

# Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

**Magazine No.92**

**Winter 2005**

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**4 Printed Issues**  
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Welcome to the last edition of 2005, and very best wishes to all our readers for 2006!

As usual, publication is slightly behind to catch as many of last year's results as possible, and Jim Anderson provides the round up of 2005 x-tables for us.

Following Ian Reeman's article in the last issue, it falls my lot this time to annotate some games from the 2004-05 SCCA Championship that finished in a 3-way tie.

Bernard reviews the recent ChessBase CDs and DVDs as ever, and his Games Column is an unusual format this time, with Alastair Dawson providing his tournament record of the 2004-05 SCCA Candidates.

George Pyrich gives us the story of the 2005 ICCF Congress in Argentina, where thankfully the vacancies amongst top officials now largely seem to be filled.

George also gives an update on international events, including the Douglas Livie Memorial, where Frank Geider of France has finished as outright winner.

Alan Brown has done a great job in processing membership renewals on schedule this year, and most of our 2006 events have now started promptly as a result. You can view the new x-tables on our website.

The ICCF XVII Olympiad (webserver) event has started, as has the 7<sup>th</sup> European Team Championship semi-final (webserver) – Scotland is fielding teams in both events.

ICCF have now launched their Direct Entry (DE) programme, where players can enter events online – more information on our website News page, along with details of the 2006 ICCF individual championship cycle.

You can now go to bed hugging a teddy bear in ICCF livery (or anyone else you can persuade to don an ICCF t-shirt, though the safer bet might be to fill your ICCF mug with Horlicks)! John Knudsen is keeping shop and you can browse his wares using the links on the ICCF site, our News page, or the advert in this magazine.

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To have a look at any event, go to the site, and then click Tables and Results. If the event allows public viewing, choose a section, then click a cell in the cross-table to see the moves and position in the game(s) of your choice.

## Recent 100 Club Winners

2005	1st	2nd
December	I Mackintosh	G D Pyrich
November	G Lloyd	A P Borwell
October	I Mackintosh	G D Pyrich

### SCCA Officials

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## 2005 Results

By Jim Anderson

### Championship

2004/2005		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Pts
1	<b>Brown, Dr A C</b>	■	1	1	1	½	½	1	½	½	6
2	Cumming, D R	0	■	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
3	Edney, D	0	1	■	0	0	0	0	1	½	2½
4	Goodwin, B	0	1	1	■	½	½	½	1	½	5
5	Lloyd, G	½	1	1	½	■	0	½	½	0	4
6	<b>Mackintosh, I</b>	½	1	1	½	1	■	1	½	½	6
7	May, M A	0	1	1	½	½	0	■	0	0	3
8	Norris, Rev A C	½	0	0	0	½	½	0	■	0	1½
9	<b>Reeman, I F</b>	½	1	½	½	1	½	1	1	■	6

2005/2006		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Pts
1	Dawson, A G	■	0	½	0	½	0	0	1
2	Goodwin, B	0	■	0	0	½	0	½	1
3	Lloyd, G	½	0	■	½	0	0	½	1½
4	Mackintosh, I	1	0	½	■	½	0	½	2½
5	May, M A	½	½	1	½	■	½	½	3½
6	Norris, Rev A C	0	0	0	0	½	■	0	½
7	Reeman, I F	0	½	½	½	½	0	■	2

The 2004-05 event ended in a triple tie, the first since 1979. Alan Brown claimed his third title, Iain Mackintosh his second, and Ian Reeman broke his duck at last! Brian Goodwin also had a strong tournament. Mark May has finished undefeated in the 2005-06 contest. The high concentration of draws will ensure a tight finish unless anyone can win a couple of games.

### Candidates

2004/2005		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Pts
1	Anderson, J	■	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
2	Bird, A G E	1	■	½	0	0	0	½	1	0	3
3	Cumming, D R	1	½	■	0	0	0	0	1	1	3½
4	<b>Dawson, A G</b>	1	1	1	■	1	½	1	½	1	7
5	Lees, J	1	1	1	0	■	½	½	1	0	5
6	MacDonald, P H	1	1	1	½	½	■	1	½	½	6
7	Ross, D W	1	½	1	0	½	0	■	0	1	4
8	Thompson, B	1	0	0	½	0	½	1	■	½	3½
9	Young, S M	1	1	0	0	0	½	0	½	■	3

2005/2006		1	2	3	4	5	6	Pts
1	Crawley, J	■	1	0	1	0	1	3
2	Cumming, D R	0	■	0	0	0	1	1
3	Edney, D	1	1	■	1	0	1	4
4	Lees, J	0	1	0	■	0	1	2
5	Montgomery, R S	0	0	0	0	■	1	1
6	Young, S M	0	0	0	0	0	■	0

Alastair Dawson won the 2004-05 event convincingly, finishing a full point ahead of Paul MacDonald, and gaining promotion to the 2005-06 Championship. University Challenge celebrity David Edney is showing a welcome return to form in 2005-06, but Robert Montgomery may turn out to be the dark horse in the field!

## Premiers

2005		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Pts
1	Armstrong, J McK	■	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
2	<b>Cook, W M</b>	1	■	1	½	1	1	1	5½
3	Crichton, D	1	0	■	0	1	1	½	3½
4	Cumming, D R	1	½	1	■	1	½	1	5
5	Knox, A	0	0	0	0	■	0	0	0
6	McAinsh, T F	0	0	0	½	1	■	1	2½
7	Wright, A	1	0	½	0	1	0	■	2½

Bill Cook just edged out David Cumming in an all-Highland tussle.

## Majors

2005 Section A		1	2	3	4	Pts
1	Burridge, R J	■	0 1	1 1	0 ½	3½
2	Dowell, C	1 0	■	0 1	0 0	2
3	Moir, P J	0 0	1 0	■	0 0	1
4	<b>Morrow, J</b>	1 ½	1 1	1 1	■	5½

2005 Section B		1	2	3	4	Pts
1	Armstrong, J McK	■	0 0	0 0	½ 0	½
2	<b>Hart, W</b>	1 1	■	1 0	1 1	5
3	<b>Kennedy, G</b>	1 1	0 1	■	1 1	5
4	Rawlinson, J	1½	0 0	0 0	■	1½

In Section A, Joseph Morrow just missed a second successive 100% Club performance, while in Section B, Bill Hart and Gordon Kennedy couldn't be separated at the tape.

## Minors

2005 Section A		1	2	3	4	Pts
1	Brooksbank, K	■	½ 0	0 0	0 0	½
2	Kennedy, G	½ 1	■	½ ½	½ 0	3
3	McAleenan, C	1 1	½ ½	■		3
4	Rough, R E	1 1	½ 1		■	3½

2005 Section B		1	2	3	4	Pts
1	Armstrong, J McK	■	0 ½	1 1	0 0	2½
2	Doherty, T	1 ½	■	1 1	0 0	3½
3	Howie, A	0 0	0 0	■	0 0	0
4	<b>Moir, P J</b>	1 1	1 1	1 1	■	6

In section A, it's all in the balance with the late McAleenan-Rough result holding the key. In section B, Pat Moir elevated himself to the peerage with a perfect 6/6.

## Challenge

Because of the relatively low number of entries, the sole medal-winner for 2005 was **Geoff Lloyd**. Geoff managed to score 10/10 from the games he started and finished during the year, so he fully deserves his gong!

## Quartets

2005 Q213		1	2	3	4	Pts
1	Cumming, D R	■	1 1	1 1	1 ½	5½
2	Domnin, M	0 0	■	0 0	0 0	0
3	Moir, P J	0 0	1 1	■	1 1	4
4	Wright, A	0 ½	1 1	0 0	■	2½

David Cumming won impressively from Pat Moir.

## League Division 1

2005		Opponent	Game A	Game B	Points
<b>A</b>	<b>Black Knight</b>				<b>6½</b>
1	Pyrich, G D	E1	1	½	1½
2	Lennox C J/Marshall, I H	D2	1	½	1½
3	Reeman, I F	C3	1	½	1½
4	May, M A	B4	1	1	2
5	Hislop, A T	F5	0	0	0
<b>B</b>	<b>Perth Correspondents</b>				<b>6½</b>
1	Mackintosh, I	D1	1	½	1½
2	Brown, Dr A C	C2	½	½	1
3	Borwell, A P	F3	1	1	2
4	Harvey, D J	A4	0	0	0
5	Paine, K	E5	1	1	2
<b>C</b>	<b>Social Stars</b>				<b>5</b>
1	McKellar, L D	F1	½	1	1½
2	Sanderson, P	B2	½	½	1
3	Pallett, R F	A3	0	½	½
4	Cook, R G	E4	0	0	0
5	Lloyd, G	D5	1	1	2
<b>D</b>	<b>Dreadnoughts A</b>				<b>4</b>
1	Taylor, T	B1	0	½	½
2	Ackley, P	A2	0	½	½
3	Jenkins, A	E3	1	0	1
4	Franks, K	F4	1	1	2
5	McMillan, H	C5	0	0	0
<b>E</b>	<b>Brutal Realism</b>				<b>3½</b>
1	Murray, J S	A1	0	½	½
2	Almarza Mato, C	F2			
3	Thomson, D	D3	0	1	1
4	Taylor, W	C4	1	1	2
5	Hobbs, C	B5	0	0	0
<b>F</b>	<b>Dreadnoughts B</b>				<b>2½</b>
1	Dyke, L	C1	½	0	½
2	MacDonald, P H	E2			
3	Day, J	B3	0	0	0
4	Potts, F	D4	0	0	0
5	Wagenbach, J	A5	1	1	2

In Division 1, the post-5 Brave Englishmen era began with joint winners – old adversaries Black Knight and Perth Correspondents shared the spoils on 6½ points. At the time of writing, the relegation fight between Brutal Realism and Dreadnoughts B rested on the late result on board 2.

## League Division 2

2004		White v	Black v	Game A	Game B	Pts.
<b>A</b>	<b>Dreadnoughts C</b>					<b>3½</b>
1	McKellar, L D	B1	D1	1	½	1½
2	Phillips, G H	E2	C2	1	1	2
3	Stacey, A	D3	B3	0	0	0
4	Dare, P	E4	D4	0	0	0
5	Dare, Ms L	E5	C5	0	0	0
<b>B</b>	<b>Knights of the Board B</b>					<b>3</b>
1	Dawson, J	C1	A1	0	0	0
2	Anderson, J	D2	E2	def	def	0
3	Moir, P J	A3	C3	1	½	1½
4	Cumming, D R	D4	C4	1	½	1½
5	Duke, M	D5	E5	0	0	0
<b>C</b>	<b>Knights of the Board A</b>					<b>7½</b>
1	Gillam, S R	E1	B1	1	1	2
2	Morrow, J	A2	D2	0	1	1
3	Norris, Rev A C	B3	E3	½	½	1
4	Burnett, R	B4	E4	½	1	1½
5	Grant, J	A5	D5	1	1	2
<b>D</b>	<b>Social Dragons</b>					<b>6½</b>
1	Price, D	A1	E1	½	1	1½
2	Ruston, A/Rosser, G	C2	B2	0	1	1
3	Pomeroy, R	E3	A3	1	1	2
4	Dowell, C	A4	B4	1	0	1
5	Ross, G	C5	B5	0	1	1
<b>E</b>	<b>Social Roses</b>					<b>4½</b>
1	Ash, G	D1	C1	0	0	0
2	Gifford, M	B2	A2	1	0	1
3	Czyrski, P	C3	D3	½	0	½
4	Richardson, D	C4	A4	0	1	1
5	Blackwell, E	B5	A5	1	1	2

In Division 2, Knights of the Board A, led by ex-SCCA Champion Simon Gillam, pulled away strongly at the finish to pip Social Dragons for the promotion spot.

## Openings

2004 Evans Gambit C51		1	2	3	4	Pts
1	Brooksbank, K	■	0 ½	0 0	0 1	1½
2	Calder, H	1 ½	■	0 0	1 1	3½
3	<b>Crawley, J</b>	<b>1 1</b>	<b>1 1</b>	■	<b>1 1</b>	<b>6</b>
4	Loughran, R	1 0	0 0	0 0	■	1

The 2004 Openings event finished during 2005, and featured a 100% Club performance from John Crawley, who clearly enjoys a good gambit!

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## Triple Crown Part 2

By Iain Mackintosh

[Editor's note: the Championship of 2004-05 resulted in an unusual three-way tie – the first since 1979. This article is the second of a series where the joint winners each give us some background details and annotate their games. Iain Mackintosh had been a joint winner once before – in 1998, when he shared the title with Jonathan Lennox.]

### About Me

I was born in 1947 in Edinburgh and attended George Heriot's school as a founder, my dad having died when I was three. I was introduced to chess by the very kindly Bill McKerrow, the assistant headmaster, and managed to win both junior and senior school championships under his tutelage when I was eleven. At that time, Botvinnik was world champion, and Tal (my first chess hero) had just burst on to the scene.

During my teens and early twenties, I gave up chess almost completely, and it took the Fischer-Spassky match in 1972 to rekindle my interest. After I finished university, I started a chess club at Bank of Scotland where I'd got my first job, and we had some enjoyable times in the Edinburgh Leagues. I moved to Perth in 1974, and played for the local club in the TAFCA League, running into Alan Borwell and George Pyrich amongst others!

I'd married Fiona in 1972, and our three children (two boys and a girl) were born during 1976-80. Their arrival, together with an increasingly demanding working life, led to my interest in CC. I joined as a life member in the 70s, and have played correspondence ever since. I didn't give up OTB entirely, but I tended to take on more administrative work rather than play – I developed the first PC-based grading system for the then SCA in the 80s, and worked as their Services Director in the 80s and 90s.

In the 90s, I decided to go freelance, and I've run my own project management business since. I also got interested in website development, and was shown the ropes by Jim Falconer – the result being the SCCA website which was first launched in 1998.

I became SCCA president in 2000 and have been producing our e-magazines since 2001. On the international front, I was project manager for the ICCF webserver development during 2003-04.

As a player, I've always been able to spot combinations quickly, but I missed out on a lot of thematic learning and openings preparation when I abandoned the game in my formative years. The advent of computer databases and texts like ChessBase has now largely filled that void, and I find them an indispensable tool in modern competitive play. The games I've selected for this article bear witness to that!

### Reeman, I (2201) – Mackintosh, I (2195) [C33]

SCCA Championship 04-05

[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

I drew the Black pieces against Ian Reeman, and knew of his fondness for the King's Gambit. Rather than change my preference of 1... e5 in response to 1.e4, I decided to research ChessBase for little-used lines that seemed to nullify White's dangerous attacking chances.

**1.e4**                    **e5**  
**2.f4**                    **exf4**  
**3.Bc4**                  **Ne7!?**

This is an old move, first played by the likes of Steinitz in the 1890s and revived by Sokolov around 2000.

[3...Nf6 4.Nc3 c6 5.d4 d5 6.exd5 cxd5 7.Bb5+ Bd7 8.Qe2+ Be7= as in Gal-Menyhart, Debrecen, 1993, drawn after 45 moves.;

3...Qh4+ 4.Kf1 b5!? 5.Bxb5 Nf6 6.Nf3 Qh6 7.Nc3 g5? 8.d4± Bb7 9.h4 Rg8 10.Kg1 gxh4 11.Rxh4 Qg6 12.Qe2 Nxe4?! 13.Rxf4 f5 14.Nh4 Qg3 15.Nxe4 was Short-Kasparov, London Rapid Play, 1993, 1-0.]

**4.Nc3**

[4.Nf3 d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.Bxd5 Qxd5 7.Nc3 Qd8 8.d4 Be7 9.Bxf4 0-0 10.Qd3 Nc6 11.0-0-0 Bd6 12.Bxd6 cxd6 13.Rhf1 Bg4 14.Qb5!? Na5 15.h3 a6 16.Qd5 Be6 17.Qh5 h6 18.d5 Bd7 19.Nd4?! Nc4! 20.Rf3 Qe7 21.b3 Ne5 22.Rg3 Qf6 23.Qe2 Qf4+?! 24.Re3 Rac8 25.g3 Qg5 26.Ne4 Qg6 27.g4± f5? 28.gxf5 Bxf5 29.Nxf5 Rxf5 30.Rg3+- Rg5 31.Nxg5 hxg5 32.Rdg1 Qf6 33.Kb1 Re7 34.Re3 b5 35.Rf1 Qh6 36.Rc3 Re8 37.Qe4 Qh5 38.Qf5 Qe2 39.Rg1 Nf7 40.Rc8 Qe3 41.Rf1 was Motwani-Sokolov, Istanbul, 2000, 1-0.]

**4...**                    **c6**  
**5.Nf3**

This move had only been played once before in my database, but it had a good pedigree – Fischer-Minic, Vinkovci, 1968, 1-0 after 24 moves!

**5...**                    **d5**  
**6.Bb3**                  **Be6N**

[6...dxe4 was played straight away by Minic in the Fischer game.]



7.0-0 dxe4  
 8.Nxe4  
 [8.Bxc6 Qb6+ 9.d4 exd3+ 10.Kh1 fxe6 11.Qxd3 Nd7  
 12.Qc2 0-0-0=]

8... Bxb3  
 The point of Black's 6th.

9.axb3 Ng6  
 10.d4 Be7=  
 Here, Black has neutralised a number of typical KG threats.

11.Ne1 0-0  
 12.Bxf4 Nxf4  
 13.Rxf4  
 Material equality. Can either player now find a winning plan?

13... f5  
 This contests the centre. An alternative ploy was to bring the knight to d5 via a6 and c7.

14.Ng3 g6  
 15.Qd3 Bd6  
 16.Rf3 Nd7  
 17.b4

Now White mobilises on the q-side.

17... Nf6  
 [17...Bxb4?? 18.Qc4+]

18.Qc4+ Kh8  
 19.Nf1 a5  
 This provokes some tactics aimed at defusing the White initiative.

20.b5 Qb6  
 21.bxc6 Qxb2  
 22.cxb7 Qxa1  
 23.bxa8Q Rxa8

So, a Black runner on the a-file versus connected White passed pawns on c and d.

24.Nd3 Rd8?!  
 [With hindsight, 24...Ne4 25.Qd5 Re8 was maybe better.]  
 25.Nc5?!

This allows simplification, and eliminates the White passed pawns.



25... Bxc5  
 26.dxc5 Qd4+  
 27.Qxd4 Rxd4  
 28.Ra3 Rc4  
 29.Rxa5 Rxc2  
 30.Ne3 Rc1+  
 31.Kf2 Ne4+  
 32.Kf3 Rxc5  
 33.Rxc5 Nxc5

Black comes out a pawn to the good, but is it enough?

34.g4 fxg4+  
 35.Kxg4 Kg7

36.h4 Nd7  
 37.Kg5 Nf6  
 38.Kf4 Nh5+  
 39.Ke5 Ng3  
 40.Nd5 Kf7  
 41.Kf4 Nh5+  
 42.Ke5 Ng7  
 43.Nf4 Ne8  
 44.Ne6 Ke7  
 45.Nd4 Ng7  
 46.Nc6+ Kf8  
 47.Nd8 Nh5  
 48.Ne6+ Kf7  
 49.Ng5+ Kg7  
 50.Ne6+ Kh6  
 51.Ng5 Ng7  
 52.Kf6 Ne8+

And after nearly 20 moves, the players are satisfied that the extra pawn is no real benefit.

1/2-1/2

### Mackintosh, I (2195) – Lloyd, G (2274) [A57]

SCCA Championship 04-05

[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

I'd played Geoff Lloyd twice previously in SCCA Championships, with our score one win apiece. Geoff's playing style is aggressive, so my preparation for this game was to vary my opening from my usual 1.e4, and to avoid gambits!

1.d4 Nf6  
 2.c4 c5  
 3.d5 b5  
 4.Nf3

Recent master play prefers to accept the gambit, but the overall statistics are in favour of declining it.

4... Bb7  
 5.Nbd2 bxc4  
 6.e4 d6!

Best.

7.Bxc4 g6  
 8.Rb1

[Korchnoi has played 8.Qa4+ here, e.g. against Klarenbeek, Dutch Championship, 1994, 1-0 after 35 moves.]

8... Bg7N

[8...Nbd7 9.0-0 Bg7 10.b3 0-0 11.Bb2 Nb6 12.Re1 Rb8 13.Bc3 Ne8 14.Qc2 Nc7 15.Bxg7 Kxg7 16.Rbd1 f6 17.h3 Ba6 18.Bxa6 Nxa6 19.Qc3 Kg8 was Kruppa-Tirard, Capelle, 2000, 1-0 after 45 moves.]



9.b4 Nbd7



10.Ba3

[10.bxc5 Nxc5 gives the Black knight a nice outpost.]

10... cxb4

11.Bxb4

0-0

12.0-0

Nb6

13.Bb5

Rc8

[13...a6 14.Bd3 would expose threats on b6 and b7.]

14.Qb3 Qc7

15.Rfe1

h6

[15...Qc2 16.Qa3 is too dangerous for Black.]

16.Qa3

Ba8

17.Qd3

White is now controlling the q-side and had several ideas here: running the a-pawn, getting a knight on c6, and a rook on c1. This seemed the best position for the queen on all counts.

17...

Ng4

18.h3

Ne5

19.Nxe5

Bxe5

20.a4

f5?!

Black tries to generate as much activity as possible, but at the expense of creating openings for White to exploit.

21.a5

Nd7

22.Nf3

f4?!



23.Rec1! Qxc1+

[23...Qd8 24.Rxc8 Qxc8 25.Bxd7 Qxd7 26.Nxe5 dxe5 27.Qc3 Rc8 28.Qxe5+]

24.Rxc1

Rxc1+

25.Kh2

Rb8

26.Bxd7

Rxb4

27.Nxe5

Rbb1

28.g3

dxe5

29.Qa6+

fxg3+

30.Kxg3

Kf8

31.Qxa7

Rg1+

32.Kh4

Bxd5

One last tactical shot.

33.exd5

Rb4+

34.Bg4

h5

35.f4!

But this counter-tactic seals it.

1-0

### Mackintosh, I (2195) – Edney, D (2193) [E81]

SCCA Championship 04-05

[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

I'd played David Edney in the two preceding Championships, both games ending in well-contested draws. My plan was to employ 1.d4 (I'd used 1.e4 previously), and to get out of main lines as soon as was practicable.

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1.d4

Nf6

2.c4

g6

3.Nc3

Bg7

4.e4

d6

5.f3

0-0

6.Nge2

[6.Be3 e5 7.d5 is the main line.]

6...

a6

7.Ng3!?

a seldom-played variation. [7.Be3 Nc6 8.Qd2 Rb8 is the usual continuation.]

7...

c6

8.Be3

b5

9.Be2N

[9.Rc1 Nbd7 10.b3 h5 11.Bd3 bxc4 12.bxc4 c5 13.d5 Ne5 was Hauchard-Lobzhanidze, Ubeda, 2000, drawn after 43 moves.]



9...

Nbd7

10.0-0

This briefly transposes back into a book line.

10...

b4N

[10...bxc4 11.Bxc4 Rb8 12.Qe2 Qa5 13.a3 c5 14.dxc5 dxc5 15.Bf4 e5 16.Be3 Nb6 17.Ba2 c4 18.Qf2 Na4 19.Nxa4 Qxa4 20.Rac1 Be6 21.Rc2 Rfc8 22.Rfc1 Ne8 23.Ne2 Nd6 24.Nc3 Qa5 25.Rd2 Nb5 26.Nd5 Bxd5 27.Rxd5 Qa4 28.Qd2 h5 29.Bc5 c3 30.bxc3 Nxa3 31.Bd6 Rb5 32.Rxb5 Nxb5 33.Bxf7+ Kh8 34.Bxe5 was Sakaev-Sepp, Keres Memorial, 2001, 1-0.]

11.Na4

Qc7

12.f4

e5

13.c5

exd4



14.cxd6!

This gives White a strong initiative.

14...

Qxd6

15.e5

Qe6

16.Bxd4

Nd5

17.Bc4

Qe7

[17...f6!? was maybe worth a try.]

**18.Ne4 a5**  
**19.Rf2**

Preparing to double rooks on the c-file.

**19... Rd8**  
**20.Nd6 Qe6**  
**21.Bb6!**

It's difficult for Black to find good moves now.

**21... Rf8**  
**22.Bb3 Ra6**  
**23.Bd4 f6**  
**24.Rc1 fxe5**  
**25.fxe5**

[25.. Rxf2 26.Bxf2 Bxe5 27.Nxc8+]

**1-0**

### May, M (2256) – Mackintosh, I (2195) [C89]

SCCA Championship 04-05

[Notes by Iain Mackintosh]

I've played Mark a number of times dating back to the time he was stationed at RAF Leuchars. I didn't do any special preparation for this one, but the chosen Ruy Lopez allowed me to revisit the analysis on Tim Harding's CD of the 'Total Marshall' Gambit (c.f. also Magazine 85).

**1.e4 e5**  
**2.Nf3 Nc6**  
**3.Bb5 a6**  
**4.Ba4 Nf6**  
**5.0-0 Be7**  
**6.Re1 b5**  
**7.Bb3 0-0**  
**8.c3 d5**  
**9.exd5 Nxd5**  
**10.Nxe5 Nxe5**  
**11.Rxe5 Bb7**

Tim Harding rates this as solid for Black in his surveys on the Marshall.

**12.d4 Bf6**  
**13.Re1 Re8**  
**14.Rxe8+**

[14.Na3 b4 15.Nc4 bxc3 16.Na5 Rb8!= was Bennedik-Harding, IECG, 1999.]

**14... Qxe8**  
**15.Bxd5 Bxd5**  
**16.Nd2 c5N**



This aggressive continuation seemed in keeping with the Marshall. [16...Qc6 17.Nf3 Qe6 18.Bf4 c6 19.b3 Qg4 20.Bg3 b4 21.cxb4 Rd8 22.Rc1 Bxf3 23.gxf3 Qd7 24.Qc2 Rc8 25.Qc4 Bxd4 26.Qxa6 Bb2 27.Re1 Bc3 28.Re7 Qd8

29.Qb7 Qf8 30.Rxf7 Qxf7 31.Qxc8+ Qf8 32.Qxc6 Bxb4 33.Qc4+ Kh8 34.Qb5 Be7 35.Qb8 Qxb8 36.Bxb8 Estrella-Perez, Cuban U18 Championships, 1999, 1-0.]

**17.dxc5**

This is just a temporary loss of material while Black consolidates his development.

**17... Rd8**  
**18.a4 Qe7**  
**19.axb5 axb5**  
**20.Ra6**

[I'd expected 20.Ra5 Bc6]

**20... Qxc5**  
**21.Qe2 b4**

Again, Black is trying to find aggressive moves to exploit his better position.

**22.c4 Bb7**  
**23.Ra2 Qc6**  
**24.Qf3 Qc8**  
**25.Qe2 Re8!**

Maintaining the pressure.

**26.Qf1**

[26.Qd1 Qc6 27.Nf3 Qxc4+]

**26... Bd4**  
**27.Nf3 Qg4**  
**28.Ra5**

The most active defence. [28.Nxd4? Re1!+]



**28... h6**

Stops the rook getting to g5.

**29.h3 Qg6**  
**30.Kh1 b3**  
**31.c5**

[31.Rb5 Bxf3 32.gxf3 Qc2 is the point of 30... b3.]

**31... Bxf3**  
**32.gxf3 Qb1**  
**33.Kg2 Re6**

[33...Bxb2 34.Bxb2 Re1 35.Qxe1 Qxe1 looked strong for Black also.]

**34.Ra8+ Kh7**  
**35.Rd8 Bxb2**  
**36.Rd1 Qg6+**  
**37.Kh1 Bxc1**  
**38.Rxc1 b2**

[ 39.Rb1 Re2 40.Rd1 Qc2 41.Kg2 Rd2 42.Re1 Qxc5 etc.]

**0-1**





## The Scandinavian The Easy Way - DVD By Andrew Martin



The first two titles in this edition of the magazine come from Andrew Martin who produces some excellent teaching material. As with previous DVDs produced by Martin these take the form of video tutorials using the Fritz8-Chess Media System. All of the lectures are presented in their entirety with video pictures and synchronised chess graphics. The System requirements for both are: Pentium-Processor at 300 Mhz or higher, 64 MB RAM, Windows 98 SE, Windows 2000, Windows XP, Windows Media Player 9.0, DVD drive

The Scandinavian, or Centre-Counter Defence if you prefer, is an opening for Black which will furnish good results in the shortest possible time. I have used this on occasions and my experience is that my opponents had to tread carefully to avoid getting into a lot of trouble early in the game.

International Master Andrew Martin has written extensively on the Centre-Counter and here he turns his attention to 1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Qxd5 3 Nc3 Qd6! Playing flat out for the win against 1.e4 is never easy, but here we encounter a variation where Black can do just that! All relevant second and third move alternatives for White are analysed as well. This DVD will be a boon to all chessplayers, but particularly to the busy person with limited time for study or those who wish to incorporate a new defence into their Black repertoire with the minimum possible hassle. This really is the Scandinavian - the easy way!

## The Trompowski The Easy Way - DVD By Andrew Martin



The Trompowski 1 d4 Nf6 2 Bg5 is used by some of the best players in the world and a great deal of complicated theory has built up. In this fascinating DVD, International Master Andrew Martin traces the history of the opening from those early days, through the 'golden age' of the late 1980's and 1990's, and shows how the theory and ideas have evolved into the sharp and dangerous weapon that the Trompowski

undoubtedly is today. Martin simplifies the theory of 2005 and creates an easy to understand repertoire for the White player that recaptures the pioneering spirit of those early days...with interest! He argues conclusively that 2 Bg5 can still lead to original chess. Games from Vaganian, Hodgson, Bellon, Miladanovic, McShane, Ivanchuk and a whole cast of excellent players help to demonstrate why.

## Dutch A80 - A85 - CD By Boris Schipkov



In the third and final part of his trilogy about the Dutch, Boris Schipkov turns his attention to the less important lines. But some of them could well be considered main lines, since they are played by respected grandmasters and since the statistics are excellent from the point of view of White. For example 2.Nc3 – White immediately begins to fight for the advance e2-e4. Or 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 – which is encountered so often in praxis that it can hardly be called a sub variation. The author treats all lines with great thoroughness. All are preceded by a text in which Schipkov presents the underlying strategic ideas of the variation in question and refers to the relevant model games. Includes: 20 chapters, 370 model games annotated by the author and over 37,000 games as well as a training database.

The ChessBase Reader based on ChessBase 9 is included.

## The Vienna Game - CD By Gregory Huber



This CD actually covers two openings, including the Bishop's Opening (1.e4 e5 2.Bc4) as well as the Vienna Game (2.Nc3). This is logical, however, since in various lines of the Vienna Bc4 is also played and in the same fashion the Bishop's Opening often involves Nc3. The author also includes further possible transitions including certain variations of the King's Gambit with the result that the CD offers a complete repertoire for 1.e4 e5.

The work consists of a clearly laid out database containing 26 texts and 330 games, 220 of which have been annotated by the author. In addition there is a large database containing more than 27,000 games (a good 300 of which have been annotated), a training database with 124 training questions and a large opening tree constructed from all the games. Includes: 26 chapters, 330 annotated games, a database of over 27,000 games and a training database.

The ChessBase Reader based on ChessBase 9 is included.

### 1000 Opening Traps - CD By Karsten Muller & Rainer Knaak



I always enjoy these types of CD. I suppose it harks back to the days of solving mate in X moves in magazines and papers. If you do not know opening theory in its most intimate details, then you must rely on a sound understanding of chess. But sometimes, that is not enough, because opening traps lurk everywhere, relying on the unwary making “normal” moves – developing a piece, making a capture, setting or parrying a threat. But after that the reply is mainly an unusual and therefore an unexpected one – a sacrifice, a piece moves to an unusual square or an expected recapture is omitted in favour of another, better move. In this work, the authors have a twofold aim in view; if you wish, you can master the traps within the area of your own openings. But you can also systematically attempt to extend your opening repertoire in order to set some traps yourself.

The ChessBase Reader based on ChessBase 9 is included.

### Mega Database 2006 - DVD By ChessBase



In my opinion the best and most exclusive annotated database available. I would consider this a most for all top class Correspondence Chess players. Contains more than 3.2 millions games from 1530 to 2005 in the highest ChessBase quality standard. 60,000 games contain commentary from top players, with ChessBase opening classification with more than 100,000 key positions, direct access to players, tournaments, middlegame themes, endgames. The largest top class annotated database in the world. The most recent games of the database are from the middle of November 2005. Mega 2006 also features a new edition of the playerbase. As usual, this is where

most of the work was done. As the player index now contains already more than 180,000 entries, it made sense to use an adapted playerbase which includes about 200,000 names. Doing this, the photo database was extended as well to contain 26,000 pictures now.

Requires ChessBase 9

### Fritz Powerbook 2006 - DVD By ChessBase



The current openings theory with 1 million games. The Fritz Powerbook 2006 contains 18 millions opening positions, derived from 1 million high class tournament games. Together with each position all relevant information is stored: all moves that were played in the position, by players of what average rating, with what success and performance results. The games from which the Fritz Powerbook 2006 were derived are also included on the DVD. This means that in any position of the openings tree you can load and replay the games in which the position occurred. The Fritz Powerbook 2006 represents the state of the art of current openings theory. Discover exciting and tricky new lines and practice them against Fritz. In addition the DVD has a small but very exclusive book with the strongest GM games from the past 100 years (900,000 positions).

Requires Fritz 9.





## Games Column

by Bernard Milligan

Welcome to the winter edition of the Games Column. As this will appear early in 2006 a happy new year to one and all. I only hope that you New years resolutions included one to annotate some of last seasons games for the magazine.

I got an early Christmas present from Alastair Dawson who annotated all his games from the 2004/05 Candidates. Alastair won the event to progress to this years Championship. The games are high quality and contain a good bit of variety so there should be something there for everyone.

SCCA Candidates, 2004/05

**White :-** J Lees  
**Black :-** A Dawson  
 Pirc Defence [B08]  
 [Annotator A Dawson]

**1.e4** **d6**  
**2.d4** **Nf6**  
**3.Nc3** **g6**  
**4.Nf3** **Bg7**  
**5.Be2** **0-0**  
**6.0-0** **Bg4**  
**7.h3**

Directly asking the Q of the Bf3 and the capture is main-line.

**7...** **Bxf3**  
**8.Bxf3** **Nc6**  
**9.Be3** **e5**  
**10.d5** **Ne7**  
**11.Be2** **Nd7**  
**12.a4** **f5**  
**13.a5** **Nf6**  
**14.exf5** **Nxf5**



A key moment in game. Black has to decide whether to take with g-pawn or by ...Nf5. Ordinarily ..gf5 is played but Black is weak on the white squares and the Ne7 heads for g6. By recapturing with the N,

Black has clear plan here of doubling rooks on the f-file and keeping an eye over d4. Of course, the compensation for White after ...Nf5 is control over the e4 square.

**15.Bg5** **a6**  
**16.Bd3** **Qd7**  
**17.Qd2** **Rf7**  
**18.Rae1** **Raf8**  
**19.b4** **Nd4**

Also a critical position - White has to decide whether or not to play Bf6 - after all the ...Nf5 capture left a weakness on e4, White might have a better plan here therefore to play Bf6 and then occupy e4 alternately with N and B.

**20.Qd1** **Nh5**  
**21.Be4**

White has to cover f3 since sacrifices are beginning to be threatened while an ...Nf4 creates additional sacrificial threats on g2 and h3.

**21...** **Nf4**  
**22.Nb1**



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

**22...** **c6**  
**23.Bxf4** **Rxf4**  
**24.c3** **Nb5**  
**25.Qd2** **Bh6**

It is clear that the d6 and e5 pawn will not

be moving so now is an opportunity to put the Bh6 on a good square.

**26.Qd3** **Qc7**  
**27.g3** **R4f6**  
**28.Bg2** **c5**  
**29.Qc4** **cxb4**  
**30.Qxc7** **Nxc7**  
**31.cxb4** **Nb5**

This set of captures turns out in Black's favour. The Bh6 covers the c1 square and this makes it easy for Black to switch the play and take control of the c-file.

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



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

**37.Rxe2** **Rc1**  
**38.Rb2** **Kf8**  
**39.Kg2** **Nc7**

Now the ..d5 pawn falls - the following exchanges just have the effect of exaggerating the weakness induced by the Nb1.

**40.b5** **axb5**  
**41.Bxb5** **Nxd5**  
**42.Be2** **Rc5**  
**43.Rxb7** **Rxa5**  
**44.Rd7** **Ra2**  
**45.Rxd6** **Ne3+**  
**46.Kf3** **e4+**  
**47.Kxe4** **Rxe2**  
**48.fxe3** **Rxe3+**  
**49.Kd5** **Rb3**

White is done for - the N can be saved

after Rf6+ and Rf1 etc but the g3 pawn falls and Black enters the endgame effectively a piece up! **0-1**



SCCA Candidates, 2004/05

**White :-** A Dawson  
**Black :-** D R Cumming  
 Caro-Kann Defence [B10]  
 [Annotator A Dawson]

**1.e4 c6**  
**2.f4 d5**  
**3.Nc3**

A straightforward idea to challenge the centre. If ...d4 then White responds with Nb1 and thereafter seeks to take charge of the c4 square through d3, a4, Nd2 and Nc4.

**3... e6**  
**4.Nf3 Qb6**  
**5.d4 Bb4**  
**6.e5 c5**  
**7.a3 Bxc3+**  
**8.bxc3 Nc6**  
**9.Be3 cxd4**  
**10.cxd4 Nge7**  
**11.Be2 Nf5**  
**12.Bf2 f6**  
**13.0-0 0-0**  
**14.c4 fxe5**  
**15.fxe5 Qd8**

Not much to shout about here except that White has a sizeable space advantage and is noticeably ahead in development.

**16.Rc1 Kh8**  
**17.cxd5 Qxd5**

Maybe not best here (...ed5) since the Qd5 is exposed to new attacks and the Bc8 remains locked out of play.

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

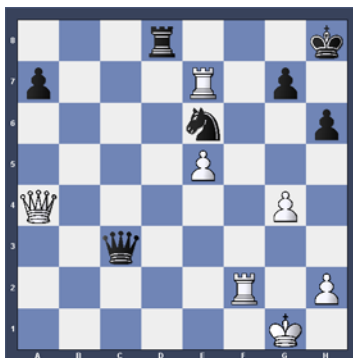


I pondered long and hard about this move since although, winning a pawn, it instantly frees the Bc8 and allows the Ra8 to be developed. On reflection Ne4 may have been a lot better with the long-term plan of pushing ahead with g5 while simultaneously holding the centre. After the following captures I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

**21... Bxe6**  
**22.Bxe6 Qxa3**  
**23.Ra1 Qc3**  
**24.Rb1 Rxf2**

Prior to ...Rf2 White is ahead with pressure all across the board. Despite this, a win is a long way away. After ..Rf2 White can hold the centre together and comes out the exchange ahead.

**25.Rxf2 Nxd4**  
**26.Rxb7 Nxe6**  
**27.Rxe7 Rd8**  
**28.Qa4**



The d-pawn was always going to fall but after the forced exchanges the effect of the R for N now becomes apparent. There is no route in for Black against the White King. By contrast, the Black King is somewhat exposed.

**28... Qe1+**  
**29.Rf1 Qxe5**  
**30.Qc6**

This move was played partly to create a pin on the Ne6 but mainly it was played to lure Black into a trap. On the face of it, it looks like ...Rd2 is very dangerous since not only does it create mating threats but it also threatens to take advantage of Queen checks on the White King. I guess

**30. Qc6**

is one of those innocent looking moves that lures Black into a false sense of

security. I played it with a wager to myself that Black would try the Rook move and,

**30... Rd2**  
**31.Qe8+ Kh7**  
**32.Rxg7+**

wins the Queen back - and the game.

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



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

**37... Ke4**  
**38.Qh7+ Kf3**  
**39.Ke1 Re2+**  
**40.Kd1 Kf2**  
**41.Qxh6 Re1+**  
**42.Kd2 Nf3+**  
**43.Kd3 Rd1+**  
**44.Ke4**

White has to be patient and let Black exhaust all available checks.

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

Black resigns **1-0**



SCCA Candidates, 2004/05

**White :-** A Dawson  
**Black :-** D Ross  
 French Defence [C00]  
 [Annotator A Dawson]

**1.e4 e6**

**2.f4** **d5**  
**3.Nc3**

An unusual line - this sort of variation has been played several times by Hebden against 1...c5 the idea being to provoke ...d4 and white thereafter taking control of c4 by d3, a4, Nbd2 and Nc4 etc. Against the French it can transpose after ...d4 and ...c5. In Sicilian lines, Hebden has also tried with success after...de4 and the Ne4 recapture, to respond to ...Nf6 with Nf2-d3, b3 and Bb2. Although this is an original and powerful plan against the Sicilian, Black shows here by a series of powerful moves that it is not a good idea against the French!

**3...** **dx e4**  
**4.Nxe4** **Nf6**  
**5.Nf2** **Bc5**

Black, without having played ...c5, makes use of the tempo with a strong move. As the game develops, White hangs on by the most slender of threads. It goes without saying that this is an unsound line for White. The idea of ...Bc5 by Black may indeed be the refutation. In short, it is a variation not to be recommended except to the bravest of White players!

**6.Nd3** **Bb6**  
**7.Nf3** **0-0**  
**8.b3** **Nc6**  
**9.Bb2** **a5**  
**10.Nfe5**



White has a chronic weakness at f2 but it is very difficult for Black to exploit this.

**10...** **Nxe5**  
**11.fxe5** **Ne4**  
**12.g3** **f5**

The White position becomes more fragile by the minute but there seems to be no obvious way for Black to take advantage. At this point in the game I felt by instinct that a miracle was required to enable me to hang on. But the more that I looked at

the position, the more I had difficulty finding a winning line for Black.

**13.exf6** **Rxf6**

Ouch, the Rf6 cannot be recaptured. White is in very stormy waters here.

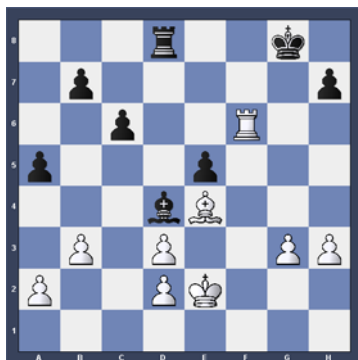
**14.Bg2** **Nf2**

This seems to be best for Black but after a series of forced exchanges White emerges no worse than equal.

**15.Bxf6** **Qxf6**  
**16.Rf1** **Nxd1**  
**17.Rxf6** **gxf6**  
**18.Kxd1** **e5**  
**19.h3** **Bf5**  
**20.Ke2** **Rd8**  
**21.Rf1**

And now White wins a pawn.

**21...** **Bxd3+**  
**22.cxd3** **c6**  
**23.Rxf6** **Bd4**  
**24.Be4**



An ending is reached with White a pawn ahead. The plan for White is to advance the g and h pawns and try to penetrate either with the Rook on the 7th rank or by forcing Black to defend against the threat of Rh6, White is winning but it is not a forced wins by any stretch of the imagination.

**24...** **Kg7**  
**25.Re6** **Rd7**  
**26.g4** **Rf7**  
**27.g5** **Kf8**  
**28.h4** **Rf2+**  
**29.Kd1** **Rf1+**  
**30.Kc2** **Rf7**  
**31.h5** **Be3**

A correspondence error. Black had ...Rf7 on his scoresheet but thought he had played ...Rf2. However, after 30...Rf2, White may not have played 31. h5. Rather than retract the last two moves

Black resigned. In reality Black can with best play hang on but it is a tough task.  
**1-0**



SCCA Candidates, 2004/05

**White :-** A Bird  
**Black :-** A Dawson  
 English Opening [A21]  
 [Annotator A Dawson]

**1.c4** **e5**  
**2.Nc3** **Bb4**  
**3.Nd5** **Be7**

The Shirov-Krammik variation.

**4.d4** **d6**  
**5.e4** **Nc6**  
**6.Nxe7** **Ngxe7**

Black can choose here from ...Qe7 and ...Nge7. The idea with the ..Ne7 capture is to keep the Knights interconnected. I learned this line from some games played by Hodgson.

**7.d5** **Nd4**  
**8.Be3** **c5**



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

**9.Bd3** **f5**

It is amazing how fast the counterplay develops on the f-file.

**10.Ne2** **0-0**  
**11.0-0**

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

**11...** **Nxe2+**  
**12.Qxe2** **f4**

All of a sudden Black has a tremendous attack.

13.Bd2 f3

A temporary sacrifice that guarantees a powerful attack on the White King.

14.Qe3 fxe2  
15.Kxg2 Ng6

Although Black has a clear edge here, the position requires a clear plan of how Black should proceed. After all, although Black is in possession of the f-file, White might seek some counterplay by posting his Rooks on g3 and g1 respectively. So, as far as Black is concerned the key thing is to mobilise both Rooks as fast as possible, so after White's next move the plan is to exchange off the Bc8.

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



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

19... Nf4  
20.Qe3 Nh5  
21.Rce1 Rf4

Wins a tempo.

22.Qe2 Rf6  
23.Rc1 Raf8  
24.Kg2 Rg6+  
25.Kh1

And thanks to the Nh5 the next move wins the game.

25... Rxf2

26.Qxf2 Ng3+  
27.Qxg3 Rxg3  
28.Rce1 Rg4  
29.Rf3 Rxe4  
30.Ref1 h6  
0-1



SCCA Candidates, 2004/05  
White :- A Dawson  
Black :- J Anderson  
Sicilian Defence [B21]  
[Annotator A Dawson]

1.e4 c5  
2.f4 d6  
3.Bb5+ Bd7

A tricky offshoot variation of the Sicilian Grand Prix that gives White a quite solid position. White plans to exchange the white-squared bishops and make use of his space advantage.

4.Bxd7+ Qxd7  
5.d3 g6  
6.Nf3 Bg7  
7.0-0 Nc6  
8.Nc3 Nf6  
9.Qe1 0-0  
10.h3



As this game develops I noticed that the position has now reached by transposition Jensen -Ernst (Copenhagen 1981), the game example of this variation being given in Hodgson and Day (1985:83) "Grand Prix Attack: f4 against the Sicilian" - and luckily sitting on my bookshelf! The move 10. h3 played here is designed to stop Black playing ...Qg4 once White has played Qh4. 10...a6 In Jensen-Ernst, Black diverges here with a Queenside assault based on ..Rab8, ..b5, ...b4 and ...a5.

11.Qh4 Nd4  
12.Rf2 d5  
13.g4 Nxf3+  
14.Rxf3 d4

This is probably a mistake on Black's part since the tension is relieved across the centre of the board. By attacking the Nc3 Black also helps the N re-route to its best square (g3). Black's best is to keep the tension and leave the pawn on d5 and develop threats down the d-file but his game is not an easy one.

15.Ne2 Qc6  
16.f5 e5



By closing the centre here Black allows White the freedom to build a powerful Kingside attack.

17.Bh6 Qd6  
18.Raf1 b5

Funnily enough this moves loses by force since it allows the Nf6 to be attacked by Bg5 and , once the Nf6 moves, the Qd6 and Rf8 are forked by Be7.

19.fxg6 fxg6  
20.Bg5 h6

Now the Black position collapses. The N has to move to e8 or d7 when Be7 is painful. 1-0



SCCA Candidates, 2004/05  
White :- S Young  
Black :- A Dawson  
Pirc Defence [A45]  
[Annotator A Dawson]

1.d4 Nf6  
2.e3 d6  
3.Nc3 g6  
4.Nf3 Bg7  
5.Bc4 0-0

A passive yet solid position on White's part.

6.0-0 Nbd7  
7.e4

White, by virtue of his opening moves,



wastes a tempo here - so in theory Black should have no problems.

7... e5  
 8.dxe5 dxe5  
 9.Be3 Qe7  
 10.Qd3 Nb6

Trying to take advantage of the fact that the Qd3 is somewhat exposed.

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

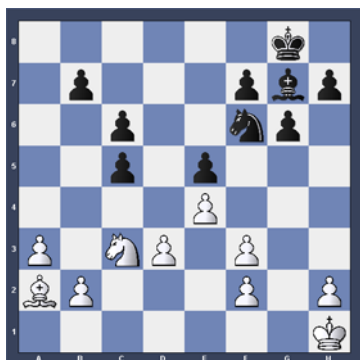


A difficult choice whether or not to go for Queen exchanges here. Black has no problems here and has an edge if the Queens come off due to the Bg4 pin, the open a-file and the opportunity to challenge the d-file with his rooks.

14.Qxc5 bxc5  
 15.Rd3 Bxf3  
 16.gxf3

I expected Rf3 here. In the long term, Black plans to exploit the doubled pawns. As Jonathan Rowson commented, these sort of pawn weaknesses do not go away - and may become decisive later in a game.

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

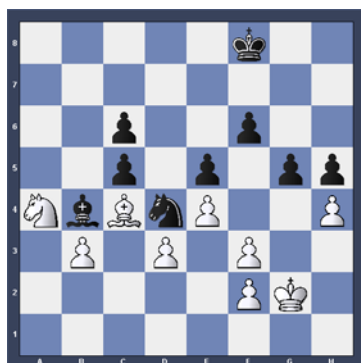


Now that the Rooks are off, Black can look forward to a persistent initiative. The Black squares are particularly attractive for the Bg7 while d3 and f3 pawns are targets for the Black Knight.

22... Bh6  
 23.Bc4 Bc1  
 24.Nd1 Nh5  
 25.a4 Nf4  
 26.a5 Kf8  
 27.a6 bxa6  
 28.Bxa6 Ke7  
 29.b3 Ne6  
 30.Kg2 h5  
 31.Bc4 Nd4  
 32.Nc3 Bd2  
 33.Na4 Bb4

It is a question now of determining whether the Black bishop or Knight should be on d4 and also how should the f4 weakness be best exploited.

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



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

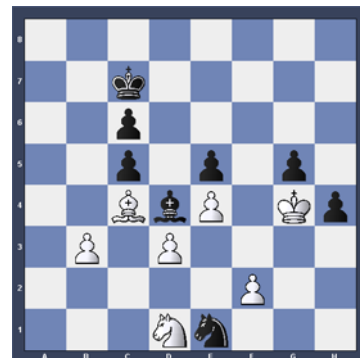
37.hxg5 fxg5  
 38.Nb6 Ke7  
 39.Nc8+ Kd7

It is with the long term aim of bringing the King in on the q-side that Kd7 and Kc7 are played here.

40.Nb6+ Kc7  
 41.Na4 Nc2  
 42.Bf7 h4  
 43.Kh3 Ne1  
 44.Nb2 Bc3  
 45.Nd1 Bd4  
 46.Bc4 Nxf3

And at long last the f3 pawn falls.

47.Kg4 Ne1



Now White is more or less in zugzwang and it is time for the queenside King march.

48.Kh3 Kb6  
 49.Kg4 Ka5  
 50.Kh3 Kb4  
 51.Kg4 Ka3  
 52.Ne3 Kb2  
 53.Nf1 Bxf2  
 54.Kxg5 Kc3  
 55.Kg4 Nxd3  
 56.Kf3 Bd4  
 57.Kg4 Nc1

The plan works well and now Black rounds up the b3 pawn and prepares to escort the c-pawns forward.

58.Kxh4 Nxb3  
 59.Be2 c4  
 60.Kg4 Na5  
 61.Kf5 Kb2  
 62.Ng3 c3  
 63.Ba6 c2

White resigns. 0-1



SCCA Candidates, 2004/05  
 White :- P MacDonald  
 Black :- A Dawson  
 Czech Benoni [A00]  
 [Annotator A Dawson]

1.d4 Nf6  
 2.c4 c5  
 3.d5 e5  
 4.Nc3 d6

5.e4                    Nbd7  
6.Nf3                    Be7  
7.h3                     Nf8



Quite a rare line that appears in a few old textbooks and which has been adopted with success by the Danish player Bo Jacobsen. The plan is quite a clever one based on the following: a) to free congestion in the Black ranks and especially giving the Bc8 room for manoeuvre, b) to target the f4 square with Nf8-g6 coupled with h7-h5-h4 and ...Nh5. White has the difficult choice of a) castling K-side into an attack b) castling Q-side and facing the probable opening of the b-file c) leaving the K in the centre of the board. The opening is extremely solid and, although drawish, gives Black some attacking possibilities.

8.Bd3                    h5  
9.Be3                    Ng6  
10.Qd2                   h4  
11.a3                    Bd7  
12.b4                    b6

It is important for B to recapture with the b6 pawn and contest the b-file with Rooks and Queen. Black must not lose control of the b-file - if he does he is almost certainly lost.

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



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

16.Rab1                    Qc7  
17.Rb2                    Rfb8  
18.Rfb1                    Rxb2  
19.Qxb2                    Bd8  
20.Bd2                    Bc8  
21.Qb5                    a6  
22.Qa4                    Ra7  
23.Bc2

Plenty of positional play -one key feature of this opening is that the Black Bishops are able to switch quickly from Q-side defence to K-side attack and thus keep White guessing.

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



Probing to create strong points on the Q-side but White is alert to the threats.

31.Qb3                    Nf8  
32.Ng5                    f6  
33.Nf3                    g5  
34.Ne1                    Ng6

Black is forcing things on the K-side but cannot overcook the position in case White has the opportunity of taking control of the key squares on the Kingside.

35.Bg4                    Bxg4  
36.hxg4                    Nf4  
37.Bxf4                    exf4  
38.Qb5                    Kf7  
39.f3                    Ke7

There is no way through for either side. Draw agreed. 1/2-1/2



SCCA Candidates, 2004/05  
White :-                    A Dawson  
Black :-                    B Thompson

Sicilian Defence [A00]  
[Annotator A Dawson]

1.e4                    c5  
2.f4                    d5  
3.Nc3

A plan used by Hebden on occasions when a d5-d4 advance is met by Nb1 - White then takes control of the c4 square with a4 and Nbd2-c4.

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



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

11...                    0-0  
12.Bd2                    Rad8  
13.Rad1                    Rfe8  
14.Bc1                    Nf5

White is breathing a little more easily now that the Ra1 has been brought into play. However, the position is mildly horrendous and f5 is a lovely square for the N. If White does nothing he will be slowly overwhelmed. Striking out with g4 looks awkward, is awkward, but is more or less the only chance that White has. Desperation calls! 15.g4 e6 A subtle little move that increases the pressure on White.

16.Qf2                    Nd6  
17.Nfg5                    f5  
18.Nxd6                    Qxd6

19.Qg3 Na5  
 20.Bxb7 Nxb7  
 21.Qh3



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

21... h6  
 22.Nf3 Qf8  
 23.Ne5 Kh7

The position is now looking a lot better for White and, as a result, Black seeks to simplify.

24.g5 Bxe5  
 25.fxe5 h5  
 26.b3

White is still trying to get the Bc1 into play while trying to create a position that enables the weak pawns on g5, e5 and d3 to be protected. At first sight this position is characterised by a distinct space

advantage for White but on closer inspection it is difficult to protect the weakened pawns. White also faces difficulties in generating attacking chances.

26... b5  
 27.Bb2

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

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



But through this combination started by Black on move 27, White has managed to turn things round. The d3 pawn weakness has disappeared, the e5 pawn is ably supported by the pawn on d4, White has an immediate threat on b7, the Kh7 is exposed thanks to White's earlier K-side

foray and if White can take control of the b-file with his Rooks he will win. The latter goal, is extremely difficult to achieve.

31... Rd5  
 32.Bc1 Rb5

An error that wins White the c-pawn.

33.Qc6 Re7  
 34.Qxc4 Rb1  
 35.Qd3 Ra1  
 36.Qc2 Rc7  
 37.c4 Qb4

Black is hanging on with a series of very strong moves but after

38. c5

comes a thunderbolt.

38.c5 Nxc5!!

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

39.a3 Qb6  
 40.dxc5

It is almost impossible for Black to prevent perpetual check along the back ranks. A typical line would be 40..Rc5 41. Qd2 Rd5 42. Qe1 Rd1 43. Qd1 Qc5 and 44. Qd7+. 1/2-1/2



Another website picture gallery offering—Escape Squares by Gianfranco Pecis.



## ICCF Congress – Villa La Angostura, Argentina

By George Pyrich

ICCF Congresses are often quite eventful – this year, the journey to the Congress was very eventful! In my case, Iberia Airlines messed up and I had unscheduled overnight stops in both Madrid and Buenos Aires, arriving at Bariloche airport some 53 hours after leaving Edinburgh and a full 24 hours behind schedule, thoroughly exhausted and quite dispirited. However, I was very pleased to meet up with two old friends, Antonio Moura from Portugal and Armando Perez Perez from Cuba. Antonio had been immensely helpful to my wife and I when we'd first met at the Congress held in Portugal in 2002 – again, he was to be immensely helpful, negotiating (in Spanish) the arrangements for the car transport for the 50 miles or so journey to our hotel in Villa La Angostura. On arrival, I soon realised that I had been less unfortunate than first thought – my friend and fellow Scottish CCA representative, ICCF Honorary President Alan Borwell didn't make it all having been badly let down in Paris by Air France. ICCF Presidential candidate Med Samraoui was similarly unfortunate and also didn't make it to the Congress.



Villa La Angostura is a small town of some 10,000 inhabitants situated, about 800 miles south from Buenos Aires, in the south-west corner of Neuquén, a province of Patagonia, one of Argentina's largest regions. Situated in the foothills of the Andes Mountains, Villa La Angostura is a ski resort with many excellent facilities for visitors. The area's truly spectacular scenery of snow-capped mountains, numerous lakes and woodlands attracts huge numbers of visitors all year round. A total of 35 officials, delegates and delegation members, unfortunately considerably lower than in previous years, along with some 15 family members attended the Congress and everyone greatly appreciated the warm and friendly hospitality of the Argentinean hosts. The Congress was arranged and hosted by the Liga Argentina de Ajedrez por Correspondencia (LADAC) and its President Carlos Cranbourne, and the hotel facilities and hospitality offered by LADAC were acclaimed by everyone.

The Congress commenced on schedule on the Sunday morning and after the now customary musical introduction, provided on this occasion by a local Argentine musical duo, playing self-made Argentine musical instruments, we had opening speeches by Max Zavanelli (on behalf of ICCF) and Carlos Cranbourne and Claudio Goncalves (LADAC Argentina). Former ICCF President Josef Mrkvicka also addressed the Congress, outlining progress made since our last meeting in Mumbai, India prior to his unfortunate and untimely resignation in January 2005. Max paid tribute to the memories of all correspondence chess friends who had passed away since the Mumbai 2004, including the

Grandmaster Simon Webb (ENG), long-serving ICCF Tournament Director Harro Otte (GER), Vaclav Rut (CZE), Alvaro Rosa (POR), Giancarlo de Lorenzo (ITA), Alberto Laurencena (ARG) and delegate and Senior International Master Ilja Hristov (BUL). Delegates stood in two minutes silence to the memory of all departed correspondence chess friends.

Thereafter, it was down to business with membership matters with Congress approving a 65th member of the ICCF family - Burkino Faso. Next, Max presided over the award of Bertl von Massow Medals - Gold & Silver were awarded to Santiago Cardoso (MEX), Joachim Walther (GER), Jorge Deforel (ARG) and Silver Medals to Dimitry Lybin (BLR), Egbert Boesenberg (GER), Daniel Finkelstein (ARG), Guido Bresadola (ITA), Thed Klauner and Francois Riva (both LUX).

Thereafter, North American and Pacific Zonal Director, Ruth Ann Fay, assisted by Max, presented a report on ICCF's finances. Following the resignation in September of the Finance Director, Grayling Hill, Ruth Ann had had the unenviable task of taking over control of ICCF's finances and had put in much hard work in order to be able to present a Report to the Congress. Audited accounts to 31-12-03 showed Net Assets of SF 189,032 with surplus for year of just over SF 8,000 whilst unaudited accounts for year to 31-12-04 not showed net assets reduced to SF 140,196 following server expenditure of SF 101,162 and sale of some of ICCF's stocks investments. General expenditure for 2004 was SF 30,482 with income of SF 54,490 The remaining ICCF investments had performed excellently and made up the overall deficit after including server expenditure. Additionally, estimate figures for period to 30-09-05 showed net assets of SF 122,166 - note that accounts for 2004 and 2005 are still subject to audit.



The next task for the Congress was to fill the numerous vacancies on the Executive board and in other areas. Firstly Congress was delighted to approve the nominations of Frank Geider (FRA) and Michael Millstone (USA) to the posts of World Tournaments Director and Direct Entry Coordinator respectively. Next, Congress approved the nomination of George Pyrich (SCO) to the position of ICCF Archivist, taking over from Wes Green (USA) who had announced his wish to retire. George is to work in partnership with postal game score archivist Laurent Tinture (FRA). We then held the vote for the vacant position of ICCF President with, to wide acclaim, Med Samraoui emerging victorious over Claudio Goncalves by 37 votes to 18.

However, we weren't yet finished, then approving the appointments of Michael Millstone and Claudio Goncalves to the positions of Finance Director and Marketing Commissioner respectively.

Next, Membership and Services Director (also acting World Tournament Director, amongst several other roles!) Pedro Hegoburu (ARG) gave a really excellent and well-informed and researched report from the Tournaments Commission with recommendations (approved later by the Congress) of the introduction of new 4th stage to the ICCF World Championship cycle (Preliminary sections, a new 1st stage for those without pre-qualifications to Semi-finals and further stages), approval of minimum categories for semi-finals and Candidates (7 & 10 respectively), revised qualifications for the award of the International Arbiter title and also changes to rules in team events whereby substitute players may have games rated and qualify for title norms (under certain conditions). Obviously, there was a good deal of discussion on all of this!



The day ended with another excellent presentation - this time, in the absence of Alan Borwell, by Nol van 't Riet (NED) on the work of the Server Group over the year and its plans for the coming year (Phase 3). Nol offered detailed technical information and requested approval for expenditure of SF 10,000, sum estimated by server group as requirement for Phase 3 - of course, the Congress was happy to agree to this! Nol said that we could expect to be asked to approve additions and refinements each year from now on as we continually sought to further develop the server.

Day two witnessed discussions on the work of the President's Commission and ICCF Statutes, ICCF Archives, Webmaster and Internet matters, Marketing and Publications and, finally, Title Qualifications. We began with a rather lively discussion on proposals submitted by the Presidents Commission regarding changes to the ICCF Statutes with regard to the arrangements for possible Emergency Congresses and contingencies in case of an unexpected resignation of the ICCF President (as had occurred, of course, during the year) which were eventually approved.



The Congress was pleased to note that Webmaster Evelin Radosztics planned an almost complete revamp of the ICCF web site and that possibly we'll have cross-tables which link directly to the server. We were also provided with confirmation that Michele Rinesi (ITA) had taken over responsibility for web tables from Luz Marina Tinjaca'

(ITA) and that Raymond Boger (NOR) had succeeded Alex Dunne (USA) as editor of the "ICCF Amici" web magazine. Next, Nol van 't Riet (NED) presented a very interesting Marketing & Publications Report on behalf of the absent Med Samraoui. Amongst many interesting developments are plans by Fritz Baumbach and Vytas Palciauskas to produce a book on the World Champions Jubilee event with biographical details and games by all the deceased world champions as well as the annotated games of the event and another new section on the new world champions crowned since the event started. We also heard from Pedro Hegoburu of plans (since implemented!) to offer promotional unrated 2 game matches free of charge to any player in order for them to try out play on the new ICCF server.



Thereafter, Qualifications Commissioner Eric Ruch (FRA) presented his now customary excellent Report, confirming the qualifications of 17 new Grandmasters, 57 new Senior International Masters, 43 new International Masters, 8 new Lady Grandmasters, 1 new Lady International Master and 6 new International Arbiters. Eric's Report also listed title norms for the numerous new individual, team, zonal and invitation tournaments which had started during the year, together with changes to norms which had been established previously.

The next main item of business was the Report of the Acting World Tournament Director Pedro Hegoburu (ARG). Pedro's Report focussed on numerous important issues including changes to Tournament Rules, withdrawals, adjudication of unfinished games, lists of suspended players, unused member federation nominations to the World Championship, and the calendar of ICCF events. Title Tournaments Commissioner Daniel Finkelstein (ARG) then reported on the numbers of new title events during the previous year and outlined plans for the new Olympiad 17 Preliminaries and the Olympiad 15 Final. Pedro then reported to the Congress on behalf of the absent Non-Title Tournaments Commissioner, Eugen Demian (ROM), confirming the increasing popularity of the server in non-titled events and the starts of World Cup 14 under the control of the Australian Federation as well as the Web Server Open Tournament and the first regular season of the Champions League.



Congress also noted that the 2004 Congress had already assigned the organisation of World Cup 15 to the Slovak Federation. This year, we received the news that our Slovak friends proposed dropping postal sections and organising the event exclusively for e-mail and web server players. Whilst these proposals were approved following discussion, the Congress was very pleased to approve an offer provided by Fritz Baumbach on behalf of the German Federation that they organise World Cup 16 (sometime during 2006) to be played exclusively by post. Next, Pedro delivered Reports on behalf of the absent Postal Tournaments Organiser, Gian-Maria Tani (ITA) and the Thematic Tournament Organiser, Leonardo Madonia (ITA). The Congress was encouraged to receive news that it was expected that 2005 would see much the same number of new postal events as in 2004 but slightly discouraged to be asked to grant approval to the ending of the Fischer Random events which had had a very low take up.

Congress then granted approval to proposals for numerous proposed new invitational events including some interesting promotional events to be played on the server. Tuesday started with the presentation of awards and titles. Awards were presented to the delegates of Netherlands and Italy in respect of new World Champions Joop van Oosterom and Alessandra Riegler. Angel Acevedo (PER) and Marcio Barbosa Oliviera (BRS) were on hand to pick their Grandmaster awards and Fritz Baumbach picked up the Gold Medals for Germany in the 14th Olympiad. Lithuania took 2nd place here but Gold in the 6th Ladies Olympiad. Argentina I and II took Gold and Silver in the 7th PANAM team's event with Mexico getting Bronze. Reports were presented by or on behalf of the various Zonal Presidents and happily each were able to report on satisfactory progress during the previous year.

The new delegate for the Czech Republic, Petr Buchniecek was on hand to announce an over the board tournament for correspondence chess players to be held at the Silesian University, Karvina, Czech Republic in July 2006. It will be an authentic FIDE rated event with a substantial prize fund.



The big news of the day was that an email was received from our new President, Med Samraoui, confirming the participation of an ICCF team in the Torino Olympiad! - Med had attended the FIDE Congress in Dresden earlier in the year and it seems that his lobbying on our behalf brought forth a suitable reward!

The day ended with a lengthy discussion of the Playing Rules or more specifically items such as "dead man's defence" and the 40 day clause - the end result was the passing of a resolution (by 25 votes to 19 with 3 abstentions) to have a revised time limit of 10 moves in 50 days by 1 January 2006. Congress also approved revised Rules and Guidelines with regard to adjudications.

The last day started with discussion of the ICCF events calendar and saw Congress approve Pedro's plan that (by and large) ICCF events should start during even-numbered years whilst Zonal events would be given priority during odd-numbered years. Thereafter, we gave formal approval to changes to the Tournament Rules with regard to International Arbiter Qualification, qualification to the World Ch. Cycle from events such World Cups and Zonal events, Substitutions in Team events. Unfortunately the Ratings Commissioner Gerhard Binder (GER) was unable to attend - nevertheless we all congratulated him (again!) on his really excellent work and approved his plans to have ratings for all events transferred (in stages) to the server by 2007. Thereafter the Congress approved Ruth Ann Fay's presentation of an "Arbiter's Manual" and also the formation of an "Arbiters Committee" (to be chaired by former Deputy President Ragnar Wikman (FIN)).



More details of the Torino Olympiad emerged - ICCF will pay for players' bed and board at the Olympic Village but players will have to fund their own travel there. Each member federation will be invited to submit 2 nominations for consideration for selection and the Executive Board will then select the team of 6 with 2 reserves. Possibly not all the selection criteria will be entirely objective as the Executive Board will likely seek to select those who will prove to be "good ambassadors" for ICCF. Torino resident, Gian-Maria Tani (ITA) will be invited to serve as Team Captain.

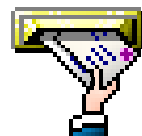
Finally, Congress approved Dresden, Germany as the venue for the 2006 Congress whilst an application from the Spanish Federation for the 2007 event was also approved. Congress also approved that our friends from Finland should host the 2011 event as they celebrate their 50th anniversary that year.



All in all, I consider that this was satisfactory Congress with a number of worthwhile accomplishments, particularly with regard to the reorganisation of the World Championship cycle and the introduction of new rules with regard to adjudications and time controls. However, it wasn't hard work all the time and the Congress participants enjoyed a number of more leisurely activities. The traditional blitz tournament was won by the oldest participant, former ICCF World Champion Fritz Baumbach (GER) and everyone greatly enjoyed a day's excursion to Bariloche following the end of the Congress.



## Letters to the Editor



*Richard Beecham writes:*



I feel as though I'm 40. I think that I look like a 40-year-old – my hair is still brown although my beard is turning many shades of grey.

The truth is, I'm 60 on my next birthday and, like many folk of that age, I'm turning into a 'grumpy old man', just like those chaps on that TV programme!

Looking back to when I was truly 40, correspondence chess was CC and not one silicon monster against another. Let me quote Nigel Short's comments on CC from the *Daily Telegraph* newspaper:

"Take chess, a board game not noted for its blistering tempo. Slow it down drastically, then let your opponent consult his library, his computer, or a friendly GM or, better still, all three. In addition, allow your opponent any manner of sharp, unethical, or downright illegal practices. Lastly, cap it off by paying a not insignificant sum for the privilege of being thus humiliated, cheated and abused. Welcome to the world of competitive correspondence chess, an abomination which should have been strangled at birth."

Well, 'Shorty' has been left in the past!

I'm still passionate about correspondence chess. I absolutely love it, even with computers. Today, CC is, in effect, 'Active Chess', where most players use computer programs to analyse games, and almost all the top players use email to transmit their moves.

Well, I hate email chess. Who wants to make 4 or 5 moves in a day? The quality of such games must suffer. For those who say you still have 3 days to make a move, that's well and good, but if you take your 3 days you still have a pile of moves waiting from all your other games.

In a 13-player event, that's always having 12 games waiting to be analysed. If you don't believe me, email my best CC friend, our games editor Bernard Milligan, and he will tell you about the joys of email chess!

Also, what's the point in using the ICCF webserver? All you are doing is passing your moves through a third party. It's still email chess.

I bought my computer after winning my first Scottish CC Championship as a present to myself. It's been very useful for data storage, but like the Russians, who tried communism and didn't like it, I'm giving it up! My computer is on its way to African school children via my old school (Cumnock Academy).

Anyway, getting back to 'grumpy old men', I sent a rather pointed letter to Chess Suppliers in Glasgow, which was unwarranted. Sam Collins and his team do a fine job supplying Scottish chess players with all their needs, so this is by way of an apology to Sam.

Perhaps with my rejection of computers I belong in a museum, or with Nigel Short in the Sunday supplement of the *Daily Telegraph* – which is really the same thing!



*Our Vietnamese correspondent writes:*



### Human Chess of "Tet", New Year's Day

In Vietnam, New Year's Day is called "Tet" (*I seem to remember that used to be considered offensive – Ed.*)

Village people set off firecrackers and celebrate the big day. Boys and girls dress like a king and a queen or servants of the Court and come to the Culture Centre of Hanoi.

The courtyard of the building is the chessboard and the boys play against the girls. The king and the queen put on a crown and carry banners on their backs. Professional players play the moves and the boys and girls move around as the chess pieces.



## International Update

By George Pyrich

### Douglas Livie Memorial

Category III, SIM Norm 9½, IM Norm 8½				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Pts	
	1	Maxwell, A	2081	SCO		1	0	½	½	1	0	½	0	0	½	0	4	
	2	Pyrich, G D	2373	SCO	0		½	½	½	½	0	½	½	0	½	0	1	4½
	3	Mackintosh, I	2328	SCO	1	½		1	0	1	½	1	½	½	0	1	0	7
	4	Borwell, A P	2229	SCO	½	½	0		½	1	0	½	½	0	0	0	½	4
	5	Brown, Dr A C	2393	SCO	½	½	1	½		½	1	1	0	0	½	½	0	6
	6	Berthelsen, R	2180	NOR	0	½	0	0	½		0	0	½	½	0	½	0	2½
	7	Halme, O	2240	FIN	1	1	½	1	0	1		½	0	0	1	0	6	
	8	Rawlings, A J C	2254	ENG	½	½	0	½	0	1	½		½	1	0	½	1	6
	9	Craig, T J	2403	SCO	1	½	½	½	1	½	1	½		½		0	6	
	10	Starke, H	2401	GER		1	½	1	1	½		0			½	½	½	5½
	11	<b>Geider, F</b>	<b>2412</b>	<b>FRA</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>½</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>½</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>½</b>	<b>½</b>		<b>½</b>	<b>½</b>	<b>9</b>
	12	Lambert, G R	2386	AUS	½	1	0	1	½	½	0	½		½	½			5
	13	Martin Molinero, R	2356	ESP	1	0	1	½	1	1	1	0	1	½	½			7½

Frank Geider (FRA) is the outright winner, finishing with wins against Berthelsen and Borwell to set an unmatched total of 9/12. Second place is still a hot contest, with Raul Martin Molinero (ESP) and Heiko Starke (GER) capable of 8½, and Tom Craig (SCO) able to make 8.

Champions League Group D3 The Lewis Chessmen		Chess Owls	Sirius	Kielce	Samarachess	Satranc Okulu	Yetman Brothers	ADA Mostoles	CK & Gambit	Great CC Danes	Gli Svitosi	Total Points	Percentage
1	Iain Mackintosh	½	½	1	0		1	1	½	1	1	6½	72.2
2	George Livie		0		½	½	1	½	1	½		4	57.1
3	George Pyrich	1	½	½	½	½	½	½	0	1	½	5½	55.0
4	Alan Borwell	½	½	½	½	1	1	1	½		1	6½	72.2
<b>Team Total</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>1½</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1½</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3½</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2½</b>	<b>2½</b>	<b>22½</b>	<b>64.3</b>

The team continues to perform strongly, and are lying 1st in their group at mid-January, half a point ahead of Sirius.

Current Friendly Internationals						
Start	Boards	Opponents	Mode	For	Against	Void
Sep 2005	27	Denmark	Server/Post			
Jul 2005	21	Australia	Server/Post	3½	1½	
Mar 2005	24	Netherlands	Post/Email	7½	13½	2
Feb 2005	20	BCCS	Post/Email	11½	½	8
Jan 2004	20	Romania	Email	11	27	
Jul 2003	23	Finland	Post/Email	14½	29½	2
Jun 2003	24	Canada	Post/Email	13½	29½	2
Dec 2002	129	ICCF	Post/Email	98	147	10
Jun 2002	20	Catalonia	Post/Email	11½	26½	2

The webserver format is proving popular with the players participating in recent matches. We continue to be in danger of winning the BCCS match – something of a rarity in recent internationals!





## General Information

Members of the Scottish CCA are eligible to play in ICCF postal, email and webserver 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 usually possible to interchange between playing modes 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. 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 section per playing mode 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 normal for email and webserver play. Playing rules and time limits are provided for each event, and the usual postal limit is 30 days per 10 moves, with 60 days for 10 moves in email and webserver. Players may take up to 30 days leave per calendar year.

Use air mail stickers to all destinations to speed postal play, and 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). Email and webserver have speeded up many events, and made it cheaper to play. Generally, you play less email/webserver games simultaneously than postal because of the faster play.

A prerequisite for entry via the SCCA is that the player remains 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 2006

#### Theme 2/06: Sicilian Neo-Sveshnikov, B32

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Nb5 d6

Entries by 15 January; play starts 1 March

#### Theme 3/06: Cambridge Springs Defence, D52

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5 Nbd7 6.e3 Qa5 7.Nd2 Bb4 8.Qc2 e5

Entries by 15 February; play starts 1 April

### Email Events 2006

#### Theme 3/06: Frankenstein-Dracula, C27

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bc4 Nxe4 4.Qh5 Nd6 5.Bb3 Nc6 6.Nb5 g6 7.Qf3 f5 8.Qd5 Qe7 9.Nxc7+ Kd8 10.Nxa8

Entries by 1 February; play starts 1 March

#### Theme 4/06: Queen's Indian, E18-19

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 b6 4.g3 Bb7 5.Bg2 Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.Nc3 Ne4

Entries by 1 March; play starts 1 April

#### Theme 5/06: Evans Gambit, C51-52

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4

Entries by 1 April; play starts 1 May

### Webserver Events 2006

#### Theme 2/06: King's Indian Storm Attack, E76-79

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f4

Entries by 15 April; play starts 1 May

#### Theme 3/06: Sokolsky, A00

1.b4

Entries by 15 August; play starts 1 September

## 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](mailto:international@scottishcca.co.uk)

The SCCA Magazine is sponsored by Mackintosh Independent Ltd.