed to the Semi-Finals, and winners of these qualify for a World Cup Final. The entry fee covers all stages of the event, and multiple entries are allowed, though Semi-Finals are restricted to 2 places per individual.

Master Norm tournaments with 11-player sections are available for strong players, using airmail or email. Entry level is fixed ICCF rating of 2300+, (2000 ladies); non-fixed ICCF 2350+ (2050 ladies); or FIDE 2350+ (2050 ladies); while medal winners (outright winners ladies) in national championships are also eligible. A player can enter only one postal section and one email section per year. Section winners who do not achieve norms receive entry to a World Championship Semi-Final.

International numeric notation is the standard for postal events, while PGN is recommended for email play. Playing rules and time limits are provided for each event, and the usual postal limit is 30 days per 10 moves, with up to 30 days leave per calendar year. To speed progress, air mail stickers should be used to Europe as well as international destinations, as the postal rates are not increased as a result. Please be aware that some patience is required, as games may take up to 3 years against opponents in countries with poor mail services. Silent withdrawal is bad etiquette! International CC postcards are recommended, and can be obtained from Chess Suppliers (Scotland). The introduction of email is now speeding up many events, and making it cheaper to play in most cases. Generally, you should play less email games simultaneously than postal because of the faster play.

A prerequisite for entry via the SCCA is that the player is, and continues to be, a full member of the SCCA for the duration of the tournament. We wish you great enjoyment from your overseas games, and from making new chess friendships!

Current tournament fees are shown on the ICCF Index page of the SCCA website, and all Scottish players competing in ICCF events have bookmarks from the SCCA site to the relevant ICCF cross-table for easy checking of results. The SCCA international secretary can advise on all aspects of play, how to enter, current entry fees, etc. Email: international@scottishcca.co.uk

ICCF Thematics

Entries by 15 October 2001; play starts 15 December 2001
2001/14. Lisitsin Opening, A04
1.Nf3 f5 2.e4 fxe4 3.Ng5 d5

Entries by 15 October 2001; play starts 15 December 2001
2001/15. Sicilian Defence Wing Gambit, B20
1.e4 c5 2.b4

Entries by 15 December 2001; play starts 1 February 2002
2002/1. Reti, A09
1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 d4

Entries by 15 December 2001; play starts 1 February 2002
2002/2. Catalan, E04/05
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 dxc4 5.Nf3

Entries by 15 January 2002; play starts 15 March 2002
2002/3. Irregular, B00
1.e4 b6 2.d4 Bb7 3.Bd3 f5

Entries by 15 January 2002; play starts 15 March 2002
2002/4. Chigorin Defence, D07
1.d4 d5 2.c4 Nc6

Interested? Email: international@scottishcca.co.uk

New ICCF World Champion

Congratulations to Gert Jan Timmerman of the Netherlands, who has won the XV World Championship with an uncatchable 12/16!

ICCF Webmaster

Søren Peschard of Denmark is standing down after three successful years as ICCF webmaster. The sheer volume of updates to the ICCF tournament tables makes this a very demanding job, and the extra volume of work from the Jubilee events now makes it daunting indeed.

Søren is such a hard act to follow that no less than three replacements were announced at Rimini! (Will there be a simultaneous demonstration of how to fill his shoes...?!)

Evelyn Radosztics, wife of the Austrian ICCF delegate is the new webmaster (surely that should now be webperson?!), assisted by two Italian volunteers - Marina Luz Tinjaca' and Marco Caressa. Two ladies, caressa'd by Marco? It could never happen in Scotland!