

Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No.84

Winter 2003

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- 7 pages of well-annotated games!
- **Seasonal Snippets**
- assorted tales from the chess world

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First, let me wish you all a very happy and successful 2004! We can surely use the magnificent performance of OTB GM Jonathan Rowson at Hastings for inspiration this year!

As usual with the last edition of the season, we steal some time from the new year to round up our domestic results, and Jim once more provides all the statistics.

We distributed the Silver Jubilee badges with renewal notices, and they seemed to be well received. Contact Jim if you haven't received yours yet!

We have been taking some late entries for 2004 events, and apologies to those of you who had trouble with the online application form on the website. Happily, this is now working ok once more. Pairings are now more or less complete, and you can check details on our website.

We feature a couple of new overseas contributors this time. Appropriately, just before our friendly international against Romania kicks off, one of the organisers, Zsolt Karacsony, has submitted a selection of his games. In addition, the German player Martin Benedik describes for us his well-received novelty in the Sicilian Dragon.

George has put together his report on the recent ICCF Congress in Ostrava, and it features photographs of some retiring and some not so retiring gentlemen!

Bernard has yet again supplied an excellent Games Column and he also looks at all the recent ChessBase CD releases.

Finally in this issue, there are a few whimsical chess tales from various sources to add to your fireside reading.

Activity on our website continues to be very healthy. We have now started a picture gallery, which we'll be adding to during the year, and we have also introduced the first of our anti-spam measures around the email addresses we hold on the site. These will be progressively strengthened.

We still have some copies of the ICCF Gold book for sale - it's great value for money, and George Pyrich will be delighted to accept your orders (£14.99 inc p&p)! Contact George directly using one of the methods below.

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SCCA 100 Club

Stuart Mackenzie writes:

The 100 Club is an important means of income for the SCCA, and units can be bought for £1 per month. Bank mandates are the easiest method of subscribing. Two prizes are awarded each month. To join, please get in touch with the SCCA treasurer using one of the methods below.

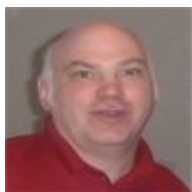
Recent 100 Club Winners

Here are the last big earners of 2003, who single-handedly boosted retail sales over the Christmas period:

2003	1st	2nd
December	J Anderson	W M Cook
November	P M Giulian	C M Dowell
October	G D Pyrich	J S Murray

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2003 Results

By Jim Anderson

Championship

2002/2003		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Pts
1	Brown, Dr A C	■	1	½	1	½	1	1	5
2	Cumming, D R	0	■	½	0	0	0	½	1
3	Edney, D	½	½	■	½	½	½	½	3
4	Goodwin, B	0	1	½	■	0	1	½	3
5	Lloyd, G	½	1	½	1	■	1	0	4
6	Mackintosh, I	0	1	½	0	0	■	½	2
7	May, M A	0	½	½	½	1	½	■	3

2003/2004		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Pts
1	Brown, Dr A C	■	1		1	½			1		1	½	5
2	Cumming, D R	0	■	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Edney, D		1	■	1		1			½		0	3½
4	Henderson, B	0	1	0	■	0	0	0	0	0	½	0	1½
5	Lennox, C J	½	1		1	■		0			½	½	3½
6	Lloyd, G		1	0	1		■			1			3
7	Mackintosh, I		1		1	1		■	1	1		0	5
8	Maxwell, A	0	1		1			0	■		½		2½
9	May, M A		1	½	1		0	0		■		½	3
10	Norris, Rev A C	0	1		½	½			½		■	0	2½
11	Reeman, I F	½	1	1	1	½		1		½	1	■	6½

Confirmation of Alan Brown's first title in 2003. Ian Reeman is setting the pace currently, with Brown and Mackintosh in hot pursuit. Entrants in 2004-05 are Brown, Cumming, Edney, Goodwin, Lloyd, Mackintosh, May, Norris and Reeman.

Candidates

2002/2003		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Pts
1	Beacon, R	■	½	1	½	½	½	0	0	1	4
2	Henderson, B	½	■	1	1	1	1	0	½	1	6
3	Thompson, B	0	0	■	1	0	1	0	0	1	3
4	Cook, W M	½	0	0	■	½	½	0	0	0	1½
5	Cumming, D R	½	0	1	½	■	1	0	½	0	3½
6	Young, S M	½	0	0	½	0	■	0	½	½	2
7	Lloyd, G	1	1	1	1	1	1	■	½	1	7½
8	Harvey, D	1	½	1	1	½	½	½	■	0	5
9	Anderson, J	0	0	0	1	1	½	0	1	■	3½

2003/2004		1	2	3	4	5	6	Pts
1	Cumming, D R	■		0	0			0
2	Franks, K		■					
3	Lloyd, G	1		■				1
4	MacDonald, P H	1			■	½		1½
5	Thompson, B				½	■		½
6	Young, S M						■	

Geoff Lloyd just missed a maximum in 2003, drawing with Doug Harvey. It's early days yet in 2003-04. Entrants in 2004-05 are Anderson, Bird (A G E), Cumming, Dawson (A G), Lees (J), Thompson and Young.

Premiers

2003 Section A		1	2	3	4	Pts
1	Armstrong, J McK	■	0	0	0	0
2	Cook, W M	1	■	1	0	2
3	Dowell, C M	1	0	■	0	1
4	Ross, D	1	1	1	■	3

2003 Section B		1	2	3	4	Pts
1	Bird, A G E	■	½	1	1	2½
2	Lees, J	½	■	1	1	2½
3	McAinsh, T F	0	0	■	1	1
4	Rawlinson, J	0	0	0	■	0

In Section A, Derek Ross hit the 100% mark, but it was much tighter in Section B where Alex Bird and Jim Lees shared the spoils. Entrants in 2004 are Armstrong, Bird (A G E), Cook, Crawley, Crichton, Knox, Loughran, McAinsh, Moir and Young competing in just the one section.

Majors

2003 Section A		1	2	3	4	5	Pts
1	Armstrong, J McK	■	0 ½	0 0	1 0	1 0	2½
2	Coope, D W	1 ½	■	1 0	0 0	1 0	3½
3	Crawley, J	1 1	0 1	■	1 ½	1 1	6½
4	Grant, J	0 1	1 1	0 ½	■	1 1	5½
5	Miller, S	0 1	0 1	0 0	0 0	■	2

2003 Section B		1	2	3	4	5	Pts
1	Kilgour, J W	■	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	0
2	Knox, A	0 0	■	0 0	0 0	0 0	0
3	Loughran, R	1 1	1 1	■	0 0	0 ½	4½
4	Moir, P J	1 1	1 1	1 1	■	0 ½	6½
5	Morrow, J	1 1	1 1	1 ½	1 ½	■	7

In Section A, John Crawley finished a point ahead of John Grant, while in Section B, Joseph Morrow just pipped Pat Moir in a close finish. Entrants in 2004 are Kennedy, Kilgour, Moir and Morrow (Section A), plus Armstrong, BurrIDGE, Cormack and Dowell (Section B).

Minors

2003		1	2	3	4	Pts
1	Armstrong, J McK	■	1 1	0 0	0 0	2
2	Domnin, M	0 0	■	0 0	0 ½	½
3	Kennedy, G	1 1	1 1	■	1 1	6
4	Moir, P J	1 1	1 ½	0 0	■	3½

Gordon Kennedy got a perfect score here, and deservedly gets a Majors place. Entrants in 2004 are Anderson, BurrIDGE, Hart, Hunter, Kennedy and Milne (Section A), plus Armstrong, Dawson, Domnin, Grant and Moir (Section B).

The **Openings** Tournament wasn't played last year, while the **Quartets** section Q211 suffered from slow results reporting due to the abduction by aliens of the controller. We'll bring you the final table in a later issue. **Quartets** entrants in 2004 are BurrIDGE, Cumming, Dawson and Moir.

Challenge

Medal-winners for 2003 were **David Edney**, who gained promotion to class 1, and **Geoff Lloyd**. David Cumming narrowly missed out, and would have won something had there been more entries. Richard James moved to class 3. Entrants for 2004 so far are Cumming, Edney, Ellis, Grant, Jack, Lloyd, McKinsty and Phillips.

League Division 1

2003		Opponent	Game A	Game B	Points
A	Black Knight				7
1	Pyrich, G D	E1	½	½	1
2	May, M A	D2	½	½	1
3	Reeman, I F	C3	1	1	2
4	Hislop, A T	B4	½	½	1
5	Marshall, I H	F5	1	1	2
B	Knights of the Board				3
1	Cumming, D R	D1	0	0	0
2	Lloyd, G	C2	1	1	2
3	Armstrong, A	F3	0	0	0
4	Loughran, R	A4	½	½	1
5	Coope, D W	E5	0	0	0
C	The Exiles				1½
1	Franks, K	F1	½	1	1½
2	Ruston, A	B2	0	0	0
3	Tatam, A	A3	0	0	0
4	Heath, P	E4	0	0	0
5	Jones, G	D5	0	0	0
D	Social Stars				6½
1	Malbon, P	B1	1	1	2
2	Doye, P	A2	½	½	1
3	Price, D	E3	0	0	0
4	Lees, J	F4	½	1	1½
5	Rosser, G C	C5	1	1	2
E	Five Brave Englishmen				8
1	Chambers, D	C1	½	½	1
2	Sowden, E C	E2	½	½	1
3	Rawlings, A J	B3	1	1	2
4	Barnes, D J R	D4	1	1	2
5	Robertshaw, A	A5	1	1	2
F	Perth Correspondents				4
1	Borwell, A P	B1	½	0	½
2	Mackintosh, I	A2	½	½	1
3	Brown, Dr A C	E3	1	1	2
4	Harvey, D J	F4	½	0	½
5	Mitchell, I W S	C5	0	0	0

League Division 2

2003		Oppt.	Game A	Game B	Oppt.	Game A	Game B	Pts.
A	Knights of the Board							9½
1	Stevenson, F	B1	0	0	C1	0	0	0
2	Burnett, R	B2	0	½	C2	0	1	1½
3	Anderson, J	B3	0	½	C3	0	½	1
4	Morrow, J	B4	1	1	C4	1	1	4
5	Moir, P J	B5	½	1	C5	1	1	3½
B	Social Climbers							9
1	Ruston, A	A1	½	1	C1	1	1	3½
2	Pomeroy, R	A2	1	½	C2	1	0	2½
3	Richardson, D	A3	0	0	C3	0	0	0
4	Draisey, J	A4	0	0	C4	0	½	½
5	Ash, G	A5	½	0	C5	1	1	2½
C	Brutal Realism							10
1	Murray, J S	A1	1	1	B1	½	0	2½
2	Thomson, A	A2	1	0	B2	0	1	2
3	Taylor, W	A3	1	½	B3	1	1	3½
4	Hand, W	A4	0	0	B4	1	½	1½
5	James, CR	A5	0	0	B5	0	½	½



Games from Romania

By Zsolt Karacsony

[Editor's note: readers will note that there is a price to be paid for being drawn against me in international CC events! One of my opponents in the XV Olympiad was the young Romanian player Zsolt Karacsony, who has contributed some biopic notes and a collection of his games. He has also helped to organise a friendly match between our two countries which will start in January, 2004.]



Introduction

I was born in 1980 in Oradea, a nice town with over 200,000 inhabitants, situated in the west side of Romania.

Both of my parents are mathematicians. My mother works as a database administrator in state administration and my father as lecturer in an Informatics training centre.

During school I liked mathematics too, and I continued to study it at university. This year (2003) I finished my studies and became a mathematician too. Because my results at university were remarkable, I succeeded in getting a good job at university - I'm working as an assistant in applied mathematics.

I speak in three languages: well in Romanian and Hungarian and a little in English.

I began to learn and play chess relatively late, after the anti-communist revolution (December 1989). At first I played in youth and local tournaments only, then I tried national and international tournaments too. In 1998 I got my first FIDE rating for my good results at two international events in Yugoslavia and Hungary.

I've played correspondence chess since 1995. I read in a local newspaper that a regional championship was beginning. I entered and I became the regional champion. This was a very important moment, and I saw that I could reach a higher level. I started in national tournaments and I won the first edition of the one of the greatest internal tournaments "The Medicine Cup" in 1998.

I started to play email tournaments in 2000 in "Tavsakk and Chessclinic Cup" initiated by Hungarian master Attila Schneider where I easily qualified from my group to the final. It was the moment when I understood that I could obtain good results at international tournaments too. Unfortunately this tournament was abandoned after the sudden death of the organizer.

Now I'm playing in several international tournaments: 15th Olympiad Preliminaries [Ed: 7/10 and chasing an IM norm!], ICCF Open Email Jubilee quarterfinals, and in a master group. Not long ago I finished my games in ICCF Champions League where I played on board 1 in team Telaxoza. [Ed: Zsolt scored 5½/10 and his team lie 3rd in group 13.]

XV Olympiad Preliminaries

Karacsony,Z (2200) - Kourkounakis,I (2389) [B22]
CCO15S1B6 ICCF Email, 2003

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bb5 Bd7 9.Nc3 dxe5 10.dxe5 a6 11.Be2 Bf5 12.Be3 Nd7 13.Nd4 Nxd4 14.Qxd4 e6 15.Rd1 Qc7 16.0-0 Be7 17.Bf4 Bc5 18.Qa4 Ra7 19.Bg5! b5



20.Bxb5!! axb5 21.Nxb5 Qc6 22.Nd6+ Qxd6 23.Qxa7 Bxa7 24.Rxd6 f6 25.Rfd1 Nxe5 26.Rd8+ Kf7 27.Rxb8 fxb8 28.Ra8 Bb6 29.Rb8 Bc5 30.Rb5 1-0

Karacsony,Z (2200) - Spooner,M (2240) [B22]
CCO15S1B6 ICCF Email, 2003

1.e4 c5 2.c3 d5 3.exd5 Qxd5 4.d4 Nf6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Be2 e6 7.0-0 cxd4 8.cxd4 Be7 9.Nc3 Qd6 10.h3 Bxf3 11.Bxf3 Nc6 12.d5 exd5 13.Nxd5 Nxd5 14.Qxd5 0-0 15.Be3 Qb4 16.a3 Qxb2 17.Rab1 Qf6 18.Rxb7 Ne5 19.Be4 Rad8 20.Qb3 a6 21.Re1 Rd6 22.a4 Rc8 23.Rc1 Rxc1+ 24.Bxc1 Rd8 25.Be3 h6 26.Rb6 Rd6 27.Rb8+ Rd8 28.Rxd8+ Bxd8 29.Qd5 Bc7 30.Bd4 Qd6 31.Qa8+ Bb8 32.g3



32... g6?! 33.Ba7 Nd7 34.Bc6 Qc7 35.Be3 Ne5 36.Bb7 Kh7 37.Bxa6 Qd6 38.Be2 Bc7 39.a5 Qc6 40.Qxc6 Nxc6 41.a6 Bb8 42.Bb5! Na7 43.Bd7 Kg7 44.f4 g5 45.Bd4+ Kf8 46.Bc5+ Kg7 47.Kf2 Kg6 48.Ke3 1-0

Smuts,I (2145) - Karacsony,Z (2200) [C84]
CCO15S1B6 ICCF Email, 2003

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.d3 d6 7.Bxc6+ bxc6 8.Nc3 0-0 9.d4 Nd7 10.dxe5 Nxe5 11.Nxe5 dxe5 12.Qf3 Qd6 13.Qg3 f5 14.Bg5 f4 15.Qh4 Bxg5 16.Qxg5 h6 17.Qh4 f3 18.Rfd1 Qg6 19.g3 Qe8 20.h3



20... Kh7!! 21.g4 g5 22.Qg3 h5 23.Kf1 Rf4 24.Ke1 hxg4 25.h4 Qh5 26.hxg5 Be6 27.Rd3 Qxg5 28.Re3 Kg7 9.Kd2 Rd8+ 30.Kc1 Rh8 31.b4 Rh3 32.Qg1 g3 33.Kb2 g2 34.Qd1 Rh1 35.Re1 Rxe1 36.Qxe1 Rh4 0-1

Karacsony,Z (2200) - Sheehan,M (2347) [B22]
CCO15S1B6 ICCF Email, 2003

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.cxd4 d6 7.Bc4 Nb6 8.Bb5 dxe5 9.Nxe5 Bd7 10.Bxc6 Bxc6 11.Nxc6 bxc6 12.0-0 g6 13.Re1 Bg7 14.Bg5 Nc8 15.Qf3 0-0 16.Nc3 Rb8 17.b3 Qxd4 18.Rac1 Qd7 19.Red1 Nd6 20.Ne4 Qf5 21.Qxf5 Nxf5 22.Ng3 Rb5 23.Nxf5 Rxf5 24.Bxe7 Re8 25.Bc5 a6 26.Kf1 Rd5 27.Re1 Rxe1+ 28.Kxe1 Bh6 29.Rc4 Re5+ 30.Kd1 Rd5+ 31.Kc2 Rd2+

32.Kb1 Rd1+ 33.Kb2 Rd2+ 34.Ka3 f5 35.b4 Bg7 36.Be3 Rd3+ 37.Ka4 Bb2 38.Ka5 Ra3+ 39.Kb6 Rxa2 40.Kxc6 Bg7 41.Kd5 h6 42.h4 h5 43.Rc8+ Kf7 44.Rc7+ Kg8 45.g3 Ra4 46.Bc5 Ra2 47.Ra7 Ra4 48.Ke6 Ra2 49.Ra8+ Kh7 50.Kf7 Bc3 51.f4 Ra1



52.Bd6 Rd1 53.Be5 Bxe5 54.fxe5 f4 55.gxf4 Rf1 56.e6 Rxf4+ 57.Ke8 Rxh4 58.e7 Rxb4 59.Kf7 Rf4+ 60.Ke6 Re4+ 61.Kf6 Rxe7 62.Kxe7 Kg7 63.Ke6 h4 64.Ke5 Kh6 65.Kf4 g5+ 66.Kg4 1-0

Nestianu Memorial

Karacsony,Z (2256) - Chitescu,I (2268) [B34]
Mem. Gh. Nestianu ROM, 2002

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.e5 Ng8 8.Bc4 Bg7 9.Qf3 f5 10.Bf4 Rb8 11.0-0 e6 12.Rad1 Qc7 13.Rfe1 Ne7 14.h4 Nd5 15.Nxd5 cxd5 16.Bb3 Ba6 17.h5 Bc4 18.Qc3 Qc6 19.Qg3 Kf7 20.Qg5 Rhg8 21.Re3 Bxb3



22.Rg3 Qxc2 23.hxg6+ hxg6 24.Qxg6+ Kf8 25.Re1 Rb4 26.Rc1 Rxf4 27.Rxc2 Bxc2 28.Qg5 Rg4 29.Qd8+ Kf7 30.Qxd7+ Kf8 31.Rxg4 fxg4 32.Qxe6 Bxe5 33.Qxe5 Be4 34.Qb8+ Kf7 35.Qxa7+ 1-0



ICCF Congress – Ostrava, Czech Republic

By George Pyrich

The 53rd ICCF Congress, in conjunction with meetings of the ICCF Presidium and numerous committees, was held at the Hotel Atom, Ostrava, Czech Republic from 11th to 18th October 2003. The Congress was arranged by the Czech Federation, led by the energetic and enthusiastic Dr. Jaromir Canibal, and generously supported by a Czech company, DG-Tip, owned by Czech CC-GM Libor Danek.

The Czech Federation marked the start of the Congress with commencement of play in a very strong email tournament, the Frantisek Batik Memorial, held in the memory of one of the founders of correspondence chess in the former Czechoslovakia. In all, a total of 74 delegates and officials, from 4 continents, as well as some 20 family members took part in the Congress. This year the Scottish CCA's representatives were retiring ICCF President Alan Borwell, retiring Qualifications Commissioner George Pyrich and SCCA President and congress newcomer Iain Mackintosh attending in his new capacity of Project Manager for the ICCF Web Server development.

Ostrava is the Czech Republic's second city (after Prague). Situated in the north east of the Czech Republic, not far from the border with Poland, it has a population of over 300,000. Until recent times, it was known as an industrial city and it would be true to say that, even now, it is not a beauty spot despite the extensive modernization which has recently taken place. Despite fairly extensive renovations in the hotel and the building of a magnificent new ice hockey stadium next door (both in preparation for the World Ice Hockey Championship being held in Ostrava in March 2004) delegates appreciated the warm hospitality of their Czech hosts and the fine service provided by the hotel staff.

Opening the Congress, the retiring ICCF President, Alan Borwell (SCO), referred to the contribution which international correspondence chess made in generating greater friendship between peoples throughout the world and that every effort should be made to further develop and promote such ideals, to enhance the peaceful existence of all nations. He also referred to the only previous occasion when an ICCF meeting had been held in the Czech Republic in 1966, when the ICCF Presidium met in Prague (then Czechoslovakia). At that time, the ICCF General Secretary was Dr. Bohuslav Lukáš (CZE), who served ICCF in that important position for nearly 30 years. Alan also pointed out that, since its origins in the 1880s, there had been many fine performances by Czech players and teams in ICCF title tournaments and he highlighted both individual and team achievements, in his address to Congress. He also noted that sadly since the previous Congress, ICCF had lost many friends, including Hareesh Samtani, ICCF delegate for India (AICCF) and former Ukraine delegate, Ms. Elena Salnikova. Congress stood in silence, in honour of them and of all departed CC friends.

Thereafter, in what was essentially a retirement speech, Alan provided some further background to his decision to retire, expressing the hope that all the important developments

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currently in progress would be brought to successful conclusions. Finally, Alan expressed his sincere thanks to delegates and officials for the support they had given him during his period in office and said that it had been a wonderful experience and privilege to serve as ICCF President, especially through the ICCF 50th Anniversary. He paid tribute to his wife Moira for her support to him and ICCF during the 20 years he had served as a member of the ICCF Presidium.



Alan then announced that his retirement would take effect immediately following elections for the new ICCF Executive Board held later that day (12th October). The following were elected shortly thereafter:

President: Josef Mrkvička (CZE); Deputy President & Development Director: Max Zavanelli (USA); Membership & Services Director: Pedro Hegoburu (ARG); Finance Director: Grayling Hill (USA); World Tournament Director: Chris Lüers (GER). Congress also approved unanimously the re-appointment of Henk Sarink (NED) as Auditor. The new ICCF President Josef Mrkvička (pronounced Murk-vitch-ka) proposed to the congress the appointment of Alan Borwell as ICCF Honorary President, a very popular proposal for which no vote was required.



The main business of the Congress was:

Membership/Secretarial – The Membership and Services Director (formerly General Secretary), Pedro Hegoburu (ARG) reported that an application for membership had been received from Ecuador (Federación Ecuatoriana de

Ajedrez Postal Internet – FEDAPI) and that a formally constituted body for CC was being formed. Fees had been paid to 31.12.2004. It was unanimously agreed by Congress that Ecuador should be readmitted to ICCF membership.

Congress unanimously approved the presentation of an engraved plate for the 14th World Championship Final winner T. Öim (EST), and Cups for winners of 8th World Cup Final, H. Staudler (GER) and 9th World Cup Final, Dr. E. Prang (GER). The Congress also approved the award of Bertl von Massow medals in recognition of meritorious service to ICCF to a number of current and former officials. Gold awards (15 years service) were presented to Evgeny Karelin (RUS), Michael Müller-Töpler (GER) and Prof. Max E. Zavanelli (USA) whilst Silver awards (10 years) were presented to Witold Bielecki (POL), Gerhard Binder (GER), Janko Bohak (SLO), Ervin Liebert (EST), Milan Manduch (SVK), Pavol Polakovič (SVK), Alan J.C. Rawlings (ENG), Merike Rõtova (EST) and Hendrik B. Sarink (NED).

Finance – The retiring ICCF Treasurer, Carlos Flores (ESP) reported that, for the period to 31/12/2002, the net balance for ICCF for 2002 showed a profit of CHF 41,834.92 (some £15,000). He also reported that Investments were recorded, as usual, at their cost of CHF 64,196, but that the market value at 31.12.2002 was CHF 72,477 (CHF 8,281 in excess of cost, but CHF 28,599 less than the market value at 31.12.2001). The investments had suffered again during the last year due to generally poor results of the Stock Market, but in his opinion they had passed their bottom level and were increasing in market value (at 30.6.2003, they were valued CHF 78,922).

The Profit & Loss Account and Balance Sheet, for the year ended 31st December 2002, which was distributed to delegates is also now available at www.iccf.com

The ICCF President referred to the Financial Plan, covering the period 1.1.2000 to 31.12.2004 and to the actual figures for Year 2002, which were shown alongside estimated figures. The "actual" result for 2002 as compared with the estimate, revealed a surplus of CHF 19,302, and items of major variance were identified.

It was decided that an updated Financial Plan for the years 2004/5/6/7 should be produced, after the actual figures for 2003 become known, and after a review of the tournament and fee structure. The updated Financial Plan should be presented to the Executive Board and then submitted for consideration by the 2004 ICCF Congress.

Technology and Web Server This issue provided the main focus of the Congress. Following considerable discussion, the Congress approved the conclusions of the Web Server Expert Group, which had been established in Seixal.

Congress then confirmed its previous approval for the development of a dedicated Web Server and entrusted the Steering Group to its implementation, according to time schedule and budget in the project plan, and approved the appointment of Iain Mackintosh (SCO) as Project Manager.

The Steering Group was agreed as follows: Josef Mrkvička (CZE), Chairman; Alan Borwell (SCO), Pedro Hegoburu (ARG), Nol van 't Riet (NED), Grayling Hill (USA), Chris Lüers (GER) and Iain Mackintosh.

Congress then approved the establishment of a Development Fund, to be used solely for designated projects. The first development project would be the ICCF Web Server system, but other projects would be added later. Additionally, for ongoing resource of the Development Fund, Congress unanimously approved the following sources:

- allocations from ICCF's current and future income;
- introduction of individual, group and/or national federation patronage of ICCF, with specific benefits;
- seeking of donations, legacies and bequests;
- sponsorship of ICCF development projects.

Congress agreed links with a renowned chess/technology related company (Chessbase, Hamburg, Germany) for the ICCF Web Server system, and development of mutually beneficial marketing and also agreed that announcements regarding these would be made separately.

Finally, Congress supported the idea of arranging at least one large open tournament, with good money prizes, preferably in two or three stages, to be started in 2004, with the details to be decided by the Steering Group. It would be included in the early scheduling of tournaments to be available to ICCF and Member Federations.

Marketing and Publications Congress approved plans for the launch later this year of a specialist ICCF web magazine which will present news and reports of all ICCF events, including games, as well as news of significant developments within ICCF. (*Since the Congress, the distinguished chess journalist, Alex Dunne (USA), has been appointed to the post of Editor.*)

Congress also approved progress to date with the development of the ICCF marketing portfolio (aimed at potential sponsors, OTB federations and future players). Congress noted that a small profit had been made to date on the "ICCF Gold" book and noted the successful partnership with the Dutch magazine "New in Chess", sponsors of the first two World Email Championships. Plans were also approved for a new ICCF book to be published some time during 2005. This will be smaller than the recent "ICCF Gold" and will likely be centred on the World Champions Jubilee Tournament.

Rules In his final report as Deputy President (Rules), Ragnar Wikman (FIN) noted that the past year had seen little activity in the rules area, mainly due to the fact that the Tournament Rules had went through a major revision at the previous Congress, whilst the next revision of the Playing Rules was scheduled for the following Congress

There was lengthy discussion on the contentious topic of the "phoney day" in email games but the Congress voted against any change on this. After Congress, Rules Commissioner Ian Brooks (ENG) resigned, expressing disappointment that his proposal to abolish the "phoney day" had been defeated. *The ICCF Executive Board has since appointed a new Rules Commissioner, Gerhard Radoszics (OST).*

However, a considerably stronger and clearer guideline to Rule 3(b) was agreed as follows: “The TD will normally (previously this had read “may”) record a loss against a player who has been silent for more than 40 days (discounting leave periods) and who has not notified the TD and the opponent about the delay”. The Congress also approved a strengthening of the conditions with regard to special leave and approved an overhaul of the structure of the Appeals Commission whereby two new Commissions were created in addition to the current one. Finally, the discussions with regard to the Code of Conduct Guidelines led to the approval of a revision of an important guideline with regard to consultation which now reads: “It is expected that players will decide the moves for themselves. It is unacceptable behaviour to have someone else play your games. The whole ICCF ratings and titles system relies on the assumption that games are played by the players named in starting lists (or approved substitutes)”. (Basically this means that, as before, players are free to examine numerous sources of reference, notably books and other published materials as well as computer databases and chess analysis engines. However, they may not actively seek advice from other players and must decide their own moves.)

Titles and Qualifications In my final Report to Congress as Qualifications Commissioner, I was able to confirm the award of new titles to 21 Grandmasters (including Raymond Boger (NOR) who claimed 2nd place on our Bernard Partridge Memorial tournament), 111 Senior International Masters, 107 International Masters (including George Livie), 2 Lady Grandmasters, 5 Lady International Masters and 3 International Arbiters. Additionally, Congress gave its approval to title norms in respect of numerous new World, Continental, Team and Invitational events.



European Zone Unfortunately, owing to changes in his personal circumstances, the retiring Zonal President, Egbert Bösenberg (GER), who had been unable to function for several months, was neither able to attend the congress nor to provide his customary report of activities. Congress noted that the start of the 6th European Team Championships Final and the preliminaries of the 7th European Team Championship, originally scheduled to start early in 2004, were now postponed until 2005. Considerable concern was expressed with regard to this unsatisfactory situation and the new President outlined measures whereby in future every office bearer would have a recognised depute in order that such occurrences would not be repeated.

The retiring ICCF Treasurer Carlos Flores (ESP) proposed the abolition of the combined administration of ICCF and Zone 1 (Europe), which had created an inequality between

the 4 ICCF Zones, effective from 1st January 2004 and that, from 2004, the European Zone should manage its own administration, tournament office and finances, as do other Zones. Congress approved this proposal by a majority vote.

World Tournaments The new Title Tournaments Commissioner, Soren Peschardt (DEN) presented the Congress with a planned schedule for new events for 2003/4 which was approved (details on SCCA website). Congress asked the World Tournament Director to review the current system of ICCF tournaments, including the future implementation of web server events, and to submit proposals for possible changes to the 2004 Congress in Mumbai, India (the 2005 venue is not yet known). Congress gave its approval to a considerable number of proposed new invitational events including SCCA’s Douglas M. Livie Memorial tournament, an email event of 13 players scheduled to commence in May 2004.

Postal Tournaments The retiring World Tournaments Commissioner, Prof. Gian-Maria Tani (ITA), reported that the decrease in entries for world postal tournaments was lower in 2002 than in 2001, and that this trend had continued in 2003, with GM norm events particularly disappointing. The preliminary round of the Open Postal Jubilee Tournament should have been closed on 30.06.2003, but many games were still running. The closing date had been postponed to 30.06.2004 and the quarterfinal round would be started following the Congress.

Thematic Tournaments In his written report, the Controller, Leonardo Madonia (ITA) reported to Congress about the continuing success of the Email theme tournaments and the falling interest in postal theme tournaments. After Congress, Fischer Random tournaments would be started and which would be organised as permanently open series of tournaments (postal and email).

Email Tournaments The retiring Email Tournaments Commissioner, Chris Lüers (GER), reported that email events had maintained their previous level of popularity and that the service had been significantly improved, particularly for the promotion and norm tournaments, and that the Email Tournament Office now offered a fast and efficient administration of entries.

As always, not all of the time of the Congress is taken up with business matters. Local FIDE GM Marek Vokac took on some 30 Congress participants in a simultaneous exhibition, conceding 2 losses and a number of draws. The customary annual blitz tournament drew a total of 32 players with your scribe finishing in 3rd place! A friendly match was also held against the local Karvina chess club over some 40 boards and won comfortably by the ICCF team. An excursion was held to the historic Moravian city of Olomouc, which has great significance for Czech church history, and some of the delegates were able to enjoy a day trip to Krakow, Poland at the end of the Congress.

At the closing dinner, traditionally hosted by ICCF, the Congress delegates toasted the success and development of ICCF as well as the successful future of chess in the Czech Republic, before thanking the kindness and hospitality of their gracious Czech hosts and bidding farewell.



New Fire in the Dragon

By Martin Bennedik

[Editor's note: Martin's game featured here has already appeared during 2003 in Chess Mail, Chess Informant, NIC Yearbook and Chess Today. I saw it first in August 2003, where I met with Martin in Hamburg to plan the ICCF Webserver project.]



Background

Martin was born in December 1971 in Kassel, Germany, and graduated in mathematics and computer science from Göttingen in 1996.

Professionally, he's an independent computer system architect and developer, and he will be working as the lead developer of the ICCF webserver system from January 2004. The system will include some of his innovative designs for correspondence chess web services.

In his chess life, he has also done some original things, including acting as co-author of the "Total Marshall" CD with Tim Harding and Latvian CC GM Janis Vitomskis (reviewed in SCCA Magazine 77), and researching variations in the Traxler, which appeared in NM Dan Heisman's "Traxler Counterattack" e-book.

Martin has played CC with IECG from 1996, finishing 2nd in the IECG Cup II, and gaining a place in the IECG 2000-02 World Championship (securing 5th place with 9½/14).

His ICCF experience is more recent, dating from 2002, but already he has finished 2nd in EM/M/181, and is currently playing in the Champions League and in EM/M/237. His first published ICCF grade is 2447.

The game selected here is an attempt to refute the Dragon line 9.0-0-0 Nxd4. It was played in section 8 of the ICCF Champions League Qualifying Round, where Martin was board 2 in the Chess Mail Unicorns team, and his opponent was the Canadian IM Valer-Eugen Demian.

Benedik, M - Demian, V (2475) [B76]
ICCF EM/CL/Q08-02, 2002

1.e4	c5
2.Nf3	d6
3.d4	cxd4
4.Nxd4	Nf6
5.Nc3	g6



6.Be3	Bg7
7.f3	0-0
8.Qd2	Nc6
9.0-0-0	

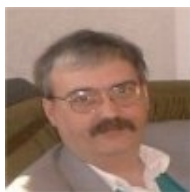


[¹ 9...d5]

9...	Nxd4?
10.Bxd4	Be6
11.Kb1	Qc7
12.h4	Rfc8
13.h5	Qa5
14.hxg6	hxg6
15.a3	Rab8
16.Bd3	Bc4
17.Bxc4	Rxc4



18.Qc1!±
continued on page 14



The Colle-System by Dimitrij Oleinikov



An excellent training CD from the Russian chess journalist Dimitrij Oleinikov covering the Colle System (1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.e3 a6 5.Bd3 c5). The opening move order for White is not so important and I was introduced to this system by George Sprott and found it a very useful addition to my arsenal of openings. The author covers the opening over 17 chapters of text and uses a teaching database of 394 games. 172 of these are analysed, with about 100 annotated by the author. The analysis is top rate. The main database has just over 21,000 games and the CD also contains a strategy and tactics file to test your skills. A ChessBase reader is included so you don't need the ChessBase program to take advantage of the CD. Here's a fine example of one of George's from the CD on how to handle the opening.

G Sprott (2325) - F Urban (2280) [D05]
EU/MSM/IV prel corr ICCF, 1991

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.e3 c5 4.Bd3 d5 5.c3 Nc6 6.Nbd2 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.e4 Qc7 10.Qe2 Ng4 11.exd5 exd5 12.Nb3 Bd6 13.h3 Nf6 14.Be3 Bd7 15.Nbd4 a6 16.Nxc6 Bxc6 17.Bd4 Rfe8 18.Qc2 Ne4 19.Rfe1 b5 20.Nd2 Nxd2 21.Bxh7+ Kf8 22.Qxd2 f6 23.Bg6 Rxe1+ 24.Rxe1 Be8 25.Qd3 Qd7 26.Bf5 Qc6 27.Bg4 Kg8 28.Bxf6 gxf6 29.Be6+ Kg7 30.Bxd5 Qd7 31.Qf3 Rd8 32.Be6 Qe7 33.Qg4+ Bg6 34.Re4 Bc5 35.Bf5 Qf7 36.b4 Bf8 37.h4 Kh6 38.Re6 Rd5 39.Bxg6 Qxg6 40.Qf3 Rd3 41.Qxf6 Rd1+ 42.Kh2 Bd6+ 43.Rxd6 Rxd6 44.Qh8+ Qh7 45.Qf8+ Qg7 46.Qxd6+ Kh7 47.Qxa6 Qe5+ 48.g3 Qe2 49.Qb7+ Kg8 50.Kg2 Qe5 51.c4 bxc4 52.Qc8+ 1-0

The Grunfeld by Knut Neven

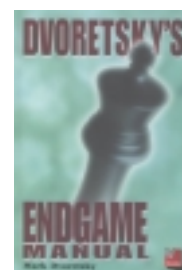


The Grunfeld is one of those openings which I never really got into and have only played on a few occasions. When doing so I could certainly have made good use of this CD. There are three separate databases covering the lines D70-D79 D80-D89 and D90-D99 giving just over 67,000 games. Slightly under 2000 of these carry annotations. The main area of the CD from a teaching point of view are the 42 text files which make good use of hyperlinks to diagrams and advise on handling the Grunfeld. Part of this course is a heavily analysed game file with 645 games. There is a massive amount of information to be gleaned from this CD. A ChessBase Reader is included on the CD. Here's a game between a couple of our members from the CD.

D R Cumming (2123) - C R Beecham (2115) [D86]
SCCA-ch corr0102, 2001

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 0-0 8.Ne2 Qd7 9.0-0 b5 10.Bd3 c5 11.Be3 c4 12.Bc2 Na6 13.Rb1 Nc7 14.Qd2 Re8 15.Bh6 Bh8 16.f4 f5 17.exf5 gxf5 18.Qe3 Qe6 19.Qxe6+ Bxe6 20.a4 Nd5 21.Rf3 bxa4 22.Bxa4 Reb8 23.Rxb8+ Rxb8 24.Bg5 Bg7 25.Rg3 Kf7 26.Bc6 Rb6 27.Bxd5 Bxd5 28.Kf2 Re6 29.Bh4 h6 30.Ke1 a5 31.Kd2 a4 32.Nc1 a3 33.Na2 Rb6 34.Kc1 Bf8 35.Nb4 e6 36.Bd8 Rxb4 0-1

Dvoretsky's Endgame Manual by Mark Dvoretsky



This is in the strictest sense a book in electronic format. The author is one of the giants of chess literature and the printed version was published by ChessGate and received some great reviews. ChessBase have taken the complete book and converted it to electronic format. The CD includes the ChessBase reader so anyone with a computer can read through the book. The key advantage to the electronic version is that the user can easily play through all the variations and examples contained in the book without the need to constantly set positions up on the board.

International Grandmaster Artur Yusupov said of Mark Dvoretsky in the forward to the book "He was more than a coach or a second. He was my most important chess teacher." "I am sure that those who study this work carefully will not only play the endgame better, but overall, their play will improve." Anyone interested in some serious improvement on their endgame play will find this CD a must have tool.

Opening Encyclopaedia 2004 by ChessBase



To use this CD you will have to have ChessBase 7 or 8 on your PC or one of the ChessBase playing programs such as Fritz. The first CD has a huge database of over 1.8 million games with more than 68,000 of these annotated. There are also over 3200 opening surveys. It also contains 86 special theory databases. The opening surveys and special theory databases are based on those published in the ever-popular ChessBase Magazine. Contributors include for example: - Anand, Bareev, Dautov, Huebner, Jussupow, Kortschnoj, Krasenkow and Ribli.

The 2nd CD has a big tree of all the games for quick reference and statistics. This is a very useful CD for those who want a complete reference for opening training.

Deep Fritz 8 Multiprocessor version by ChessBase



Deep Fritz 8 is identical to the one that fascinated the world in the Man vs Machine duel against the greatest chess player of all time: Garry Kasparov. Millions of chess fans watched the games live on the Internet, the match ended in a 2:2 tie. It also tied up with Shredder 7 for the latest computer chess world championship.

It is a friendly chess partner for beginners and amateurs. It will teach you to play chess from scratch, and can automatically adjust its playing strength to suit your needs. It will warn you when you go wrong in a game, giving you hints on how to play better. In any position it will explain all possible continuations to you in plain language, and it will display all pieces that are attacked, defended or "hanging". Afterwards it will analyse your games and point out mistakes and blunders. It has many handicap and friendly levels. In the sparring level the program will actually set up tactics for you to discover, teaching you to keep a lookout for opportunities throughout the game. It has a built-in database with half a million top-quality games.

The program has a no-hassle connection to the Internet chess server Playchess.com where you can play with chess enthusiasts all over the world (1 year full access). You will find hundreds of opponents, day and night; you can start a blitz game, play a tournament or simply watch and

chat. You can also find the latest chess news, live coverage of international tournaments and online training sessions.

The following items are DVDs rather than CDs. In order to use them you will need to have a DVD player on your computer. ChessBase are obviously now beginning to use this latest technology since a DVD can contain a lot more information than a CD.

All World Champions from 1886 to 2002 by ChessBase



This DVD covers all the world chess championships from the Zukertort v Steinitz match of 1886 till 2002. This covers around 2200 games and about half of these are annotated. FIDE world championship knockout systems are also covered. There are also short biographies on all the world champions. The DVD also contains about 4½ GB of video material which should keep you glued to your screen for some time. There is also an excellent training database by GM Karsten Muller.

Mega DataBase 2004 by ChessBase



The latest Mega database from ChessBase contains over 2.6 million games compared to just over 2.3 million in the 2003 edition. Nearly 52,000 of the games in the 2004 edition are annotated. The latest games take you right up to the middle of November 2003. The 2003 database came on 2 CDs, the second of which contained was a player base with 15,000 entries and 14,000 photos of players.

This year all the information is contained on one handy DVD and the player base has also been extended. For example it now contains nearly 18,000 pictures. As always ChessBase continue to run stricter quality control procedures and a number of errors, caused by reporting faults from other sources, have been corrected. Also included is a openings key of more than 91,000 positions giving direct access to players, middle game themes and endgames. The high standards ensure that this is still the premier database to own.

One point that should be remembered is that analysis tools such as the opening report in ChessBase are clearly tools to be used at the discretion of the correspondence player. Just because the statistics say white is winning 55% of the time in the line you are looking at is no reason to blindly play a move. You have to look at all the factors of the position. The statistical analysis looks at overall results but cannot take into account factors such as whether or not a game ended in a loss due to time factors or that a number of games may have ended in a win for one side after inferior moves by an opponent later in the game. The database gives first class reference material but it is still up to you to do the analysis and find the best course forward.

Fritz Powerbook 2004 by ChessBase



If you look at the content of this DVD you will instantly realise why ChessBase have moved from the CD version. The previous CD version had about 7.6 million opening positions compared to about 18 million on the DVD. The positions are derived from about 1 million high class tournament games.

The PowerBook is an openings book which can be used with Fritz, or any Fritz compatible engine such as Shredder, Junior, Tiger, Nimzo etc, making the opening play of the program more topical, versatile and entertaining. You can also use the PowerBook with ChessBase 7 or 8 to help with your opening research.

DVD - Endgame Turbo 2 by ChessBase



The DVD Endgame Turbo consists of 5 DVDs with endgame databases (Nalimov Tablebases). With the help of the Endgame Turbo, all five - and some six piece endgames (including the sophisticated and practice-oriented endgame Rook and 2 pawns v Rook) are played with absolute perfection. Likewise, Fritz handles endgames with more than six pieces much better since the program can already access the endgame knowledge during the analysis. Installing all 5 DVDs on your hard drive would take up a massive 24 GB of space so it might be better to simply install DVD 1 containing the 5 piece endings and then only use the other 6 piece DVDs if and when you require them. This is definitely a must-have for correspondence players, endgame theoreticians and those who enjoy engine matches

New Fire in the Dragon (continued)

...d5 ...xf6 This move was voted as 11th best novelty in Informant 87. Meanwhile another game with this move has made its way to the databases, of which I was not aware during the game. [18.Nd5?! Qxd2 19.Rxd2 Nxd5 20.Bxg7 Kxg7 21.exd5=; 18.Bxf6?! Bxf6 19.Nd5 Qxd2 20.Nxf6+ Kg7 21.Nh5+ gxh5 22.Rxd2 Kg6=]

18... **e6TM**

[18...b5? 19.Bxf6 exf6 (19...Bxf6 20.Nd5 Bg7 21.Nxe7+ Kf8 22.Qf4+-) 20.Nd5±; 18...Rbc8? 19.Nd5 Nxd5 (19...Rxc2 20.Nxe7+ Kf8 21.Qf4+-) 20.Bxg7 Kxg7 21.Rxd5 R4c5 22.Qh6+-]

19.g4 ...g5, ♣xg7
19... **b5**
20.g5

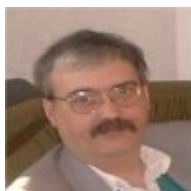
[20.Na2!? Qc7 21.Bc3 Rc8 22.Qg5 1-0 Martjukhin, V-Miller, J; IECG Email 2000.]

20... **Nh5**
21.Bxg7 **Kxg7?**

[21...Nxg7TM 22.Qf4 b4TM 23.Qxd6 (23.Rh7!? Kxh7 (23...bxc3? 24.Rdh1TM (24.Rxg7+? Kxg7 25.Qf6+ Kg8 26.Rh1 Rxb2+ 27.Kc1 Rb1+ 28.Kxb1 Qb6+ 29.Kc1 Qb2+ 30.Kd1 Qb1+ 31.Ke2 Qxh1+-) 24...Rxb2+TM 25.Kc1TM Rb1+TM (25...Rxc2+ 26.Kxc2TM Qa4+TM 27.Kd3+-) 26.Kxb1TM Qb6+ 27.Kc1 Qb2+ 28.Kd1TM Qb1+ 29.Ke2 Qxc2+TM 30.Kf1 Qd1+ 31.Kf2TM+-) 24.Nd5 Qxd5 25.Qh2+ Kg8 26.exd5÷) 23...Rcc8 24.Rd5!? Qc7 25.Qxc7 Rxc7 26.Rb5 Rxb5 27.Nxb5±]

22.Rxh5! **gxh5**
23.Qf4+- **Kg8**
24.g6 **f5**
25.Rxd6 **Rxc3**
26.Qe5!? **Rc7**
27.Qxe6+ **Kg7**
28.exf5 **b4**
29.f4 **bx3**
30.Rd7+ **1-0**





Games Column

By Bernard Milligan

Another year dawns so I wish you all success in your upcoming games.

2003 once again saw a number of memorable events a few of which were:

The ICCF Congress in Ostrava saw both Alan Borwell and George Pyrich receive lengthy standing ovations for the work they have done for ICCF over many years. George Livie also earned the title of International Master. All I can say is they did us proud. Well done also to Alan Brown on winning the 2002/03 Scottish CCA Championship. A worthy addition to a long list of excellent players.

2004 will see the development of the ICCF Webserver in conjunction with ChessBase. Iain Mackintosh is the project manager so we can all look forward to logging on later in the year to play correspondence games.

We kick off this edition with a nice draw from Willie Cook in his first outing using E-mail.

SCCA v ICCF, 2003

White: - W M Cook

Black: - C Parisi

Pirc Defence [B07]

[Annotator W M Cook]

This was my first email game, and it took time to get used to. My opponent is a strong player who almost invariably, no matter how complicated the position, replied the next day (and we were playing two games). He always seemed to find good moves as well. I do not usually go into emails very often, so sometimes it would be a week before I realise that he had replied! There is something to be said for the leisurely nature of the postal service.

1.e4	d6
2.d4	Nf6
3.Nc3	c6
4.f4	g6
5.Nf3	Bg7
6.Bd3	0-0
7.0-0	Bg4
8.Be3	Qb6
9.Qd2	Bxf3

9...Qxb2 10.Rab1 Qa3 11.Rb3 Qa5
12.Rxb7 Bxf3 13.Rxf3 Ng4

10.gxf3



Doubling pawns, but opening the g file

10...	Nbd7
11.e5	

11.d5 Qc7 (11...Qxb2 12.Rab1)

11...	Nd5
12.Nxd5	cxd5
13.c3	

c4 is probably better.

13...	e6
14.Rae1	f6

Much of the rest of the game centres round a fight for control of e5 and f5

15.exd6	Qxd6
16.f5!?	

A pawn sacrifice which opens up the black king and prevents the knight getting into the game for the time being. Other moves allow Black either to play ... f5 or prepare.... e5.

16...	gxf5
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16... exf5 opens the e file for the rooks, but White has to beware Ne5 after 17 Bf4 Qb6.

17.Bf4	Qc6
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18.Qe2	Rf8
19.Bb5	Qc8
20.Qg2	Kh8
21.Kh1	e5

Black finally plays ...e5, but White now has an interesting attack.

22.Rg1	Rg8
23.Bd3!	e4

Black finds the best move 23...exf4 24.Re7 is winning.

24.fxe4

24.Bf1 is odd-looking but better, e.g. 24...Nf8 25.Qh3 Qd7 26.Qh5 and now White can attack f5 with Bh3, and double rooks on the g file.

24...	fxe4
25.Be2	Nf8
26.Bh5	Qd7
27.Re3	



27.Be3 planning Ref1 is better. Black now goes for the Bishop.

27...	Ne6
28.Qf2	f5
29.Bg6	Bxd4

My first reaction on seeing this move was that it must be winning. Actually it seems to lead to a forced draw.

30.cxd4	Nxf4
----------------	-------------

30... Rxg6 31.Rxg6 hxd6 32.Qh4+ Kg8
33.Rh3 Rf8 34.Bd6 Kf7 35.Bxf8 Nxf8

31.Qxf4	Rxg6
32.Rxg6	hxd6

White is two pawns down, but still has an attack. Unfortunately Black always has a defence.

33.Rh3+ Kg8

White finally has control of e5, but it is only enough to force a draw.

34.Qe5 Qg7
35.Qxd5+ Kf8

35...Qf7 36.Rh8+

36.Qd6+ Kg8
37.Qd5+ ½-½



We continue again with some fine games provided by Iain Mackintosh. Iain's annotations are excellent so you should enjoy the games as well as finding them informative.

CCO/15/S1, 2003

White: I Mackintosh (2240)

Black: W Mooij (2515)

Nimzo-Indian Defence [E25]

[Annotator Iain Mackintosh]

My opponent here was Walter Mooij (pronounced "Moy", which coincidentally is my clan HQ near Inverness). Walter is quite a character - amongst other things, a jazz musician and the man who provided a bed for Viktor Korchnoi when he moved west.

1.d4 Nf6
2.c4 e6
3.Nc3 Bb4

Another Nimzo - I have played both sides of this opening a lot this year.

4.f3



An unusual 4th move, and played after a lot of research on ChessBase. I assumed

that my SIM opponent would know a lot more about the main lines than I did, so I searched for a fairly offbeat variation which had a good White score, and which had fairly recent IM and GM games to analyse. After the game, Walter expressed the view that 4.f3 was a better move in OTB than CC, because of the lasting weaknesses of the White pawn structure in the endgame.

4... d5

There were many other lines to look at before I was happy that I could play 4. f3 with safety. One example I studied was: 4...Nc6 5.e4 d5 6.cxd5 exd5 7.e5 Ng8 8.a3 Ba5 9.f4 Nge7 10.Be3 0-0= and both Marin-Barla, 1992 and Varga-Holzmann, 1993 resulted in White wins.

5.a3

Database analysis led to continuing with mainstream Nimzo moves at this point.

5... Bxc3+
6.bxc3 c5

6...c6 7.Qc2 (7.e3?! 0-0 8.cxd5 cxd5 9.Bd3=) 7...0-0=

7.cxd5 Nxd5
8.dxc5



Despite following the main continuation, I played this with some trepidation, as it leaves the White a- and c-pawns permanently isolated. However, other options looked relatively worse, for example: 8.Qd3 b6 9.e4 Ne7 10.Qe3 0-0 11.f4 cxd4 12.cxd4 f5 13.Nf3 fxe4 14.Qxe4 Qd5 15.Qc2 Ba6 16.Bxa6 Nxa6 17.0-0 Nf5 18.Qa4 Nc7 19.Bb2 Ne3 20.Rfe1 Nxe2! 21.Kxe2 Rxf4 22.Re3 Raf8 23.Qb3 Qf5 24.Rf1 Nd5 25.Rd3 Re4 26.Kh1 Re2 27.Rg1 Qe4 28.Bc1 Rf2 29.Re1 Qg4 30.Rg1 Qe4 31.Re1 Qf5 32.Ng1 a5 33.Rg3 Rc2 34.Qf3 Qxf3+ 35.Nxf3 Rc3 Shirov-Karpov, 1993, 0-1.

8... Qa5

8...Nd7 9.e4 Ne7 10.Be3 0-0 11.Nh3 Qa5 12.Qb3 Qc7 13.Qc4 Nc6 Summerscale-Emms, 2002 was drawn.

9.e4 Nf6

9...Ne7 Walter thought afterwards that this improved on 9... Nf6. 10.Be3 0-0 11.Qb3 Qc7 12.Rb1 Nd7 13.Qc4 Nc6 14.Nh3 b5 15.Qa2 a6 16.c4 e5 17.cxb5 axb5 18.Bxb5 Nd4 19.Bxd4 exd4 20.c6 Ne5 21.0-0 Bxh3 22.gxh3 d3 23.Kh1 Rfd8 24.a4 Nxc6 25.Rbc1 Qb6 26.Rxc6 Qxb5 27.Qxf7+ Kxf7 28.axb5 Ra2 29.b6 Re2 30.Rcc1 d2 31.Rb1 Kf6 32.b7 Rb8 33.h4 Ke5 34.h5 Kd4 35.Kg1 Kc3 Volkov-Judit Polgar, 2002 gave the isolated pawns a run for their money, but was drawn; 9...Qxc3+?! 10.Bd2 Qe5 11.Ne2 Ne7 12.Rc1²

10.Be3 0-0
11.Kf2!?

One of the more pleasant discoveries in amongst the swathes of database analysis - this move had been tried 6 times since 1999 (three by GM Volkov), and White's score was 92% with it! When you are playing a SIM, it helps to plagiarise moves from GMs. I wondered if Gurtovoi knew about this line...? 11.Qb3 Qc7 12.a4 Nfd7 13.Qa3 Nc6 14.Nh3 Na5 15.Bb5 Nb8 16.Nf4 Bd7 17.Be2 Rc8 18.0-0 Be8 19.Rfb1 Nd7 20.Bb5 Ne5 21.Qc1 Rd8 22.Ra2 Qe7 23.Be2 h6 24.Bd4 Qc7 25.Qf1 Nd7 26.Nd3 f6 27.Bf2 Rac8 28.Qc1 Bf7 29.Rab2 e5 30.Rb4 Nb8 31.Ne1 Be6 32.Bb5 Qf7 33.Nc2 Nb3 34.Qa3 Nd2 35.Re1 Nb3 36.Rb1 Nxc5 37.a5 Rd2 38.Ne1 Ra2 39.Qc1 Rxa5 40.Bf1 b6 Summerscale-Ehlvest, 2002, 0-1 after patient manoeuvring exploited the White pawn weaknesses.

11... Nfd7
12.Qb3



12.Rb1 Rd8 13.Rb5 Qxa3 14.Ne2 Nc6
 15.Nd4 e5 16.Nxc6 bxc6 17.Rb1 Ba6
 18.Bxa6 Qxa6 19.Qd6 Nb6 20.Qxc6
 Rac8 21.Rbd1 Qa2+ 22.Kg3 Re8
 23.Qb5 Qa4 24.Qb4 Qxb4 25.cxb4 Nc4
 26.Bf2 Rb8 27.Rd7 Rxb4 28.Rc1 Rc8
 29.Rxa7 Nb2 30.Rd7 h5 31.c6 Kh7
 32.c7 Nc4 33.Bc5 Ra4 34.Rxf7 Kg6
 35.Rd7 Kf6 36.Rb1 Volkov-Sakaev,
 2000, 1-0

12... Qc7
13.Qb4 Nc6
14.Qa4 f5
15.exf5 Rxf5
16.Bd3 Nxc5
17.Bxc5 Rxc5
18.Ne2 Bd7
19.Qh4 g6N

Walter now breaks from the line followed by the last game I had researched, which continued: 19...h6 20.Rhd1 Ne5 21.Be4 Rb5 22.Kg1 Rb2 23.Nf4 Qxc3 24.Qg3 Rd2 25.Re1 Nf7 26.Kh1 Ng5 27.Bxb7 Rf8 28.Ng6 Rd8 29.f4 Qxg3 30.hxg3 Rb8 31.Rab1 Be8 32.Ne5 Nf7 33.Nf3 Rd3 34.Rxe6 Rxa3 35.Kh2 Kf8 36.Bc6 Rd8 37.Bxe8 Rxe8 38.Rc6 Nd8 39.Rd6 Ke7 40.Rbd1 Nf7 41.Rd7+ Kf6 42.Rc1 Ra6 43.Rcc7 Rf8 44.Nd2 g5 45.Ne4+ Kg6 46.f5+ Kxf5 47.Nc5 Rf6 48.Rd5+ Kg6 49.Nd7 Re8 50.Nxf6 Kxf6 51.Rxa7 g4 52.Kg1 Re6 53.Rd4 Kobalija-Maherramzade, 2001, 1-0. So, time to take stock, and get used to solo flying. The relative pawn weaknesses were easy to assess, and most everything else looked equal. I couldn't see a clear attacking strategy, so I tried to support my weak pawns with solid and pragmatic moves. The Kobalija game gave me a strong hint for the first of these, and also later on...

20.Rhd1 Rh5

And this was as expected, after 19... g6.

21.Qg3



21.Qf4 Ne5 22.h3 may also have been possible, but I wasn't taking any chances. If the queens get exchanged on g3, earlier analysis indicated that White needn't worry about doubled g-pawns.

21... Ne5

This had also been played in the Kobalija game, so wasn't a surprise. Kobalija played to hold on to his white-squared bishop, but I thought that the knight might be more flexible if I got as far as the endgame.

22.Kg1

So that the king can defend h2 if Black checks on the b6-g1 diagonal. Again, I stole the idea from Kobalija. 22.Be4 Qc5+ 23.Nd4 Ba4 24.Rdc1 Bc6 25.Kg1 Bxe4 26.fxe4 Nc4 27.Rab1 e5 28.Rb5 Qxa3 29.Rf1=

22... Ba4
23.Rd2

23.Nf4 Qxc3 24.Be4 Bxd1 25.Rxd1 Rh6 26.Nxe6 Re8 27.Bd5 Qe3+μ

23... Rd8
24.f4



This helps to force some exchanges in line with my "safe and solid" policy.

24... Nxd3
25.Rxd3

Helping to over-protect c3 for a while.

25... Qc5+

25...Rxd3 26.Qxd3 Qc5+ 27.Kh1=

26.Nd4

Maybe 26.Kh1 immediately was better, but I this centralises the knight.

26... e5
27.fxe5 Rxe5

Black has eliminated his isolated pawn, but I was glad that there were now less pieces and variations to calculate.

28.Kh1

And now the king moves anyway to break the pin.

28... Rf8
29.h3

It took me few days to find this, as an immediate attempt to simplify further by exchanging rooks is not good. 29.Re3 Rxe3 30.Qxe3 Bb3³; 29.Rf3 Rxf3 30.Qxf3 Qxa3μ

29... Re7

Planning to double rooks on the f-file.

30.Rf3



After a couple of days checking, I decided I could now safely offer the exchange.

30...Rxf3

30...Rfe8 31.Raf1 Bb5 (31...Qxa3? 32.Qf2±) 32.Nxb5 Qxb5=

31.Qxf3 Be8
32.Qg3

Still focused on defending along the third rank.

32... Qc7

I'd anticipated 32... Bf7 and fantasised briefly over 33.Rf1 Re8 34.Nf5 but after 34... Bd5 I didn't think White could do much.

33.Qxc7

I hadn't expected this opportunity to simplify further, so I spent a long time checking if there was a twist.

Thankfully, there wasn't, and I didn't spend any time looking at alternatives.

33... Rxc7
34.Rc1

34.Re1 Bf7 35.Re3 might have given White better options, but I found it hard not to protect c3 immediately.

34... a6
35.Kh2



At this stage, I was fairly certain I could hold the draw. Using the black squares seemed sensible.

35... Bf7
36.h4 b5
37.g4 Kf8
38.Kg3 Ke7
39.Kf4 Rc5
40.Re1+ Kd6

A few hours before Holland humiliated Scotland 6-0 in Amsterdam, Walter sent this move with a draw offer. I watched the game and then gratefully accepted - it was the only good news of the day!
½-½



CCO/15/S1, 2003

White: I Mackintosh (2240)

Black: I Smuts (2145)

Sicilian Najdorf [B90]

[Annotator Iain Mackintosh]

My opponent here was Iain Smuts, a Zimbabwean playing for South Africa. I thought his Christian name might have betrayed some Scottish roots, but he reckoned on Irish ancestry!

1.e4 c5
2.Nf3 d6
3.d4 cxd4
4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 a6

The Najdorf, which essentially stops Bb5+ and allows Black to prepare e5.

6.Be3

White has numerous options here. The move played is not the most frequent, but has been in vogue in recent years.

6... Nbd7



An unusual reply. Main lines are: 6...Ng4 7.Bg5 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Bg3 Bg7 10.Be2 h5 11.Bxg4 Bxg4 12.f3 Bd7 13.Qd2 Nc6 14.Bf2 Ne5² Anand-Kasparov, 1998.; 6...e5 7.Nf3 Be7 8.Bc4 0-0 9.0-0 Be6 10.Bb3 Nc6 11.Bg5 Na5 12.Bxf6 Bxf6 13.Nd5 Bg5 14.Qd3 Rc8= Anand-Gelfand, 1996.

7.g4

This riposte looked sharpest, and there were recent GM games to analyse.

7... d5
8.Nb3!

Both 8.g5 Nxe4 9.Nxe4 dxe4 and; 8.exd5 Nb6 9.Bg2 Bxg4 turn out much better for Black.

8... Nxe4
9.Nxd5 e6

White has a 100% score against 9...Nd6

10.Nb6

At this stage, there were two games left on my database. White won with 10.Nf4, and lost with 10.Nb6. My choice was obvious.

10... Rb8N
11.Bg2 Bb4+
12.Kf1

The curse of Gurtovoi... 12.c3 Nxc3 13.bxc3 Bxc3+ 14.Ke2 Bxa1 15.Nxd7 Qxd7 16.Qxa1=

12... Nd2+
13.Nxd2 Nxb6
14.Ne4 Nc4²

14...Nd5!?! looked more solid to me.

15.Qxd8+ Kxd8
16.Rd1+ Ke7
17.Bc1 b5
18.c3 Ba5
19.b3 Ne5
20.g5 Nd7
21.h4 f5
22.gxf6+ gxf6
23.Rg1 Rg8
24.Ke2 f5?

Tempting, in view of White's weakness at c3, but it leads to trouble. ¹ 24...b4 25.c4 Bc7

25.Bg5+ Rxg5



Damage limitation. 25...Kf8 26.Nd6 Ne5 27.Bh1±; 25... Kf7? 26.Nd6+ Kf8 27.Nxc8 Rxc8 28.Rxd7+-

26.Nxg5 h6

26...Bxc3 27.Nxh7+-

27.b4 hgx5
28.bxa5 gxh4
29.Rd4 Nf6
30.Rxh4±

Exchange ahead, but White still has lots to do before the rooks control the board.

30... Bd7
31.Bh1 Kf7
32.Rd4 Rc8
33.Kd2 Bc6
34.Bxc6 Rxc6
35.a4!?

The most direct.

35... bxa4

< 35...e5 36.axb5 axb5 37.Rh4

36.f3

Better than the immediate recapture on a4 as it stops the knight getting to e4.

36... a3
37.Ra4 Rd6+
38.Kc2 Nd5
39.Rh1 Rd8

Anti-infiltration.

40.Rxa3 Ne3+
41.Kc1 Rd3

Pro-infiltration.

42.Rb3 Kf6

42...Nd5 43.Rh3 Rxc3+ 44.Rxc3 Nxc3
 45.Rh7+ Kf6 46.Ra7+-

43.f4!



43.Rh6+ Ke5 44.f4+ Kxf4 45.Rxe6 Kf3
 46.Rxa6 Rd1+ 47.Kb2 Nc4+ 48.Ka2
 Rd2+ 49.Ka1 Rd5 50.Rb4 Nxa5 51.c4
 Re5 52.Kb2 f4 53.Ra4+- also works out
 ok for White.

43... Nd5
44.Rh6+ Ke7
45.Rh7+ Kf6
46.Ra7+- Nxf4

46... Rxc3+? 47.Rxc3 Nxc3 48.Rxa6

47.Rxa6 Rd8
48.Rab6 Nd3+
49.Kc2 Ne1+
50.Kb1 f4
51.R3b4

51.c4 Nd3 52.Rb8 Rxb8 53.Rxb8 Nc5
 54.Kc2 Ke5 55.Rb6 f3 56.Kd2 and the
 Black knight goes.

51... Kf5
52.Rb8 Rd1+
53.Ka2 Rd2+

54.Kb3 Nd3
55.R4b5+ Ke4
56.a6 Nc1+
57.Kc4 Ra2

Black is now badly overstretched, and something has to give.

58.Rb1 Nd3
59.Rd8 e5



59...Ne5+ 60.Kb3 Rxa6 61.Re1+ Kf5
 62.Rf8+ and the knight perishes again.

60.Rxd3 Ra4+
61.Kb5 1-0

61.Kb5 Rxa6 62.Rh3 Ra8 63.Re1+ Kd5
 64.c4+ Kd4 65.Rd1+ Ke4 66.c5 f3 67.c6
 Ke3 68.c7 Rc8 69.Kb6 Ke2 70.Rc1 e4
 71.Kb7 Rf8 72.c8Q Rxc8 73.Kxc8 e3
 74.Rc2+ Kd1 75.Ra2 e2 76.Rh1+ e1Q
 77.Ra1+ Ke2 78.Rhxe1+ and there's
 nothing left for Black. This was hard
 work! Almost 12 months by email, and
 260+ thinking days consumed in total by
 the players.



SCCA Championship 03-04

White: C J Lennox

Black: I Mackintosh [B41]

[Annotator Iain Mackintosh with help
 from Jonathan Lennox]

1.Nf3 c5
2.c4 Nf6
3.d4

I was quite pleased to see this, despite it
 giving White a 58% score on my
 database. It avoids the stodgier lines of
 the symmetrical English.

3... cxd4

This is the most active and popular reply
 for Black, with the main alternatives
 being: 3...g6 and; 3...e6

4.Nxd4 a6

4...e5 5.Nb5 d5 6.cxd5 Be5 7.N5c3 0-0
 8.e3 e4 9.a3 a5 10.Be2 Re8 11.Nd2 Re5
 Khalifman-Polgar, Z, 1993 gave Black
 early development but ended drawn.

5.Nc3 e6

5...e5 6.Nc2 Nc6 looks ok for Black.

6.e4 Qc7
7.Be2

7.Qe2 d6 8.g4 h6 9.Bg2 Nbd7 worked
 out well for Black in Krivokapic-
 Velikov, 1999.

7... b6

White's 7th is natural, but it allows this
 reply with which Black has a plus score.

8.Be3 Bb7
9.f3 d6

After the game, Jonathan mentioned that
 Black might delay d6 in order to keep
 open the possibility of Bd6. However, if
 this is played immediately then: 9...Bd6
 10.Qd2 Be7 11.g4 0-0 12.g5 Ne8 13.0-0
 0-0 Nc6 14.Kb1 Na5 15.Rc1 Nd6 16.b3
 f5 17.gxf6 Bxf6 18.Rhg1 Rf7 19.Na4
 Qd8 20.Nc2 Nc8 21.Nxb6 Nxb3
 22.axb3 Nxb6 23.Qb4 Rb8 24.Bxb6
 Bxe4 25.Bxd8 Rxb4 Frolov-Anikaev,
 1991, 1-0

10.Rc1



10.0-0 Be7 11.Rc1 0-0 12.Qe1 Nbd7
 13.Qf2=

10... Nbd7

10...Be7 11.0-0 Nbd7 12.Qd2 allows re-
 entry into transpositional variations,
 where the chances are evenly balanced.

11.0-0 Be7
12.Rf2!?N

Jonathan reminded me that this move had been played in our most recent encounter, albeit in a rather different set of circumstances. Mackintosh, I (2270) Lennox, J (2390) [B96] 21st Magazine Anniversary, 2002 1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Qc7 8.Qf3 b5 9.f5 b4 10.Nd1 Nc6 11.Bxf6 gxf6 12.Nxc6 Qxc6 13.Bd3 Bg7 14.0-0 h5 15.a3 Rb8 16.axb4 Rxb4 17.c3 Rb8 18.Rf2 Kf8 19.Ne3 Bb7 20.fxe6 fxe6 21.Qg3 Rh6 22.Nc4 e5 23.Na5 Qc5 24.Nxb7 Rxb7 25.Rxa6 d5 26.Ra8+ Kf7 27.exd5 Rxb2 28.d6 h4 29.Bc4+ Qxc4 30.Ra7+ Ke6 31.Qh3+ Kd5 32. Rxb2 Qc5+ 33.Kh1 Qxa7 34.Rd2+ Kc4 35.Qd3+ 1-0

12... 0-0

12... Rc8 13.b3 0-0 14.Qd2 Nc5=; 12... Rc8 13.Bf1= followed by Rd2 would have been Jonathan's response, though he would have preferred Qd2 and Rd1 formation for tactical reasons. The NIC Yearbook 66 contained a better plan, but arrived too late!

13.g4



In post-match analysis, Jonathan said that he was encouraged to go for a k-side attack after what he believed were inaccuracies by Black in playing d6 early and omitting Rc8. 13.b3; or 13.Qd2 looked better for White, though I didn't think that g4 was a bad move.

13... h6
14.g5 hxg5
15.Bxg5 Rac8
16.Rg2 Rfe8

16...Kh7 was possible here, but the idea was to allow Nf8-g6.

17.Kh1 Kh7
18.Qd2?!

18.Qg1! is more forcing, eg: 18...Rg8 (18...Rh8 19.Bh6! g6 20.Nxe6! fxe6

21.Rxg6+-) 19.Be3 g6 20.Rg3 Rh8 (20... Nh5 21.Rh3 Rg7 22.f4 Ndf6 23.Bf3 Qd7 24.e5 Bxf3+ 25.Nxf3 Ne8 26.f5 dxe5 27.Nxe5 Qb7+ 28.Qg2 Qxg2+ 29.Kxg2?) 21.Nxe6! fxe6 22.Rxg6+-

18... Rh8
19.Rcg1 Ne5

Jonathan expected 19... Kg8, and had analysed 20.Bh6 g6 21.Rxg6+ fxg6 22.Rxg6+ Kf7 23.Rg7+ Ke8 24.Nxe6 Qb8 25.Qg5 Nf8 but couldn't see a forced win. However, 26.Rxe7+ Kxe7 27.Qg7+ Kxe6 28.Nd5 Bxd5 29.exd5+ Nxd5 30.Qg4+ (30.cxd5+ Kxd5 31.Qxh8 leads to a strange position, which may give White better prospects after: 31...Nd7 32.Qh7 Re8 33.Bxa6 Kc6 34.a4) 30...Ke7 31.Qg7+ draws.

20.Qf4 Qd8



20... Ne8? 21.Bxe7 Qxe7 22.Nd5 Bxd5 (22... exd5 23.Nf5!! and Black can resign.) 23.cxd5 Ng6 24.Qg4 Nf6 25.Qg3 Nh5 26.Qh3 Kg8 27.dxe6+-; 20...Nxc4?? 21.Bxf6 Bxf6 (21...gxf6?? 22.Qh4#) 22.Qxf6 gxf6 23.Rg3 is a Black suicide note.

21.Nc2?!

21.Qe3 Kg8 (21...Nxc4? 22.Bxc4 Rxc4 23.Qd3 Rxc3 24.Qxc3±) 22.b3=

21... Kg8³
22.Ne3?!µ

22.Bh6 Ng6 23.Rxg6 fxg6 24.Rxg6 Bf8 25.Qg3 Qe7 26.Be3 Qf7³

22... Ng6

22...Rh3 23.Bxf6 Bxf6 24.Ng4 Nxg4 25.Qxg4 Rh7µ

23.Qg3

With e3 occupied, White's queen is short of safe squares.

23... Nh5
24.Qf2

24.Bxe7?? obviously doesn't work, as Black's capture on g3 is with check.

24... Bxg5
25.Rxg5 Nhf4

Now the Black knights work in harness.

26.Bf1 Rc5
27.Qg3 Nh5

27...Qf6 28.Rxc5 bxc5 29.Ng4 Qd4µ

28.Qg4?!-+



Ne5 31.Be2 f6µ

28... Qf6
29.Be2 Nhf4
30.Rxc5 bxc5

30... dxc5 31.Qg3 Rh3 32.Qf2 Nxe2 33.Qxe2 Rxf3 34.Rg3 Rxg3 35.hxg3 Ne5-+

31.Qg5 Qd4!

Here, Jonathan offered the conditional 31...Nh5 32.Qxf6 with tongue in cheek after Black's odd-move dance sequence with the knights. But Black thinks the White knights may be wallflowers...

32.Nc2 Qd2
33.Rd1!?

White is lost, but this sets up a last attempt at an inventive swindle!

33... Qxc2
34.Rxd6 Qxb2
35.Rd8+ Kh7
0-1

35... Nf8?? 36.Rxf8+ Kh7 (36...Kxf8?? 37.Qd8#) 37.Qh4+ Kg6 38.Rxh8+-



Next I present an interesting game annotated by Bryce Avery. Bryce has written a number of chess articles and it is always a pleasure to share them with our readers. Bryce hails from the USA and writes a column for the CCLA.

BCCA-CCLA Match 1994-5

White: N McMillan

Black: G Noveske

Dutch Defence [A80]

[Annotator Bryce Avery]

I HATE WHEN THAT HAPPENS!

Those of you who are my age may remember when Billy Crystal was part of the "Saturday Night Live" cast and played a character who would say the title of this column whenever anything unusual and really bad would happen: *"Have you ever had someone stick a meat thermometer into your ear - and then pound on it with a ballpeen hammer? I HATE when that happens!"*

Postal chess players have an entire smorgasbord of things that make them say "I HATE when that happens!" Your opponent transposes out of your favourite opening - or worse, transposes out of (or improves on) your new \$30 opening book - or maybe, even worse, manoeuvres your two-pawn advantage into a drawn endgame. And that doesn't even count postage (or Internet Service Provider rate) increases, opponents that silently withdraw, and a whole host of more minor annoyances.

Some days just make you wonder why you keep this up. One entire class of things in the category "I HATE when that happens!" occurs when something you wrote or played suddenly shows up in a foreign chess magazine without warning or compensation. This happened to our President Herb Hickman several years ago when his painstaking CCLA article on the Lemberger Counter-gambit was purged of its difficult English non-chess vocabulary, hastily translated into Polish, and stuck into the Polish postal chess magazine "Szachy". I had already known Herb for a while and assumed he knew some Polish. He doesn't-though, for a few minutes, he may have wished that he knew enough Polish slang to really express his thoughts. The only thing worse might be if you lost a game and later found it published in a foreign magazine - as a brilliancy-prize winner

for your opponent. That hasn't happened to me, but then again, you don't have to play brilliantly to beat me. However, I did find one such game in the British magazine "Correspondence Chess". It was awarded "Best Endgame—1995" by the BCCA.

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 1.d4 | f5 |
| 2.Nf3 | Nf6 |
| 3.Bg5 | Ne4 |

This might actually be a variation of the Trompowsky.

- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 4.Nbd2 | Nxg5 |
| 5.Nxg5 | e5 |
| 6.h4 | e4?! |

6...exd4 is better, to keep the game open for Black's two bishops.

- | | |
|---------------|-----------|
| 7.e3 | d5 |
| 8.c4 | c6 |
| 9.Qb3 | h6 |
| 10.Nh3 | |

White's centre pawns are now mostly on dark squares, the bishop he doesn't have. Black's are mostly on white squares, the bishop he does have. Thus, Black is in a bit of trouble, and worse, he has a problem guarding b7 and so must keep his bad bishop home for a while. He can't even play 10...Qxh4, because the multiple captures at d5 would worsen his position. So though I don't really like Black's next move, I'm hard-pressed to offer improvements. But watch how White goes after b7.



- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| 10... | dxh4 |
| 11.Bxc4 | Qf6 |
| 12.Rc1 | Nd7 |
| 13.Nf4 | Nb6 |
| 14.Ke2 | |

Now all White's pieces are developed, even the rook that hasn't moved.

- | | |
|--------------|------------|
| 14... | Bd6 |
| 15.g3 | Bd7 |

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| 16.a4 | Ke7 |
| 17.h5 | Bxf4 |
| 18.gxf4 | Be6 |

18...Nxc4 19.Nxc4 Rab8 20.Ne5 gives a dictionary definition of "good knight against bad bishop".

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| 19.a5 | Nd5 |
| 20.Bxd5 | Bxd5 |

20...cxd5 just gives White's rook an open file. Now, White gets b7 and keeps Black's bishop simply atrocious.

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| 21.Qxb7+ | Ke6 |
| 22.Rhg1 | g5 |
| 23.hxg6 | Rhb8 |
| 24.Qc7 | Rc8 |
| 25.Qe5+ | |



Black could resign here. To me, this was not so much a "best endgame" as it was "winning the game right from the opening".

- | | |
|----------------|-------------|
| 25... | Qxe5 |
| 26.fxh5 | Rab8 |
| 27.b3 | Rg8 |
| 28.Rg3 | Rg7 |
| 29.Rh1 | Bxb3 |
| 30.Nxb3 | Rxb3 |
| 31.Rxb3 | Rb2+ |
| 32.Kf1 | Rb1+ |
| 33.Kg2 | c5 |
| 34.a6 | Rb8 |
| 35.Rh7 | Rbg8 |
| 36.Rxg7 | Rxg7 |
| 37.f4 | cxh4 |
| 38.exd4 | Rg8 |
| 39.Kf2 | Kd5 |
| 40.Ke3 | Rg7 |
| 41.Rg2 | Rg8 |
| 42.g7 | 1-0 |





Seasonal Snippets

Various Sources

[Editor's note: this first piece was submitted by Richard Beecham who came across it in Chris DePasquale's chess column in "The Age" published in Australia, December 1998]

When I entered the classroom Nicholas was demonstrating to the class of eight-year-olds the famous game Paul Morphy played against the Duke of Brunswick during a performance of Rossini's opera The Barber of Seville. The first thing that struck me was that Nicholas displayed the patience of a saint, answering all the questions, and explaining in detail why each move was played, and how the final winning combination worked.

The second thing that struck me was how engrossed the students were, following each move, trying to understand every nuance. All except one child, who seemed intent on disrupting things for everybody else. The question he asked was, "Why are we in here learning chess, when we could be outside kicking the footy?" The answer Nicholas gave him blew me away.

"Because at some time, later in life, you will need chess. At some stage in your life, God willing, you will be too old to kick the footy, but not old enough to just curl up and die. Some time in your life you will be ill, or bed-ridden, but will still be able, and wanting, to exercise your mind. Some time in your life the weather will not make football possible, but you will still want a game that is fast, and skilful, and enjoyable."

"You should learn chess because some time in your life you will be alone, but you won't want to be lonely. Because some time in your life your flight will be delayed or cancelled, and you will have unexpected time on your hands. At some stage in your life you will need to overcome language barriers, and you will be able to use the universal language of chess."

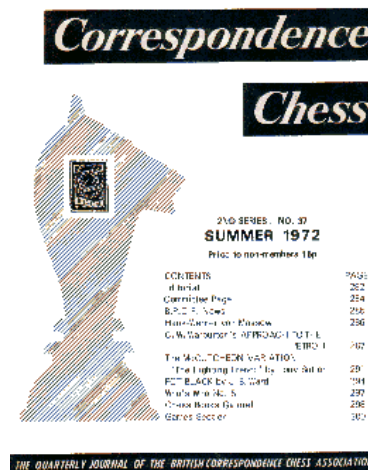
"Saint" Nicholas has a message to all readers: Teach somebody you know to play chess this Christmas.

[And chess isn't just for Christmas - there's no close season for teaching a friend!]



[This next one comes from Geoff Chandler's amusing series of columns on the Chess Edinburgh website. Geoff apparently works for Bank of Scotland, whose chess club I helped to start in 1972...]

I was throwing out some junk in a New Year tidy up. I came across this.



The Correspondence Chess Magazine 1972. God only knows where I got it from. The magazine relates this amusing story. Here is the abridged version.

There was this man called Thompson who organised a Chess Postal Team. He found no shortage of players but after a few months the players got fed up playing and dropped out.

Now rather than default these games, Mr Thompson took them over. (I've no idea if this legal but who cares, read on).

He would appear at his local Chess Club with a sheaf of envelopes and spend the whole night looking like a juggler who was juggling with one object too many.

In one of the games he was white and he had gained an advantage but in the confusion of playing six different guys at once, he mailed his next move to himself.

Now for those of you who have never tried postal play this blunder may sound impossible. But on these special correspondence cards your address is on one side and your opponents address on the other.

It quite easy to put the card in the window envelope the wrong way around and not notice your mistake. To compound the error, when the letter arrived he made a reply to his move and duly posted it on to his opponent.

He had in effect managed to swap colours. His opponent, no doubt delighted now to have white and the advantage played on.

In Correspondence Chess the organisers set an adjudication date for any unfinished games. This is to stop people in obviously lost positions playing on in the hope their opponent dies.

Mr Thompson noted the mistake several moves later. He hung on till adjudication and sent off a letter saying he started the game with white and had a won position. He now had black and had a lost game.

The teller of the story, a Mr Canter, now writes he soon left the club and did not know the outcome of the adjudication.

There must be someone out there who knows what would have happened. Was the game forfeit? Does Mr Thompson lose because he made a move for Black?

Put Geoff out of his quandary and email him on: geoffspare@hotmail.com You can find the full collection of Thompson stories on David Sugden's website: <http://www.dbsugden.clara.net/>

[Incidentally, the Santa hat. King and Queen image at the top of this column was also lifted from Geoff's material. It's amazing what people will get up to now the Peter Carter-Ruck has stopped defending lost positions...]

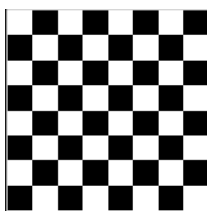


A man went to visit a friend and was amazed to find him playing chess with his dog. He watched the game in astonishment for a while. "I can hardly believe my eyes!" he exclaimed. "That's the smartest dog I've ever seen."

"Nah, he's not so smart," the friend replied. "I've beaten him three games out of five."



A group of chess enthusiasts checked into a hotel and were standing in the lobby discussing their recent tournament victories. After about an hour, the manager came out of the office and asked them to disperse and hold their meeting elsewhere. "But why?" they asked, as they moved off. "Because," he said, "I can't stand chess nuts boasting in an open foyer."



[From the Electric Scotland website comes an anecdote from "Reminiscences of Scottish Life & Character" <http://www.electricscotland.com/history/>]

"From a relative of the family I have received an account of a still worse confusion of ideas, caused by the inquiry of a Mrs Chisholm of Chisholm, who died in London in 1825, at an advanced age. She had come from the country to be with her daughter, and was a genuine Scottish lady of the old school. She wished to purchase a tablecloth of a cheque pattern, like the squares of a chess or draught board.

Now a draught board used to be called (as I remember) by old Scotch people a "dam brod." Accordingly, Mrs Chisholm entered the shop of a linen-draper, and asked to be shown table-linen a *dam-brod pattern*.

The shopman, although taken aback by a request, as he considered it, so strongly worded, by a respectable old lady, brought down what he assured her was the largest and widest made. No; that would not do. She repeated her wish for a dam-brod pattern, and left the shop surprised at the stupidity of the London shop-man not having the pattern she asked for."



In the 1985-86 British Ladies Correspondence Chess Championship, Nick Down, a former British Junior Correspondence Champion, entered as Miss Leigh Strange and won the event. He was later caught and admitted his deception was a prank that got out of hand. He was later banned from the British Correspondence Chess Association.



Excellence at chess is one mark of a scheming mind. – Sherlock Holmes (Sir Arthur Conan Doyle).



We don't stop playing because we grow old; we grow old because we stop playing (George Bernard Shaw).



General Information

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, and multiple entries are allowed, though Semi-Finals are restricted to 2 places per individual.

Master and GM Norm tournaments with 13-player sections are available for strong players, using airmail or email. Master 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. GM entry levels are 150 rating points higher. A player can enter only one postal 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 has speeded up many events, and made it cheaper to play. 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.

Thematic Tournaments

Postal Events 2004

Theme 2 - King's Gambit Kieseritzki Variation, C39

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 g5 4.h4 g4 5.Ne5

Entries by 15 January; play starts 1 March

Theme 3 - Ruy Lopez Archangelsk Variation, C78

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 b5 6.Bb3 Bb7

Entries by 15 February; play starts 1 April

Theme 4 - Benoni Vulture Variation, A56

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.b6

Entries by 15 March; play starts 1 May

Email Events 2004

Theme 3 - Dutch Defence - Leningrad Variation, A89

1.d4 f5 2.c4 Nf6 3.g3 g6 4.Bg2 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.0-0 d6 7.Nc3 Nc6

Entries by 1 February; play starts 1 March.

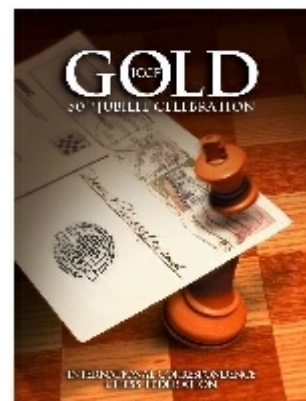
Theme 4 - Ruy Lopez - Open Variation, C80-C-83

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Nxe4

Entries by 1 March; play starts 1 April.

ICCF Gold

ICCF GOLD is the definitive reference book for all CC players. The 376-page book is a celebration of the first 50 years of ICCF and looks forward to a very interesting future. The UK price of ICCF Gold is £14.99, which includes p&p, and a full review of the book is included in Magazine 80.



Further details of all ICCF activities and events; entries to events, and orders for ICCF publications, may be obtained via George Pyrich at: international@scottishcca.co.uk