

Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Magazine No.98

Summer 2007

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- George annotates more games from this event
- **2007 AGM**
- Alan Brown reports from Stirling
- **CD Reviews**
- Bernard reviews the latest ChessBase DVDs
- **Games Column**
- Bernard supplies more annotated games
- **How to See Ahead in Chess**
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- **Haro Otte Memorial**
- George annotates early games in this event
- **International Update**
- George tabulates our competitive standings

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Welcome to the summer edition of 2007, with the news that global warming is having some difficulty locating Scotland.

The committee has developed some ideas of how we should celebrate our 30th anniversary, and I've listed them overleaf. We'll proceed with the playing side, but we need you to respond to the proposal for a dinner to establish whether we'll get the numbers we need to book it - please drop me a line as soon as you can.

George Pyrich chips in by annotating some further play from the Webserver Open where he is acting as TD. Also from George is a report on early games in the Harro Otte Memorial, where our team has made a good start. To round off, he contributes his usual International update.

Alan Brown provides the minute of our AGM in Stirling. You'll see that we are advertising for a new treasurer, as Stuart will demit office next year. This job is easier than before due to the improvements made by Alan and Jim in reporting membership income, so I hope some of you will consider stepping forward to apply. There should be plenty of handover time with Stuart if we can find a successor during the second half of this year.

Bernard's Games Column continues its ever-present run, with some of the usual suspects providing material. He also provides his review of the latest ChessBase DVDs and CDs.

This edition features the fifth instalment of Geoff Lloyd's serialised book, and we now start chapter 3 which deals with pieces working in partnership. Geoff has also contributed some more anecdotes to get you laughing - we could do with more, so send them in!

The letter from Dr Val Nye which we published last time doesn't seem to have kindled a big debate on our history. I know Val would be pleased to hear from you to exchange reminiscences, and you can contact him at: v.nye@ukonline.co.uk

We have revised some of our playing rules following the discovery that they were less than precise when we handled an appeal against a loss on time. The changes are now on the SCCA website (CC Rules page), and TDs in particular should note the new wordings of rules 20 and 25.



ICCF Amici Webzine

Edited by GM Raymond Boger (NOR)

<http://amici.iccf.com/>



<http://www.iccf-webchess.com/>

To view tables and games in the SCCA Webserver Open you don't need to register on the ICCF server - go to the website (above), click Tables and Results, then National Federation Events then Scotland Events.

Recent 100 Club Winners

2007	1st	2nd
June	P M Giulian	R W M Baxter
May	A P Borwell	Mrs D M Livie
April	S R Mannion	S R Mannion

SCCA Officials

SCCA Officials				
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30th Anniversary Events

By Iain Mackintosh

The committee had a good discussion on this at Stirling in June, and we plan to organise three events to celebrate our 30th birthday. Our magazine and website anniversaries will be commemorated separately in 2008.

Friendly International

The plan here is to organise a re-run of the Scotland v ICCF match which was staged for our Silver Jubilee. We managed to field 129 boards on that occasion, and we'll aim for around the 100 mark again.

This type of match allows for players of all strengths to participate, and the ICCF team can be guaranteed to provide good chess in a friendly atmosphere. George Pyrich will be sounding out his fellow delegates at the upcoming ICCF Congress in Spain, and we hope to start play towards the end of the year.

Master Norm Tournament

We have a crop of players around the 2000+ mark who are keen to acquire norms and titles. We'll organise a norm event to give as many players as possible a chance to rack up a qualifying score.

Such an event needs a quota of players from other nations to make it fully representative, and often to inject the rating strength required to achieve a good ranking category.

You can read more about how ICCF titles are awarded and how events are ranked on the ICCF website. George Pyrich will be contacting his fellow ICCF Congress delegates on this one also, and we'll report on how things are shaping up later in the year.

Celebration Dinner

George Livie has done some preliminary canvassing to establish preferences, with results as follows:

Venue

Stirling or somewhere in the central belt is the preferred location. Reasonably priced overnight accommodation should be available at the venue or nearby.

Dates

A Friday evening (2nd or 9th November 2007) seems the most suitable time.

Guests and Attendees

Should include partners with an invitation being extended to all classes of members including associates (e.g. those in the 100 Club). To justify holding the event, a minimum attendance of 20 people is needed.

Meal

A buffet format seems most popular and should provide the best opportunity for people to circulate.

Activities

A slide show is favourite with a quiz and/or raffle with prizes also quoted. To allow partners to participate fully, there is little or no support for chess-related activities!

If we can attract 20 or more participants, we'll subsidise the cost of the dinner. In order to let us plan likely numbers and book a venue, it would be very helpful to hear from you as soon as possible.

Please drop me a line or an email to let me know if you are interested, what numbers you would bring, and whether you have any ideas or preferences in addition to those listed.




Magazine 100

For the 100th edition of the magazine, I'd like to publish as much material from members as possible. I gave some ideas of subject matter last issue, but haven't received anything yet, so please dig out your reminiscences, annotated games, thoughts on CC in the computer age, etc and send them in!



Friendly Match v Spain

Our team for the postal-only match with Spain is:

Bd	 v Spain
1	A P Borwell
2	C R Beecham
3	I Mackintosh
4	C J Lennox
5	G Lloyd
6	M Jessing
7	G D Pyrich
8	J A Lees
9	D J Savage
10	A Armstrong
11	D R Cumming
12	J P E Jack
13	J M Armstrong
14	J Anderson



Webserver Open Update

By George Pyrich

Play is progressing quickly in our SCCA Webserver Open Tournament with keen competition for the 3 Final qualifying places in each group.

Section A remains wide open with 5 or 6 players still in the frame. SCCA President Iain Mackintosh and new member Stuart Graham currently head the table but several others, notably Alan Borwell and Australian life member (and former Glenrothes resident) Dave Dempster still have results in hand and a close finish can be anticipated.

Stuart also features prominently in Section B despite a loss to another new member, Alan Bell who, on his debut in correspondence chess, heads the table and seems certain to qualify. However, it seems very likely that tie-breaks will be required to determine the 2 remaining qualifying spots between Stuart, Alan Brown, Geoff Lloyd and Hugh Calder. Only 7 games remain unfinished in this Section.

Section C is also very interesting. Presently Tom Matheis and David Edney are both unbeaten with only 1 unfinished game each and look good for qualification. However, 12 games remain unfinished in this Section and pre-tournament favourite David Kilgour remains unbeaten and will hope to catch up before the finish.

Play is scheduled to continue in all 3 Sections until 25 January 2008 and games can be viewed live (with 5 move delay) at the ICCF server site www.iccf-webchess.com



We start our small games selection with a robust attacking game from our President!

Anderson, Jim (1627) – Mackintosh, Iain (2450)
Scottish CCA Webserver Open – Section A ICCF, 2007
[Notes by George Pyrich]

1.d4 **Nf6**
2.Bg5

The Trompowski, Jim's favourite opening, is harshly dealt with in this game!

2... **d5**
3.Bxf6 **gxf6**
4.c4 **dx4**
5.e3 **c5**
6.Bxc4 **cx4**
7.exd4 **Rg8**

[7...Bg7 and; 7...Nc6 are the usual moves here but why not use the g-file?]

8.Qh5 **e6**



9.d5?!

[Some development with 9.Nf3 Rxd2 10.Nbd2 looks more prudent.]

9... **Rg5!**
10.Qxh7 **exd5**
11.Bb5+ **Nc6**
12.Qd3 **a6**
13.Ba4 **b5**
14.Bb3 **Ne5**
15.Qd2

[15.Qxd5 is met with the rather nasty 15...Nd3+]

15... **Rxd2**
16.Bxd5 **Bh6!**
17.Bc6+

Good moves are hard to find here [17.Qd4? walks into 17...Rxd1+ 18.Rxd1 Nf3+]

17... **Nxc6**
18.Qxh6 **Qd3**
19.Ne2

[19.Qc3+ Ne5 20.Ne2 Bg4 was no better.]

19... **Nb4**
20.Na3 **Bg4**
21.Qd2 **Rd8**
22.Rd1 **Rxf2!**

And, faced with an unenviable choice between 23.Kxf2 Qf3+ and 23.Qxd3 Nxd3+ 24.Rxd3 Rxf2+, Jim threw in the towel.

0-1

Bell, Alan – Calder, Hugh (2037)
Scottish CCA Webserver Open – Section B ICCF, 2007
[Notes by George Pyrich]

1.e4 **c5**
2.Nf3 **d6**
3.d4 **cx4**
4.Nxd4 **Nf6**
5.Nc3 **a6**
6.Be2 **e6**
7.0-0 **Be7**
8.f4 **0-0**
9.Kh1 **Qc7**
10.a4 **Nc6**

11.Be3 Re8

An old line popularised by Kasparov and others back in the 80's [11...Rd8 is also played here]

12.Bf3 Rb8
13.g4 Nxd4

[13...Nd7 is likely better when after 14.g5 Bf8 15.Bg2 g6 16.Qe1 b6 Black is o.k.(or 16...Bg7 17.Rd1)]

14.Bxd4 e5

Entering a long theoretical line which unfortunately doesn't seem to be very good for Black.

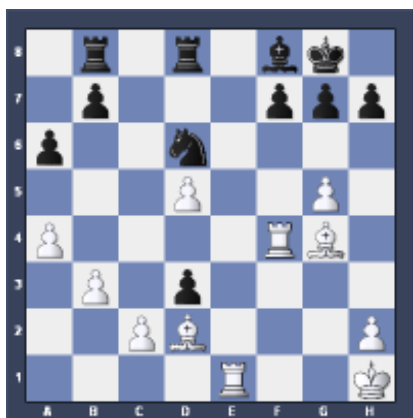
15.fxe5 dxe5
16.Ba7 Ra8
17.g5 Rd8
18.Qe2 Ne8
19.Be3 Be6
20.Qf2 Qc4
21.Nd5 Bxd5
22.b3 Qc3
23.exd5 Nd6
24.Rac1 Rac8
25.Bg4

[25.Bd2 was played in the high level game Hertel v. Traeger, World Ch. 20 3/4 final 2001 when White was winning easily after the continuation 25...Qb2 26.c4 b6 27.Qe3 Nf5 28.Qe1 Nd6 29.Rc3 Re8 30.Rf2]

25... Rb8

Alan's preference turns out to be just as strong!

26.Bd2 Qd4
27.Qxd4 exd4
28.Rce1 Bf8
29.Rf4 d3



30.c4! Re8

[If 30...b6 simply 31.Rd4] **31.c5** and White's d-pawn simply rolls home]

31... Rxe1+
32.Bxe1 Re8
33.Ba5 Ne4
34.d6 Nxc5
35.d7 1-0

Edney,D (2157) – MacArainn,G
Scottish CCA Webserver Open – Section C ICCF,,2007
[Notes by George Pyrich]

We end this time with a well-played Evans Gambit.

1.e4 e5
2.Nf3 Nc6
3.Be4 Bc5

4.b4 Bxb4
5.c3 Ba5

[5...Be7 is supposedly the main line continuing with the likes of 6.d4 Na5 7.Be2!?! (7.Nxe5 Nxc4 8.Nxc4 d5 is assessed as equal) 7...exd4 8.Qxd4 d6 9.Qxg7 Bf6 10.Qg3 Qe7 11.0-0 Qxe4 12.Re1 Kf8 with an interesting and unclear position!]

6.d4 exd4
7.0-0 Bb6?!

[It would be interesting to know what David had in mind had Black played the recommended 7...Nge7 when Evans Gambit author Tim Harding has won several games as Black after 8.cxd4 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 10.Qb3 Be6 11.Ba3 Qd7 with White trying 12.Bb5 and (12.Ne5 without success)]

8.cxd4 d6
9.h3 Nf6
10.Re1 0-0
11.Ba3!?

[11.Nc3 Re8 looks normal]

11... Na5!?
12.Bd3 Re8
13.Nc3 c5
14.e5 cxd4

[Probably he should have preferred 14...dxe5 15.dxe5 Nd7]

15.exf6 dxc3
16.Rxe8+ Qxe8
17.fxg7



17... Be6
18.Ng5 h6
19.Qh5 Kxg7
20.Bxd6

Now White simply crashes through.

20... Nc4
21.Bf4 Bd4
22.Nf3 1-0



The positions at 8 July in the three sections are as follows:

Scottish CCA Webserver Open - Section A					TD Pyrich, George D.														
Rated					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Score	SB	R	Place
1	SCO	620345	Mackintosh, Iain	2450	■	½	1	½	.	½	1	.	.	1 ^D	._C	4.5	11	3	1
2	SCO	211664	Graham, Stuart	1800 ^P	½	■	1	½	.	1	.	.	.	1 ^D	._C	4	10.5	4	2
3	SCO	620640	McBride, John	1800 ^P	0	0	■	½	½	1	.	.	1	1 ^D	._C	4	7	2	3
4	SCO	620098	IM Borwell, Alan P.	2207	½	½	½	■	.	.	.	.	1	1 ^D	._C	3.5	7.75	4	4
5	SCO	620639	Jamieson, Ian M.	1800 ^P	.	.	½	.	■	.	½	½	.	1 ^D	._C	2.5	3.75	5	5
6	ENG	620577	Price, Derek	2082	½	0	0	.	.	■	½	.	½	1 ^D	._C	2.5	4	3	6
7	SCO	620424	Anderson, James	1627	0	.	.	.	½	½	■	.	.	1 ^D	._C	2	2.5	5	7
8	SCO	620623	Paine, Dr. Kevin	1800 ^P	.	.	.	.	½	.	.	■	.	1 ^D	._C	1.5	1.25	7	8
9	AUS	30129	Dempster, Dave	1936	.	.	0	0	.	½	.	.	■	1 ^D	._C	1.5	1.25	5	9
10	SCO	620638	Blyth, Sam Turner	1800 ^P	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	._C	0	0	0	10
11	SCO	211319	Neil, Charles	1800 ^P	._C	._C	._C	._C	._C	._C	._C	._C	._C	._C	._C	0	0	0	10

Scottish CCA Webserver Open - Section B					TD Pyrich, George D.													
Rated					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Score	SB	R	Place
1	SCO	620643	Bell, Alan D.	1800 ^P	■	½	½	1	1	1	.	1	1	1 ^D	7	23	1	1
2	SCO	629031	Lloyd, Geoffrey	2258	½	■	½	½	½	1	.	1	1	1 ^D	6	17.75	1	2
3	SCO	620498	Brown, Dr. Alan C.	2370	½	½	■	½	.	½	1	1	1	1 ^D	6	15.5	1	3
4	SCO	211664	Graham, Stuart	1800 ^P	0	½	½	■	.	1	1	1	1	1 ^D	6	13.5	1	4
5	SCO	620614	Calder, Hugh	2037	0	½	.	.	■	1	1	1	1	1 ^D	5.5	10.5	2	5
6	SCO	620641	Scott, Alex	1800 ^P	0	0	½	0	0	■	.	½	1	1 ^D	3	4.75	1	6
7	SCO	620418	Hilton, Stephen H.	1544	.	.	0	0	0	.	■	1	.	1 ^D	2	1.5	4	7
8	SCO	620445	Rough, R. E.	1800 ^P	0	0	0	0	0	½	0	■	.	1 ^D	1.5	1.5	1	8
9	SCO	211319	Neil, Charles	1800 ^P	0	0	0	0	0	0	.	.	■	1 ^D	1	0	2	9
10	SCO	620642	Blyth, Stuart	1800 ^P	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	0 ^D	0	0	0	10

Scottish CCA Webserver Open - Section C					TD Pyrich, George D.													
Rated					1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Score	SB	R	Place
1	SCO	620588	Matheis, Thomas	2292	■	½	.	½	1	1	1	1	1	1	7	16.25	1	1
2	SCO	629036	Edney, David	2157	½	■	½	.	1	1	1	½	1	1	6.5	16.5	1	2
3	SCO	620646	McLatchie, Jonathan	1800 ^P	.	½	■	½	1	½	1	1 ^D	.	1	5.5	13.25	2	3
4	SCO	620192	GM Kilgour, David A.	2490	½	.	½	■	1	1	1	.	.	.	4	14.25	4	4
5	SCO	620637	Brooksbank, Kenneth	1800 ^P	0	0	0	0	■	1	1	.	1	.	3	6.5	2	5
6	SCO	620393	MacGregor, Colin A.	1941	0	0	½	0	0	■	0	1	½	1	3	5	0	6
7	SCO	620625	Doherty, Terry	1800 ^P	0	0	0	0	0	1	■	0	0	1	2	3	0	7
8	SCO	620644	Sreeves, Clement	1800 ^P	0	½	0 ^D	.	.	0	1	■	.	.	1.5	5.25	4	8
9	SCO	620645	MacRainn, Gordon	1800 ^P	0	0	.	.	0	½	1	.	■	.	1.5	3.5	4	9
10	SCO	211319	Neil, Charles	1800 ^P	0	0	0	.	.	0	0	.	.	■	0	0	4	10

x^D = result by default
x^P = provisional

Anecdotes

It looks as though Geoff Lloyd is the only one who gets a chuckle from everyday life - perhaps most of us have uneventful lives and stay in all the time. Here are a few Lloyd road stories.

One day on our way to the zoo, Geoff junior was continually asking what kind of cars we were meeting. "Oh, that's a Ford or that's a Rover," I would answer. We reached a stage where the traffic was becoming heavy and I suggested to him that he asked his mum because I wanted to concentrate on my driving. "Who me?" said mum, "I don't know one car from another." "It's easy," I said, "just look at the badge on the front." "What's that one mum?" said Geoff. "That's an AA" said his mum.

Another day we were following a lorry which was towing a generator - the ones they use for traffic lights. The wife said, "Geoff just look how close that little car is to that lorry!"

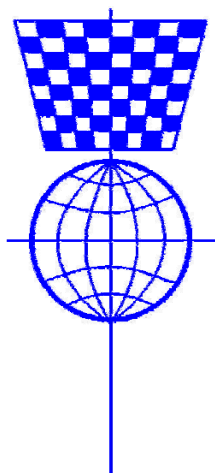


A Porsche overtook me one day and the wife said: "That silly driver has left his boot open!"



2007 AGM

By Alan Brown



- Meeting:** The 30th AGM of the Scottish Correspondence Chess Association.
- Venue:** Sunday 3rd June, 4pm, 2007 at BB Headquarters, Dalgleish Court, Stirling.
- Present:** Iain Mackintosh (Chair), Jim Anderson, Raymond Baxter, Alan Brown, Alan Borwell, George Livie and George Pyrich.
- Apologies:** Stuart Mackenzie.

Minutes of the 30th AGM

On the proposal of Jim Anderson seconded by George Pyrich the minute of the meeting held on 4th June 2006 was accepted as an accurate record and approved.
There were no matters arising.

President's Remarks

Iain Mackintosh drew particular attention to:-

1. The restructuring of domestic events which had been carried out and thanked all who had been involved with the timely development and introduction of these changes.
2. The Anniversaries which will take place in 2007
 - A) The 30th Anniversary of the formation of the SCCA
 - B) The 10th Anniversary of the establishment of our website
 - C) The production of our 100th edition of the SCCA magazine

He concluded by indicating that last season had been a successful one which was in no small measure due to hard work by committee members and controllers. To all he expressed his thanks for their efforts and enthusiasm.

Secretary's Report

Jim Anderson reported that the restructuring of events had gone well and the new arrangements had operated well with few problems. He also indicated that webserver, email and postal games were all proceeding satisfactorily.

Treasurer's Report

Given the Treasurer's apologies for non attendance and in the absence of final accounts for adoption at the AGM it was agreed that audited accounts be prepared and published in the magazine and on the website in the near future.
It was remitted to the Chairman to contact the members suggested who may be willing to serve as the new auditor with a view to securing an appointment.

International Secretary's Report

George Pyrich drew attention to his regular reports to the Executive Committee and confirmed that the Association had another successful year internationally with a significant number of members playing and a healthy programme of friendly matches being arranged.

Election of Office Bearers

The following were elected to office for the 2008 season:-

Office	Name	Proposer	Second
President	Iain Mackintosh	George Pyrich	George Livie
Vice President	George Pyrich	Iain Mackintosh	Alan Brown
Secretary	Jim Anderson	George Livie	Iain Mackintosh
Membership Officer	Alan Brown	George Livie	George Pyrich
Treasurer	Stuart Mackenzie	Iain Mackintosh	Alan Brown
Grading Officer	Raymond Baxter	Alan Brown	Iain Mackintosh
Committee Members	Alan Borwell George Livie	Jim Anderson	George Pyrich

The appointment of an Auditor was continued as described above.

Subscriptions

On the proposal of George Pyrich seconded by Alan Borwell it was agreed that there be no change in subscription rates.

AOCB

On the intimation from Raymond Baxter that he intended to stand down as Grading Officer at the end of next season the President expressed his personal thanks and those of the Association to Raymond for the excellent and detailed work that he has carried out over the years.

Alan Borwell on behalf of all committee members also expressed thanks to the President for the extensive work that he does in support of the Association and which is reflected in many ways including the development and maintenance of the website and editorship of the magazine.

If you were unable to attend the AGM, but would like to help in some way, then please get in touch with any of the committee members. You don't have to hold an official position to help - maybe you can do some part-time things like controlling an event, helping with administration or publicity, or backing up somebody who is otherwise very busy!

SCCA Treasurer

Stuart Mackenzie has intimated he will demit office at the next AGM. We will thus require a new Treasurer, and applications are invited for the post.

The job has two main periods of activity – at year-end when we bank the income from membership returns, and in April-May, when the accounts require to be drawn up and audited. At other times, there are a small number of transactions to process.

Our bank accounts are in good order – HBOs takes care of our current account, and SLBS manages our investment account online.

The current membership database provides a thorough set of income allocation reports, and the 100 Club is separately managed.

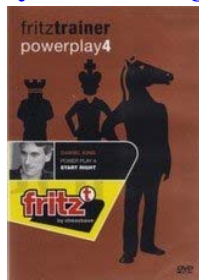
You do not have to be a qualified accountant to do the job, but it would help if you have experience of this type of activity, and you understand how to handle accounting exceptions.

There is an opportunity to work with Stuart for an extended period to achieve an orderly handover.

Please get in touch with Iain Mackintosh, President, at president@scottishcca.co.uk in the first instance.



Powerplay 4: Start Right By Daniel King



There are many ChessBase authors who do a first class job of teaching us on various aspects of the game. Daniel King is one of those, yet having looked at this DVD I still can't decide if it is brilliant, or a waste of time for the correspondence chess player.

Daniel deals with early ways of grabbing an early initiative. The trouble with this from the perspective of a Correspondence Chess Player, at least in my experience, is that we tend to follow lines in our favourite opening, or at least book lines, until we reach the middlegame, before we start any sort of independent thinking.

OK this is possibly a bit simplistic but I bet there are quite a few correspondence players, even at Grandmaster level, who are quite happy to play 20 moves of the opening automatically to reach a position they are familiar with. On reflection I am not sure this is the best strategy even though I am guilty of this type of thinking.

The DVD footage lasts just under 6 hours and includes a lot of fascinating games and exercises. Games go from the modern greats to past giants such as Fischer and Morphy. Daniel King isn't even afraid to disagree with the post game analysis of some of the greatest players.

That said if I forget every bit of analysis on all of the games presented on this DVD the one thing I will remember is that every move is important and deserves equal consideration.

Actually it is a lesson that Richard Beecham kept trying to tell me about. Talking of which Richard it is about time you sent me another game or two for the games column.

But this DVD. No matter how good you think you are I think it could broaden your horizons.

My Best Games in the Slav and Semi-Slav By Alexei Shirov.



The author uses 14 of his own games with both colours, 8 in the Semi-Slav and 6 in the Slav on this DVD.

He updates his notes on a few of the older games from his 'Fire on Board Books' but most of the material covered comes from the last 2 or 3 years. Shirov's middlegame explanations are second to none and indeed he provides a first class insight into chess preparation at the highest level. The comments to Fressinet – Shirov are excellent and probably are worth the cost of the DVD on their own. You get 5 hours and 20 minutes of tuition on this DVD so it is easily good value for money.

The ABC of the Czech Benoni By Andrew Martin



This DVD-ROM on the Czech Benoni (1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 e5 4 Nc3 d6 5 e4 sees Martin concentrating on the continuation 5...Nbd7). Andy Martin is the ideal presenter: articulate, knowledgeable. Andrew concentrates on the move order with the black knight to 4...Nbd7. The DVD has about 4 hours of video instruction with around nineteen complete games. There are also quizzes to test your skills and a theoretical overview. Andrew Martin is one of the best tutors in the ChessBase stable so if the Czech Benoni is in your opening repertoire then you have to buy this DVD.

Chess Endgames 4 – Strategic Endgames By Karsten Mueller



Following on on my comments from the Daniel King Opening DVD I think it is only fair to say that I also have problems remembering endgame sequences that I have spent a fortune on books over the years. I had almost given up hope but Karsten Muller's excellent series has renewed my joy in endgame study.

Each of the DVDs have been excellent in covering their respective areas and are well worth buying. The latest DVD covers a wide spectrum of endgames. In fact probably too much for me to give justice to.

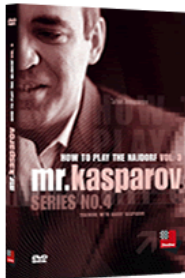
The ChessBase info says “In the fourth volume of the endgame series a lot of themes with more material are included like rook and minor piece vs rook (and minor piece), rook vs two minor pieces, double rook endings, queen and knight vs queen and bishop, the bishop pair and endgame principles.

Typical topics are: the so called Fischer endgame rook and bishop vs rook and knight, which occurs quite frequently in practical play and is very often favourable for rook and bishop; with opposite coloured bishops the presence of one rook each greatly increases the winning chances of the attacker compared to the pure opposite coloured bishop endgame (see DVD 1); king and bishop vs rook, which is quite often won over the board.

Those who have always found studying endgames with chess textbooks too dry and tedious will enjoy this DVD with its comfortable training system and benefit enormously – in brilliant endgames at the actual board. Complete video running time: approx. 6 hours.”

Personally I think this is a DVD I will enjoy going over again and again over the coming months.

How to Play the Najdorf, Vol. 3 by Garry Kasparov



In the third volume of his Najdorf lectures, the Gary Kasparov looks at lines with 6 Be3, which is today considered the main line in the Najdorf System.

The variation with the Bishop on e3 and the pawn on f3 proves to be one of the most effective weapons against almost any variation of the Sicilian, including the Paulsen”. Despite not playing chess for about 2 years Kasparov appears to be keeping up to date with things as his analysis uses games from 2007.

The DVD contains more than five hours of first-class private tuition. The package includes the latest Chess Base 9.0 Reader, a big reference database featuring all relevant Najdorf games, as well as a complete opening book that can be used to practice what you have learnt with Fritz.

The Pirc Defence by Nigel Davies



The Pirc Defence is a highly flexible and double-edged opening with which Black can avoid premature simplification and go for the full point. By first developing his kingside he waits to see how White will deploy his own forces before striking back in the most effective way.

The top exponents of the Pirc include Mikhail Gurevich, Alexander Chernin, Jan Timman, Yasser Seirawan, Jonathan Speelman, Zurab Azmaiparpashvili and Alexander Belyavsky; in the past it was a great favourite of Mikhail Botvinnik and Tony Miles.

Here Nigel Davies explains the ideas and backs this up by showing exactly how Black should react to White’s different formations. The DVD is extensive and Nigel Davies covers over 130 different lines so you should get an excellent grasp of the opening. Even rare second moves such as 2.Nc3 and 2.g3 are covered.

I quite enjoyed playing through the Austrian attack, with the moves 1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.f4 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0. Video running time: 7 hours.

The Secret Weapons of the Champions By Adrian Mikhalchishin



Modern middlegame theory does not exist in written form. That is why players and trainers have to go back to the old recommendation by Nimzowitsch – to study typical positional methods. But who is better placed to teach us about their own powerful weapons than the great champions of the past? So the key to understanding the middlegame lies in understanding how to execute certain positional manoeuvres.

In this DVD Mikhalchishin explains, for example, Botvinnik’s famous “flank against centre” strategy, which is one of the corner-stones of positional play. Also Petrosian’s white square strategy is an extremely important form of the control of squares and space. Tal was a great master of changing the material balance in every position – for example, rook and pawn against two pieces.

GM Makogonov, once a trainer of Vassily Smyslov, invented the famous secret positional rule of the Soviet chess school. How and when it is possible to apply this method you will find out from this disc.



<http://www.chessbase.com>



Games Column

by Bernard Milligan

Thanks to both David Cumming and Iain Mackintosh who both provided several games for this quarter's Games Column. I'm going to alternate between the games provided by each. It will be a slightly shorter column this time as we wanted to use the extra space for the games provided by George Pyrich. I hope you enjoy the games and look forward to more contributions from our readers.

SCCA Premiers 2007 Section A, 2007

White: William M Cook
Black: David R Cumming
Sicilian Defence [B33]
[Annotator D R Cumming]

- 1.e4 c5
- 2.Nf3 Nc6
- 3.d4 cxd4
- 4.Nxd4 Nf6
- 5.Nc3 e5
- 6.Ndb5 d6
- 7.Bg5 a6
- 8.Na3 b5
- 9.Bxf6 gxf6
- 10.Nd5 Bg7
- 11.Bd3 Ne7
- 12.Nxe7 Qxe7
- 13.c3 f5



- 14.0-0 0-0
- 15.Nc2 Rb8
- 16.exf5 e4
- 17.Re1 Bxf5
- 18.Nd4 Bxd4
- 19.cxd4 d5
- 20.Qd2 Rb6
- 21.Qf4

21.Rac1 Rg6 22.Bf1 Qh4 23.Re3 Qg5 24.g3 h5 25.Rc5 Be6 26.Re2 Qf6 27.Rc6 Rc8 28.Rxc8+ Bxc8 29.Qe3 h4 30.Rc2 Bg4 31.Rc5 Qf5 32.Bg2 Bf3 33.a3 Rf6 34.Rc3 Kg7 35.Bxf3 exf3 Short,N - Illescas Cordoba,M / Madrid 1997 / CBM

059 / 1/2-1/2.

- 21... Bg6
- 22.Qd2



22.Be2 Rc8 (22...Qb4 23.h4 f6 24.Rad1 Qd6 25.Qxd6 Rxd6 26.Rc1 f5 27.f4 Kg7 28.Rc7+ Rf7 29.Rec1 Rxc7 30.Rxc7+ Kf6 31.Kf2 h5 1/2-1/2 Nickel,B - Fridman,D / Chessfriend.com 2003 / UltraCorr.)
23.Rac1 (23.h4 h5 24.Bd1 Rf6 25.Qg5 Qb4 26.Qxf6 Qxe1+ 1/2-1/2 Nickel,B - Baumann,R / Chessfriend.com 2003 UltraCorr.) 23...Rbc6 24.Rxc6 Rxc6 25.h4 h5 26.a3 Kg7 27.Qg3 Kh7 28.b4 Qf6 29.Rd1 Rc2 30.Kf1 Ra2 31.Ke1 Qc6 32.Kf1 Qf6 1/2-1/2 Ventimiglia,C - Monasterio,M / IECG 2001 / UltraCorr.

- 22... f5
- 23.Bc2 f4!
- 24.Bb3 Qg5

f3 is going to be a devastating move if I ever manage to get it in! At the moment the f-prawn is pinned to the Queen on g5, the castled White King.

- 25.Kh1 Kh8!-+

This removes the Black King from the g8-a2 diagonal, as it is vulnerable to a

random check from the White Bishop should it ever capture the prawn on d5, and I don't want any disruption to my forthcoming attack!

- 26.Qa5? Rc6!

Grabbing hold of the c-file, with a neat trap in mind, which runs as follows...

- 27.Rac1?? f3!!



Simultaneously threatening checkmate on g2 and doubling up on the White Rook on c1, guaranteeing Black at least an overwhelming material advantage, and checkmate very soon to boot! 0-1



White: Boris Vladimirovich Abrashkin (1800)
Black: Iain Mackintosh (2423)
Blemenfeld Gambit [E10]
Champions League CL/0406/D3-1, 2005
[Annotator Iain Mackintosh]

One feature of CL games is the fairly high number of players without ICCF grades. Be warned - most of them play well above their temporary rating!

- 1.d4 Nf6
- 2.c4 e6
- 3.Nf3 c5
- 4.d5 b5

I'd picked up a Blumenfeld Gambit book as a freebie, so this seemed a good opportunity to use it...

- 5.dxe6 fxe6
- 6.cxb5 d5

This is the main line of the gambit accepted.

7.Nc3 This variation sees White contest the centre with e4.

7... Nbd7
8.e4 d4
9.e5! Ng4
10.Ne4 Bb7N



10...Ndx5 11.Nxe5 Nxe5 12.Qh5+ Nf7
13.Nxc5 Bxc5 14.Qxc5± favours White, for example Genov-Manolov, Bulgarian Championship, 1999, 1-0 after 44 moves.

11.Bg5 Qc7
12.Nfd2 Ngxe5
13.f4 h6
14.Bh4 c4!?
15.fxe5 Bxe4
16.Bxc4

16.Nxe4? Bb4+ 17.Nd2 Qxe5+ 18.Qe2 c3
19.Qxe5 cxd2+ 20.Kd1 Nxe5 and Black emerges intact from the complications.
16... Bb4
17.0-0



17.Bxe6 Rf8 18.Bxd7+ Qxd7 19.Qb3 Bxg2 20.Qxb4 Bxh1 and Black hangs on.

17... Bxd2□
18.Qg4 Nc5
19.b6 Qxe5
20.b7 Rd8
21.Bb5+ Nd7□
22.Bc6! Be3+

22...Bxc6?? 23.Qg6#

23.Kh1 g5

Round about here I was feeling that Black has had a good thrash, but White has sidestepped all the threats and retribution is nigh...

24.Bg3

This recovers the piece.

24... h5
25.Qxe4 Qxe4
26.Bxe4 Ke7
27.Bc7 Rdf8
28.Rad1?!



Seems to lose a tempo, but isn't critical. 28.Rxf8 Rxf8 29.g3±

28... Rxf1+
29.Rxf1 Bf4
30.Bxf4 gxf4
31.Rxf4 Nf6

31...Rb8 32.Rh4 Nf6 33.Bf3± is no better.

32.Bc6 e5
33.Rf3 Rb8
34.Kg1 Ke6
35.h3 e4
36.Ra3

36.Rf4!

36... Kd6
37.Ra6 Kc7
38.Ba4 Nd5
39.Rc6+ Kxb7



Out of the frying pan, but...

40.Rc4 Nf4
41.Bc6+ Ka6

42.Ra4+
43.Bxe4
44.Kh2
45.h4
46.Bf3
47.Bxh5
48.Rb4+
49.Re4
50.Ra4
51.Bf3+
52.h5
53.Ra5+
54.Bd1

Kb6
Rf8
d3
Rd8
Ne6
d2
Kc5
Kd5
Rd7
Kc5
Rf7
Kc4



There goes the last cheapo possibility, and the rest is just technique.

54... Kd4
55.h6 Rh7
56.Rh5 Nf4
57.Rh4 Ke3
58.g4 Ne6
59.Kg2 Ng5
60.b4 Rc7
61.b5 Kf4
62.Rh1 Nh7
63.a4 Re7
64.a5 Rd7
65.Rh3 Nf6
66.Rb3 Nd5
67.Rf3+ Ke5
68.g5 1-0

And I resigned here, somewhat overdue. The two morals of the story are trust neither freebie books nor temporary grades!



SCCA Premiers 2007 Section A, 2007

White: David R Cumming

Black: Gordon MacArainn

[E05]

Open Catalan [Annotator D R Cumming]

1.d4 d5
2.c4 e6
3.Nf3 Nf6
4.g3 Be7
5.Bg2 0-0
6.0-0 dxc4
7.Qc2 a6
8.a4 Bd7

9.Qxc4 Bc6
 10.Bg5 Nbd7
 11.Nc3 h6
 12.Bxf6 Nxf6
 13.Rfe1 Ne4
 14.Qd3 Nxc3

0.35/14.
 18.e4± f4
 19.g4 Qd7
 20.Nf3! Kg7
 21.Reb1 b6
 22.Kh1 a5?!

1.e4 c5
 2.Nf3 d6
 3.c3

This is a lot less popular than 3.d4 and 3.Bb5, but it scores respectably well and avoids volumes of book lines.



14...Nf6 15.e4 b6 16.Rad1 Bb7 17.Qc4 c6
 18.Qb3 Qc7 19.e5 Nd7 20.Rc1 Rac8
 21.Nd2 Rfd8 22.Qc4 Qb8 23.Nb3 a5
 24.Qe2 Bb4 25.Red1 c5 26.Bxb7 Qxb7
 27.Nb5 cxd4 28.Rxc8 Qxc8 29.N3xd4
 Lounek, J - Svoboda, F/corr
 2005/UltraCorr/½-½.

15.bxc3 f5
 16.Nd2

16.Ne5 Bxg2 17.Kxg2 Bf6 (17...Bd6
 18.Nc4 b6 19.f4 Qd7 20.e4 b5 21.Nxd6
 cxd6 22.axb5 axb5 23.exf5 exf5 24.Qf3
 Rxa1 25.Rxa1 Qe6 ½-½ Anhalt, H -
 Fremiotti, U / corr ICCF 1996 /
 U@ltraCorr.) 18.Nf3 Qd5 19.Kg1 c5
 20.Rab1 Rad8 21.Red1 Rf7 22.Rb6 Rfd7
 23.Qc2 Rd6 24.Rxd6 Rxd6 25.Rb1 cxd4
 26.cxd4 Bxd4 27.Qc8+ Kh7 28.Rxb7 Rc6
 29.Qb8 Be5 30.Qa7 Rc1+
 Mastrokoukos, G - Haritakis, T / Glyfada
 1995 / CBM 047 ext / 0-1.

16... Bxg2
 17.Kxg2±



17... g5?!

Attacking yes, but too adventurous and
 loosening of Black's kingside. [Shredder
 10: 1 17...c5 18.Nf3 Qd6 0.31/9.;
 Shredder 10: 2 17...f4 18.Qe4 Qd5 19.f3
 fxg3 20.hxg3 Rae8 21.Qxd5 exd5

This creates a hole in front of the b6
 pawn ready to be occupied by the White
 Rook, adding pressure along the 5th rank.
 [Shredder 10: 1 22...Qc8 23.Rb2 Rb8
 24.Ne5 Ra8 25.c4 Qb7 26.Kg1 Bd8
 27.Nf3 Rad8 0.83/14.; Shredder 10: 2
 22...Qc6 23.Kg1 Rad8 24.c4 Qb7 25.a5
 h5 0.90/14.]

23.Rb5 Rh8
 24.Ne5 Qd6
 25.c4 Rad8
 26.Nf3 Qd7
 27.Qc2 Bb4
 28.Rd1 Be7?



This and Black's previous move mean that
 he has lost 2 tempi effectively, and this
 confers a winning advantage on the White
 game. [Shredder 10: 1 28...Qe7 29.Rd3
 0.95/15.; Shredder 10: 2 28...Rhe8 29.Qb2
 Kg8 30.Ne5 Qh7 31.f3 Rd6 32.Nd3 c5
 33.d5 exd5 34.Nxb4 axb4 35.cxd5 Qg7
 1.03/15.]

29.d5 1-0

Shredder's opinion differs slightly from
 my own here, and whilst it conceded that
 29.d5 is winning for White, it reckons that
 29.Ne5 first would confer an even greater
 advantage for White. [Shredder 10: 1
 29.Ne5 Qe8 30.d5 Bc5 31.Nd3 Bf8
 32.Kg1 Kg8 33.Re1 1.62/8.; Shredder 10:
 2 29.d5 exd5 30.Nd4 Qxg4 31.cxd5
 1.43/16.]



Champions League CL/0406/D3-1, 2005
White: Iain Mackintosh (2423)
Black: Jens Rasmussen (2211)
 Sicilian Defence [B50]
 [Annotator Iain Mackintosh]

3... Nf6
 4.Bc4 Nc6
 4...Nxe4 5.Qa4+ Nc6 6.Bxf7+ Kxf7
 7.Qxe4= e5 8.d4 Be7 (8...cxd4!?) 9.dxe5
 Bf6 10.Qd5+ Be6 11.Qxd6 Qxd6 12.exd6
 Bd5 13.Be3 Bxf3 14.gxf3 Rhe8 15.Nd2
 b6 16.Rd1 Rad8 17.Ne4 Ne5 18.Ke2 Rd7
 19.b3 Ng6 20.Rd2 Re5 21.a4 h6 22.b4
 cxb4 23.cxb4 Re6 24.a5 Bd8 25.axb6
 axb6 26.Rd5 Re5 27.Rxe5 Nxe5 28.Rc1
 Ra7 29.Rc8 Rd7 30.f4 Ng4 31.Rxd8 Rxd8
 32.Bxb6 Rd7 33.Bc7 Ke8 34.b5 Nf6
 35.Nxf6+ was Garcia Cano-Martinez
 Pascual, Terrassa, 1996, 1-0.

5.d3 a6
 6.Bb3 g6
 7.0-0 Bg7
 8.h3 0-0
 9.Re1 Na5N



9...b5 10.d4 Bb7 11.Nbd2 Nd7 12.Nf1
 Rc8 13.Bg5 h6 14.Be3 Na5 15.Bc2 Nc4
 16.Bc1 b4 17.Bd3 Ncb6 18.Qe2 a5
 19.Be3 e6 20.Rac1 Qe7 21.Qd2 Kh7
 22.c4 cxd4 23.Bxd4 Bxd4 24.Nxd4 Rfd8
 25.b3 Nc5 26.Bb1 Qf6 27.Ng3 Kh8 was
 Totsky-Dao Thian Hai, Budapest, 1996,
 1-0 after 47 moves.] 10.Bc2 c4?!
 Consistent with his 9th and trying to
 mobilise the q-side, but it allows White to
 control the centre.

11.d4 b5
 12.b4 Nc6
 13.a4 Bb7
 14.axb5 axb5
 15.Rxa8 Qxa8
 16.d5 Nd8
 17.Nd4±

Black's weak b-pawn is the target, and its
 defence starts to post the Black pieces on
 the periphery.

17... Ba6
 18.Na3 Qb7
 19.Qf3 Re8
 20.Rd1 Rf8

I'd expected 20... e5 after the rook went to e8, so this was a surprise.

21.Bg5 h6
 22.Be3 Re8



And now the rook returns to e8 with Black short of freeing moves.

23.Ra1 Kh7

23...e6 24.Bxh6 Bxh6 25.Qxf6 Bg7 26.Qg5 exd5 27.exd5 Qb6 28.Qh4 looked an interesting alternative.

24.Nb1 e5
 25.Ne2

25.dxe6? Nxe6 26.Nd2 Nxd4 27.Bxd4 Re6 and Black eases the pressure.

25... Re7
 26.Qg3 Nh5
 27.Qh4 Bf6
 28.Qg4 Rc7
 29.Qf3 Bg5
 30.Ng3 Nxc3
 31.Bxc3 Ne2+



31...hxg5 32.Qf6 Rd7 33.fxg3 Qb6+ 34.Kh2 Bc8 35.Na3 Ra7 36.Nxc4+-

32.Kf1! Hxc3
 33.Qf6 Nxc3

33...Rd7 34.Kxe2+- is no better.

34.Nxc3 Rd7
 35.h4 1-0

35.h4 gxh4 (35...Re7 36.h5 gxh5 37.Qxd6 Qd7 38.Rxa6+-) 36.Ke2 the rook gets to h1 and it's over.



SCCA Premiers 2007 Section B
White: David R Cumming
Black: D Crichton
 King's Indian Defence [E76]
 [Annotator D R Cumming]

1.d4 Nf6
 2.c4 g6
 3.Nc3 Bg7
 4.e4 d6
 5.f4 c5
 6.dxc5 Qa5
 7.Bd3 Qxc5
 8.Qe2 Bg4
 9.Nf3 Nc6
 10.Be3 Qa5

10...Qh5 11.0-0 Bxf3 12.Rxf3 Ng4 13.Rh3 Nd4 14.Bxd4 Bxd4+ 15.Kf1 Nxe2+ 16.Ke1 Qg4 17.Qd2 Qxh3 18.gxh3 Nf3+ 19.Ke2 Nxd2 20.Kxd2 Bxc3+ 21.Kxc3 e5 22.Rf1 Ke7 23.f5 f6 24.Be2 Rac8 25.b4 Keres,P - Fuderer, A / Hastings 1954 / MCL / 0-1.

11.0-0 Nd7
 12.Rac1 0-0

12...Nc5 13.Bb1 0-0 (13...Nd4 14.Qd2 Nxf3+ 15.gxf3 Be6 16.Bd4 f6 17.b3 Bh3 18.Rf2 Ne6 19.Be3 f5 20.Nd5 Qxd2 21.Rxd2 Rf8 22.Kf2 g5 23.exf5 gxf4 24.Bxa7 Rxa7 25.fxe6 Bxe6 26.Bxh7 Rh8 27.Bg6+ Kd7 28.Rh1 Garcia Palermo,C - Gallego Jimenez,V / Canete 1994/EXT 1-0.) 14.Rfd1 Na4 15.Nxa4 Qxa4 16.Rd3 Qa5 17.Qf2 Bxf3 18.gxf3 Rac8 19.Rb3 Qc7 20.Bxa7 b5 21.Be3 bxc4 22.Rxc4 Qd7 23.Rd3 Na5 24.Rxc8 Rxc8 25.b3 Qb7 26.Rd1 Qb4 27.Bd3 Gretaarsson,H - Hillarp Persson,T / Copenhagen 1997 / EXT 2000/1-0.

13.Qd2 Bxf3

13...Nc5 14.Bb1 Rfd8 15.h3 Bxf3 16.Rxf3 e6 17.b3 a6 18.f5 Be5 19.Ne2 Qxd2 20.Bxd2 Rac8 21.Rcf1 Nd4 22.Nxd4 Bxd4+ 23.Kh1 Nd7 24.Bg5 Re8 25.Rd1 Be5 1/2-1/2 Hybl,V - Omelka,R / corr 2001 / UltraCorr.

14.Rxf3±



14... Rac8
 15.Rh3 Rfe8
 16.a3 a6?!

Shredder 10: 1 16...Nd4 17.Qd1 Nb6 18.Ne2 Nc6 19.Qc2 e6 20.Kh1 Qa4 21.Qxa4 Nxa4 0.55/13.; Shredder 10: 2 16...Bd4 17.Bxd4 Nxd4 18.f5 Qe5 19.Rf1 Nc5 0.77/13.

17.Be2± Nf8
 18.Qd1 Qd8
 19.b4! Rb8?

Moving the Rook off the c-file was a fatal mistake for Black, conferring on White a winning advantage. Shredder 10: 1 19...Nd7 20.Kh1 e5 21.Qxd6 Nd4 22.Bd3 1.27/14.; Shredder 10: 2 19...e6 20.Kh1 Qe7 21.Qd3 Nb8 1.18/13.

20.Qd2+-



20... Qd7
 21.Rf1!

Preparing to pesh the f-prawn as in the Closed Sicilian. Ra8?

21... Ra8?

This just loses a couple of tempii, but Black was lost anyway!

22.Nd5 Rab8
 23.b5 axb5
 24.cxb5 Nd8
 25.f5!! E6
 26.Nb6 Qc7
 27.f6 1-0

Shredder 10: 27.f6 Bh8 28.Rc1 Nc6 **16.Ned4**
 29.Rf3 h5 30.Qc3 Nh7 31.bxc6 bxc6 **17.Nxf5**
 32.Qxc6 Qxc6 33.Rxc6 Nxf6 34.Rc7 Rf8 **18.Nh4**
 35.Bd3 5.27/15



Champions League CL/0406/D3-1, 2005

White: Mauro Graziani (2327)

Black: Iain Mackintosh (2423)

Ruy Lopez [C68]

[Annotator Iain Mackintosh]

1.e4 e5
2.Nf3 Nc6
3.Bb5 a6
4.Bxc6



The other possibility was 18.Be3!? Bxe3 19.Qxe3 Bxc2 20.Rac1 Bd3 21.Rfd1 giving up the c-pawn for open play.

The exchange variation of the Ruy Lopez is a common occurrence these days.

4... dxc6
5.0-0 Bd6
6.d4 exd4
7.Nxd4 Qh4
8.f4 Nh6N



8...Ne7 9.Nc3 0-0 10.Be3 Re8 11.Qf3 Bg4 12.Qf2 Qxf2+ 13.Rxf2 was Basa Garmazo-Flear, Castellar Open, 1995, drawn after 39 moves.

9.Nd2 0-0
10.N2f3 Qh5
11.Ne2?!

This doesn't work out too well. Maybe 11.Qd3 was better.

11... Rd8
12.Qe1

This seemed a little defensive, so gave me some encouragement. 12.c3 Ng4 13.h3 Nf6 14.Qc2 looked a better try.

12... Re8?!

Fixated on queen-stalking. 12...Be6 was a better developing move.

13.e5 Bc5+
14.Kh1 Qg6
15.Qc3 Bb6

18... Qe6
19.Nxf5 Qxf5

Black has built up a slight positional plus, which is the reverse of his normal lot in the exchange variation.

20.Bd2 Rad8
21.Rad1

The right rook, but maybe not the best square - e1 looked better.

21... Rd5
22.Bc1 Rc5
23.Qd3 Qxd3
24.cxd3



Gradually Black exerts more pressure after the queen exchange leaves White with a loose d-pawn.

24... f6
25.Rfe1

25.exf6 gxf6 26.Bd2 Rc2 27.Bc3 Ree2 allows Black to double rooks on the second rank.

25... Kf7
26.exf6 Rxe1+
27.Rxe1 gxf6
28.Bd2 Rc2

29.Bc3 Bf2
30.Rd1?!



Black's plan is to attack the White a- and b-pawns, so the rook defends better on b1 - however, that is counter to the natural instinct to keep it central.

30... Be3
31.f5 Bc1
32.a3 Bxb2
33.Bxb2 Rxb2
34.Kg1 Rb5
35.Rf1 Rb3
36.d4 Rxa3
37.Rb1 b5
38.Rc1 b4
39.Rxc6 Rc3



39...Rc3 40.Rxa6 b3 41.Ra4 b2 42.Rb4 Rc1+ 43.Kf2 b1Q and game over. 0-1



<http://www.chessbase.com/>



How to See Ahead in Chess Part 5

By Geoff Lloyd

The Author

Geoff Lloyd has an ICCF rating of 2235; two SCCA Master norms, 30 years of playing competitive chess, and seventeen years combined teaching and coaching experience.

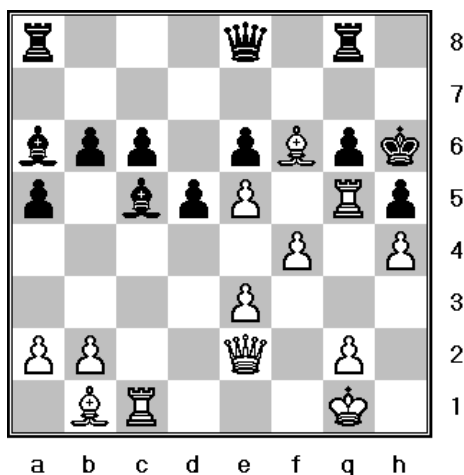
Chapter 1, serialised in 3 parts, covered the basic tactical elements – mating patterns, multiple attacks, decoys, pinning, deflection, forks, skewers, overload and discovered check. Chapter 2 covered just 1 part, and was featured in our last issue. This issue covers the first part of Chapter 3.

Chapter 3 – Pieces Working in Partnership

12. The Two Bishops

So far we have only considered individual pieces along with isolated elements and ideas. I have mentioned ideas blending in combination and also pieces co-operating together, and it is time now to concentrate on the co-operation of the pieces using several ideas much more intensively.

The Bishop pair can be a formidable weapon in the right hands; their firepower when placed on adjacent diagonals forms crossfire and is often deadly.



Black's king is in a difficult situation and his only real defender is the pawn on g6. White mates him as follows:

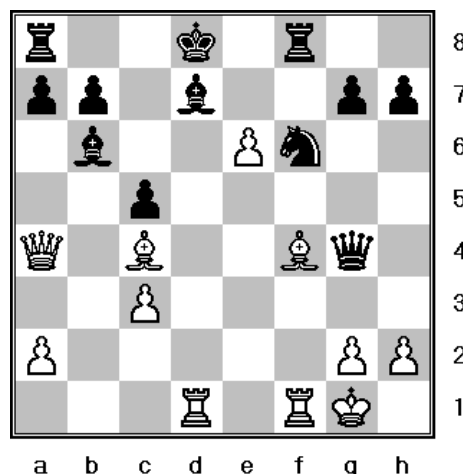
1.g4 **Bxe2**
2.Rxh5+

Sacrificing a piece must be calculated with accuracy.

2... **gxf5**
3.g5+ **Rxf5+**
4.fxc5#

The Black king is prevented from escaping by the bishops. Working out the escape squares [or flight squares] should become second nature.

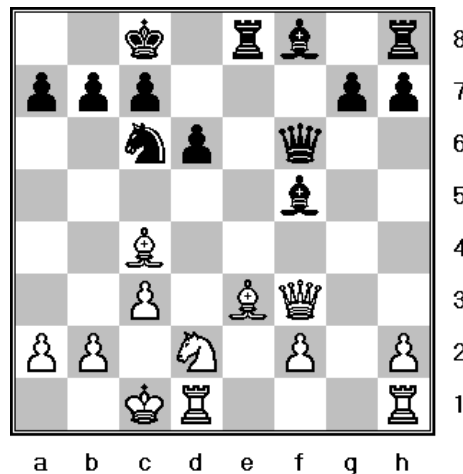
The following position is taken from the game Morphy v Thompson, New York, 1859. White is to play, and again you can observe the sacrifice of a piece and also how the two bishops control the king's flight squares.



1 Rxd7+ Kc8

If 1... Nxd7, 2.Qxd7# or if 1... Ke8, 2.Rxb7+

2 Qc6+ bxc6
3 Ba6#

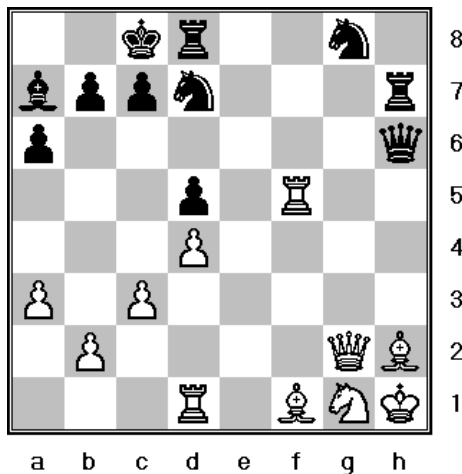


This position has a similar theme to the previous example and is well worth remembering. It is Black to play:

1... d5
2.Bxd5

If 2.Bg5 then Qxg5, 3.Rhg1 Be4. Here we have an instructional point of taking into account any variations that your opponent may have in unforced lines. You must look for any variations and calculate them in order to determine that mate can be achieved in other lines, and if mate is avoided, it can only be done so at a material loss. For example if White retreats his bishop we then have the following: 2.Bb3 Qxc3+ 3.bxc3 Ba3#

2... Qxc3+
3.bxc3 Ba3#



Taken from the game Horowitz v Popert, Hamburg 1844. It is Black to play and he has a strong attacking position, however White's queen sacrifice and his two powerful bishops win the game.

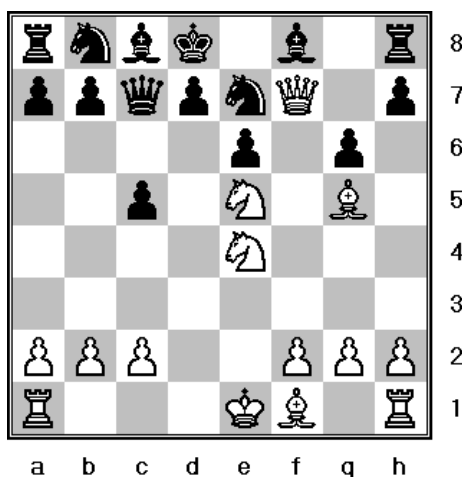
- | | |
|----------------|--------------|
| 1... | Bb8 |
| 2.Rxd5 | c6 |
| 3.Rh5 | Qxh5 |
| 4.Qxc6+ | bx c6 |
| 5.Bxa6# | |

With a powerful attack against h2.

Once more we find the same idea being used and the positional power of the two bishops.

12. The Two Knights

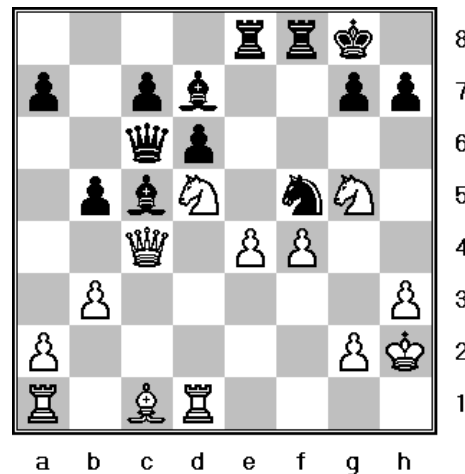
You may have noticed earlier how the knight can move around in congested positions, unlike the bishop who needs open lines. This strength the knight possesses is more than doubled when two knights are working together. From the next diagram position, we return to our old friend the smothered mate, taken from the game between Pollmacher v Saalbach. It is White to play:



- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1.Qe8+ | Kxe8 |
| 2.Nf6+ | Kd8 |
| 3.Nf7# | |

What a wonderful mate!

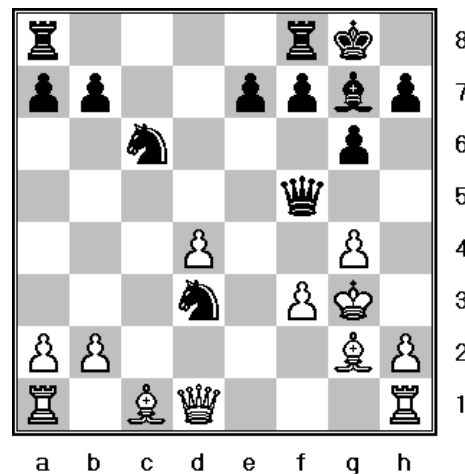
Pollmacher gets a taste of his own medicine in the game Vitzthum v Pollmacher. Leipzig, 1853. It is White to play:



- | | |
|---------------|-------------|
| 1.Nf6+ | Kh8 |
| 2.Qg8+ | Rxg8 |
| 3.Nf7# | |

Observe how well the pieces work together.

The next position is one from the game between Potemkin v Alekhine where the two knights are used admirably. It is Black to play and he calculates correctly, ignoring the threat to his queen.



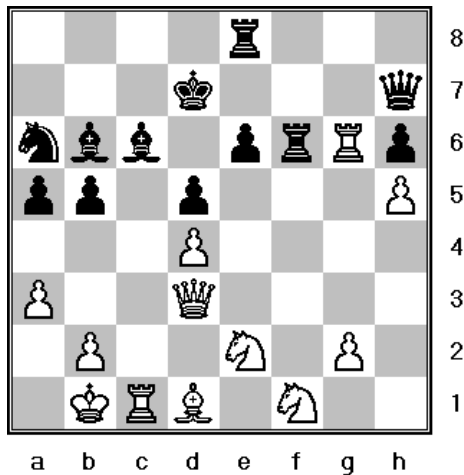
- | | |
|---------------|--------------|
| 1... | Nxd4 |
| 2.gxf5 | Nxf5+ |
| 3.Kh3 | |

If instead 3.Kg4 h5+ 4.Kh3 [4.Kg5 Bf6#] 4... Nf2#
3... Nf2#

I reiterate the need to be patient here, "Rome was not built in a day." It matters little how much time you spend on your analysis, what does matter is that you develop slowly your ability to calculate and your memory of the important patterns is improving.

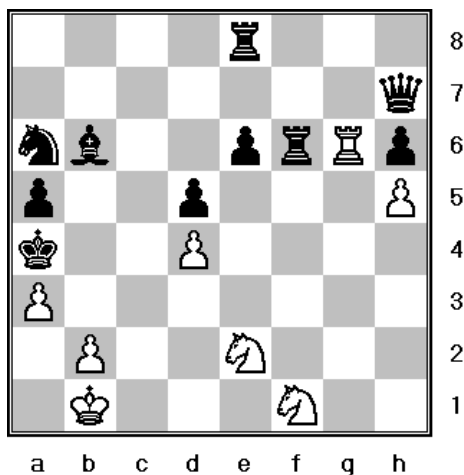
The next example is taken from a game played between Tietz v Ramisch and offers you a chance of further development in the art of calculation.

Sacrifices abound here allowing the knights to deliver mate. It is White to play:



1.Rxc6 Kxc6
 2.Qxb5+ Kxb5
 3.Ba4+ Kxa4

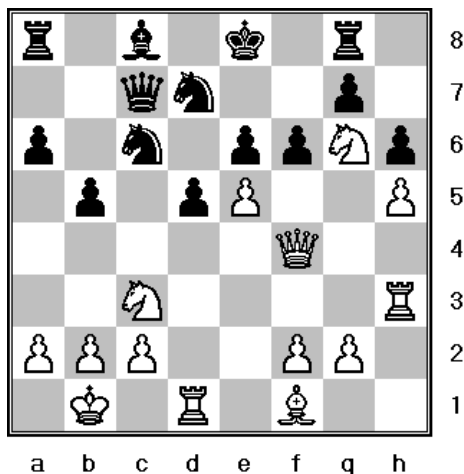
The actual game score went as follows: 3...Kc4 4.b3+ Kd3 5.Bb5+ Ke4 6.Rg4+ Kf5 7.Ne3#. Returning to the game play continued:



4.Nc3+ Kb3
 5.Nd2#

When the moves are forced, combinations like this one are not so difficult to calculate. Being aware tactically of the elements and capabilities of the pieces in conjunction with practice and study on an going basis is all that you need to be concerned over.

This position is taken from the game played between Spielman v Oskam, Scheveningen 1923. It is White to play:

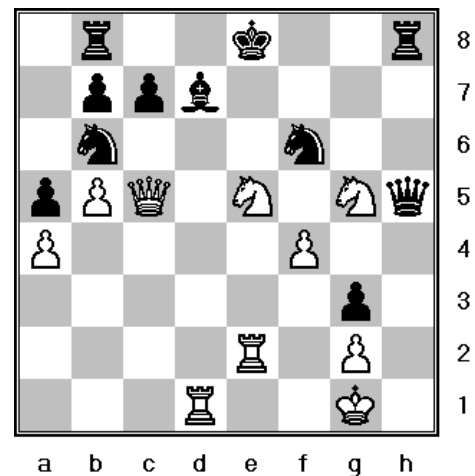


1.Bxb5 axb5
 2.Nxb5 Qb8
 If 2... Qd8, 3.Nd6#
 3.exf6 Qxf4
 If 3... gxf6, 4.Nc7+ Kf7 5.Nxa8 Qxa8 6.Qxh6 winning material.
 4.Nxf4 Rb8
 5.Nd6+ Kf8
 6.Nxe6#

Always try to calculate material-winning lines, not just find a mate and go for it - the whole combination must be sound.

Exercise 26

This a study by Stamma. Black is threatening Qh1#, so would you continue? It is White to play and if you're doing well with your studies I can't see you having any difficulty...



Solution

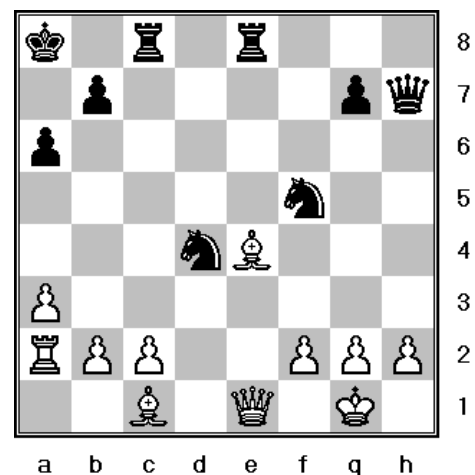
1.Nxd7+ Qxe2
 2.Nxf6#

Another line you may have found is:

1.Qe7+ Kxe7
 2.Ng6++ Kd8
 3.Nf7+ Kc8
 4.Ne7#

Exercise 27

Taken from the game Marache v Morphy, New York, 1857, and it is Black to play.



Solution

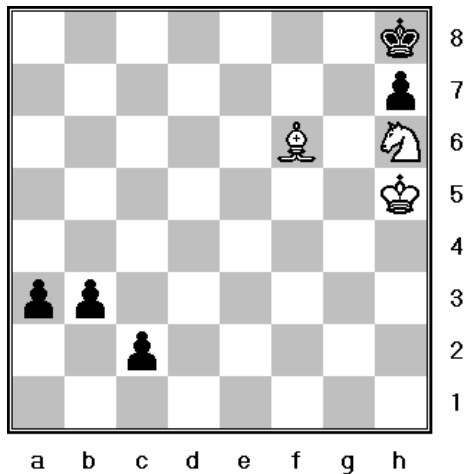
1... **Rxe4**
2.Qxe4 **Ng3**
3.Qxh7

If instead 3.hxg3 Qxe4 4.Be3[If 4.Bg5 Ne2+ 5.Kf1 Nxc3+ 6.fxg3 Rxc2 and again mate is only avoided with loss of material.] 4... Ne2+ 5.Kf1 Nxc3+ 6.fxg3 Rf8+ 7.Bf4 Qc4+ 8.Kg1 Qxa2 winning.

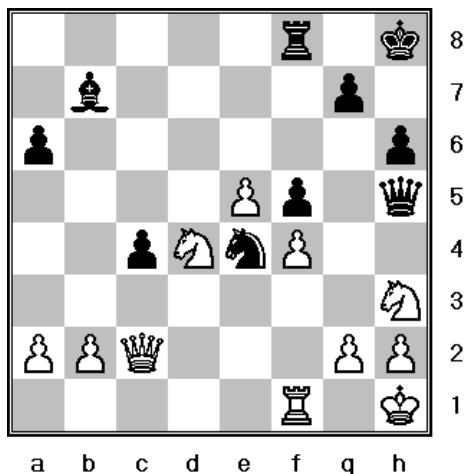
3... **Nde2#**

I can only offer encouragement here if you failed to find the variation that went eight moves in depth. However you must not become disheartened for you are travelling along a learning curve. Like any other subject from time to time you will make huge leaps forwards and then go through a difficult patch. This is known as a learning plateau and is quite normal. However it may be that you're trying too hard or maybe you're not taking enough time or simply failing to write down your calculations. Whatever the reason, keep working as we all learn at different speeds.

13. The Bishop and the Knight



This position illustrates the basic mating pattern you should now be familiar with from an earlier chapter. However, this is not only as a form of revision but also a way of increasing your knowledge and awareness of what you should be focusing on when beginning your calculations. Concentrate on the king's flight squares and ways to control them or obstruct them. With this in mind we now move to the next example. This is taken from the game Torres v Alekhine, Seville, 1922. It is Black to play:

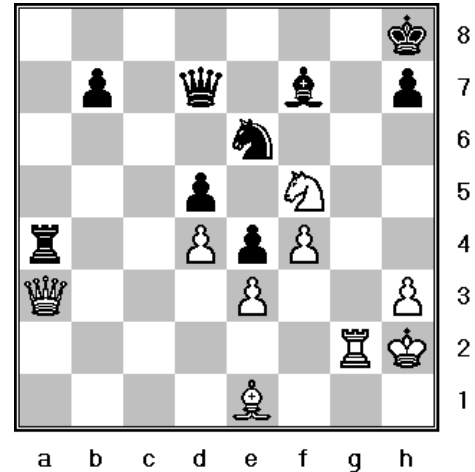


1... **Qxh3**
2.gxh3

If instead 2.Nf3 Qh5 3.Rd1 Ng3+ 4.Kg1 Bxf3 5.gxf3 Qxf3 6.hxg3 Qxc3+ and Black is ahead.

2... **Nf2+**
3.Kg1 **Nxh3#**

Once more there is a variation that avoids mate, and it needs to be calculated before the queen is sacrificed to ensure that the mate can only be avoided at a material loss. I shall not continually remind of this any further, as you should by now in your calculations be making these judgments for yourself.



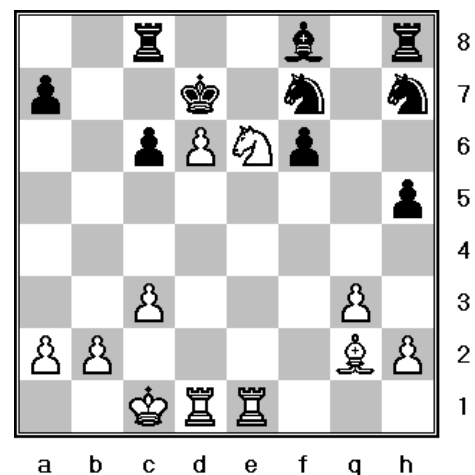
This position is taken from the game between, Grunfeld v Tarrasch, Baden Baden 1925. It is White to play, and the h7 square is obstructing the Black king's flight, so creating the desired mating pattern is not as difficult as it may appear. The bishop and the knight have the support of a rook on an open file, and again the sacrifice of the queen is involved, demanding accurate calculation. Play went as follows:

1.h4 **Rxa3**

If 1... h6 to give the king access to h7, the line would be: 2.Bf6+ Kh7 3.Qf8 Nxf8 4.Rg7+ Kh8 5.Rxf7+ Kg8 6.Nxh6# - a very nice finish.

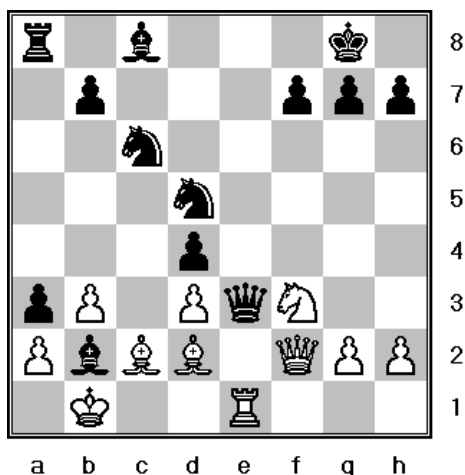
2 Bf6+ **Ng7**
3 Bxg7+ **Kg8**
4 Nh6#

The next position is from a game played by Tartakower in Vienna 1921. Again we can observe the rook assisting the bishop and knight. It is White to play:



1.Nc5+ Kd8
 2.Nb7+ Kd7
 3.Bh3+ f5
 4.Bxf5#

The following position is taken from the game played between Gonssiorovski v Alekhine, Odessa, 1918. Black's queen is under threat by three pieces, however it should not be too difficult to find a mating pattern we are now familiar with.



1... Bf5
 2.Rxe3

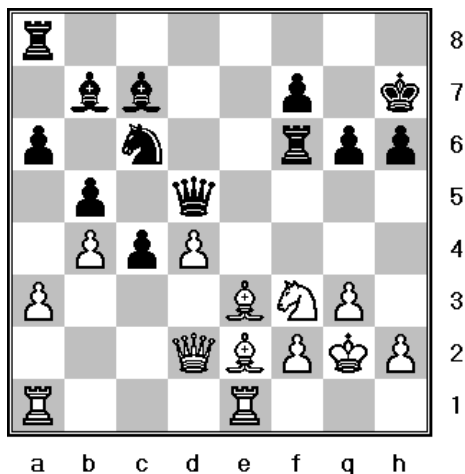
If 2.Qe2 Rc8 3.Qxe3 [or 3.Qd1 Qxd3 4.Bxd3 Bxd3+ 5.Qc2 Bxc2+ 6.Ncb4+ winning.] 3... dxe3 4.Rxe3 Nxe3 5.Bxe3 Nb4 is winning.

2... dxe3
 3.Qf1 exd2
 4.Bd1 Ncb4
 5.Nxd2 Nc3#

From time to time the study of any subject can become a little testing, however it is this type of stretching that you must overcome. You may be encouraged to read that even masters can spend a day or more analysing a single position.

The point I wish to make is chess like life can throw up many obstacles, but you have to carry on and overcome them. Now, two exercises for you to test yourself.

Exercise 28



Taken from the game Popov v Rjumin, Moscow, 1929. It is Black to play:

Solution

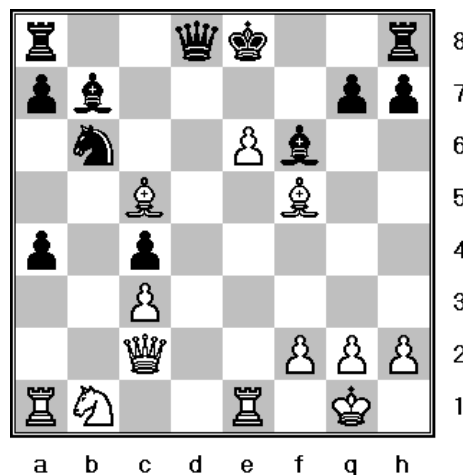
1... Rxf3
 2.Bxf3 Qxf3+
 3.Kxf3

If instead 3.Kf1 Bc8 4.Rec1 (creating a flight square for the king, so:) 4... Bg4 (threatening mate on h1) 5.Kg1 Bh3 when White has no defence against mate on g2.

3... Nxd4+
 4.Kg4 Bc8+
 5.Kh4 Nf3#

Exercise 29

This is taken from another game played by Alekhine, this time against an amateur in London, 1928. Black had just played... Ba6 skewering a rook through the White queen. How would you respond?



Solution

1.Qxe4 fxe4
 2.Bxe4+ Kh8
 3.Ng6+ Kh7
 4.Nxf8+ Kh8
 5.Ng6+ Kh7
 6.Ne5+ Kh8
 7.Nf7#

One of the greatest difficulties I personally encountered was the visualizing of the material-winning positions in the variations. It often seemed so unclear and caused some doubt in my mind during calculations. I know now with hindsight that it can only improve with practice, for practice makes permanent.



In the next instalment, we continue Chapter 3 – looking first at how the bishop works with the rook.



Haro Otte Memorial Open Update

By George Pyrich

Play began recently on the ICCF webserver in this new team event organised by the ICCF European Zone Director Gian-Maria Tani (ITA).

The event is dedicated to the memory of the late Harro Otte (GER) who for many years served as a Tournament Director for ICCF European postal promotion class events and is specifically designed for lower rated players. Consequently the average ELO rating in the October 2006 ICCF Rating List of each team of 6 players was required to be less than 2000 with no player rated above 2051 and a maximum of two players rated over 2000.

In due course a total of 26 teams entered with the Scotland team comprising Stuart Graham, Hugh Calder, Jim Anderson, Alan Armstrong, Andrew Macmillan and Alex Scott allocated to Preliminary Group 3, per the table below.

Group 1	Group 2	Group 3
Slovenia	Finland	Poland
Romania	Slovakia	Czech Republic
Germany	France	Denmark
Russia	Turkey	Scotland
England	Netherlands	Spain
Portugal	Norway	Israel
Sweden	Italy	Latvia
Bulgaria	Switzerland	Austria
Lithuania	Belgium	---

One of the great advantages of server play is that games are allowed to progress much more quickly than in postal play. Already, barely 2 months after the pairings were distributed, our team has made a very encouraging start already completing 5 games unbeaten and with a 70% score!

With 3 teams in each group due to qualify for the Final, we can perhaps be optimistic of our chances!

Further reports will appear in future issues – meantime we have below our 2 wins to date:

Graham, Stuart – Bar Ziv, Zvi
Harro Otte Memorial TT ICCF, 2007
[Notes by George Pyrich]

Stuart on top board started with a nice win.

1.e4	c5
2.Nf3	Nc6
3.d4	cxd4
4.Nxd4	Nf6
5.Nc3	e6
6.Ndb5	d6
7.Bf4	e5
8.Bg5	a6
9.Na3	b5
10.Bxf6	gxf6
11.Nd5	f5

12.Bd3	Be6
13.0-0	Bxd5
14.exd5	Ne7
15.Nxb5	Bg7
16.Nc3	e4
17.Be2	

[17.Bc4 is also played here, one interesting example being David Jenkins v. Alan Borwell, SCCA Bulletin 10th Anniversary Tournament 1990 17...Qa5 18.Qd2 Rc8 19.Bb3 Bxc3 20.bxc3 Rg8 21.Rab1 Rg6 22.Qd4 Qxc3 23.Qxc3 Rxc3 24.Rfe1 Kf8 25.Re3 Rc5 ½–½

17...	0-0
-------	-----



18.Rb1	Ng6
19.Kh1	Qh4
20.g3	Qh3
21.f4	exf3
22.Rxf3	

Now Stuart manages to consolidate and the extra pawn tells.

22...	Be5
23.Qd3	Ne7
24.Nd1	Rfb8
25.b4	Kh8
26.Ne3	Rg8
27.Nxf5	Nxf5
28.Qxf5	Qxf5
29.Rxf5	f6
30.Rh5	Kg7
31.Bd3	h6
32.Kg2	Rgb8
33.Rb3	a5
34.b5	Rb6
35.Bf5	Ra7
36.a4	Rc7
37.Re3	Rc4
38.Re4	Rxe4
39.Bxe4	Bd4
40.Bf5	Rb8
41.Rh4	Bb6
42.Rg4+	Kf7
43.Be6+	1-0

Scott, Alex – Gulbis, Harijs
Harro Otte Memorial TT ICCF, 2007
[Notes by George Pyrich]

Our other win to date came on board 6 where Alex produced a very nice attacking finish.

1.e4 d5
 2.exd5 Qxd5
 3.Nc3 Qd8
 4.d4 Nf6
 5.Nf3 e6
 6.Bd3 Bb4
 7.0-0 0-0
 8.a3 Be7
 9.Bg5 Nc6
 10.Qd2 h6
 11.Bh4 Nd5
 12.Bg3 Re8
 13.Rae1 Bd7
 14.Nxd5 exd5
 15.c3 Na5
 16.Ne5 Bd6

17.f4 c5
 18.Qc2 Bxe5
 19.fxe5 Qe7
 20.Qf2 Be6
 21.Bh4 g5?!

This can't be good but Black's position is already very difficult.

22.Bg3 Rac8
 23.Qe2 cxd4
 24.Rf6 dxc3
 25.Qh5 Qc5+
 26.Kh1 Kf8
 27.Qxh6+ Ke7
 28.Rxf7+ Kd8
 [28...Kxf7 29.Qh7+ Kf8 30.Rf1+ and it's quickly all over.]
 29.Qxg5+ Re7
 30.b4 Qc7
 31.Qg8+ Kd7
 32.Rxe7+ Kxe7
 33.Qg7+ Ke8
 34.Bg6+ 1-0



Section Position at 8 July:

Memorial "Harro Otte" - Preliminary 3		TD Klauner, Thed																
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	Score	Team results	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	Place
1	Spain	0	0	0.5	1	1.5	0	1	0	4	0	0.5	1	0	0	2.5	0	1
2	Scotland	0	0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0	1	1	3.5	0	2	0	0	0	0	1.5	2
3	Czech Republic	0.5	0.5	0	1	0	0	1	0	3	0	1.5	0	0	0	1.5	0	3
4	Austria	0	0.5	0	0	1	0	0	1	2.5	0	0	0	0	0	1	1.5	4
5	Denmark	0.5	0.5	0	0	0	0	0.5	0	1.5	0	1.5	0	0	0	0	0	5
6	Poland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
7	Israel	0	0	0	0	0.5	0	0	0	0.5	0	0.5	0	0	0	0	0	7
8	Latvia	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8





21st ICCF World Championship

Category 14, GM 7½; SIM 6, IM 5				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	Pts	
	1	Oosterom, J van	2777	NED	■	½	½	½	1	½	½	1	0	1	½	1	1	1	1	10
	2	Ugge, A J	2567	CAN	½	■	1	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	½	1	8½	
	3	Unen, J H van	2523	NED	½	0	■	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	1	7½	
	4	Busemann, Dr S	2616	GER	½	½	½	■	0	1	1	½		½	½	½	1		7	
	5	Lanc, I A	2477	SVK	0	½	½	1	■	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	1	7	
	6	Nimtz, Dr M	2625	GER	½	½	½	0	½	■	½	½		½	½	1	½	1	7	
	7	Pinkovetsky, SU	2666	RUS	½	½	½	0	½	½	■	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	7	
	8	Soltau, A	2632	GER	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	■	½	½	½	½	½	1	7	
	9	Nickel, A	2590	GER	1	½	½		½		½	½	■	½	1	½		½	6½	
	10	Walsh, A	2437	ARG	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	■	1		1	½		6½	
	11	Rákay, M K	2492	SVK	½	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	0	0	■	½	½	½	5½	
	12	Jakobetz, L	2548	HUN	0	½	0	½	½	0	½	½	½		½	■	1	½	5	
	13	Bjuhr, A	2573	SWE	0	½	½	½		½	½	½		0	½	0	■	½	5	
	14	Jôao, N	2610	BRA	0	½	½	0	½	½	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	■	5	
	15	Branding, G	2607	GER	0	0	0		0	0	½	0	½		½		0	■	1½	

Top graded GM Joop van Oosterom is the 21st ICCF World Champion. There are unfinished games in the table, but he can't be caught now. He has won previously in the 18th Final, and finished second in the 15th. The other Dutch player, van Unen, lies 3rd but can be caught.

Current Friendly Internationals

Start	Boards	Opponents	Mode	For	Against	Void	Result
Jun 2007	14	Spain	Post				
Apr 2007	20	Slovenia	Server				
Apr 2007	20	Poland	Server				
Nov 2006	28	Germany	Server/Post	1	3		
Mar 2006	28	Sweden	Server/Post	11½	30½		L
Sep 2005	27	Denmark	Server/Post	15½	34½		L
Jul 2005	21	Australia	Server/Post	23	17		W
Mar 2005	24	Netherlands	Post/Email	15	23	2	
Feb 2005	20	BCCS	Post/Email	18½	5½	12	W
Jan 2004	20	Romania	Email	11	27		L










We managed to organise a postal match with Spain, who were looking for such a fixture at the same time. There were relatively few results reported during the period. Full board scores can be viewed on the SCCA website.

ICCF Champions League 2007-09

This is proving a popular event, and we have entered four teams as follows:











- Lewis Chessmen** (Iain Mackintosh, George Livie, Alan Borwell, George Pyrich) Captain: Alan Borwell
- Scottish Claymores** (Gordon Anderson, Alan Bell, Stuart Graham, Kevin Paine) Captain: George Pyrich
- Caledonian Kings** (Arthur Knox, Jim Anderson, Andrew Macmillen, Stephen Hilton) Captain: Jim Anderson
- Caledonian Knights** (David Edney, Derek Price, Colim Macgregor, Robert Rough) Captain: Jim Anderson

ICCF 16th Olympiad

Postal Section 3		Australia	Belgium	Bulgaria	Croatia	Germany	Latvia	Slovakia	Sweden	USA	Points	Percentage
												
1	Beecham, C R	½	1			½	½	½	0		3	50.0
2	Mackintosh, I		1		0	½	½		1	½	3½	58.3
3	Brown, Dr A C	½	1	½	1	0	0		0	0	3	37.5
4	Borwell, A P	½	1	1	0	½	½	½		½	4½	56.3
Team Total		1½	4	1½	1	1½	1½	1	1	1	14	50.0











The team continues to perform well in a tough section, standing in second position at this stage. Favourites Germany have 20 points in first position, and we are followed by Sweden and Latvia with 13½ and 13 respectively.

ICCF 17th Olympiad

Webserver Section 2		Canada	Croatia	Finland	Germany	Guatemala	Hungary	Mexico	Peru	Romania	Turkey	Points	Percentage
													
1	Mackintosh, I	½	½	0	0	0	0	½	0	0	½	2	20.0
2	Borwell, A P	0	0	0	0		0		½	0		½	7.1
3	Craig, T J	½	½			0		1	½	½		3	50.0
4	Lloyd, G	½	0	0	0	0	½	1	0	0	0	2	20.0
5	Anderson, G M	½	½	1	½	1	1	1	½		½	6½	72.2
6	Matheis, T	1	1	½	½	½	½	1	½		½	6	66.7
Team Total		3	2½	1½	1	1½	2	4½	2	½	1½	20	39.2

Tough going on the top boards in this event, but tremendous unbeaten performances from Gordon Anderson and Tom Matheis on boards 5 and 6. The team is standing in ninth position at this stage. Favourites Germany have 36 points in first position, followed by Croatia (29½) and Romania (27½).

ICCF 7th European Team Championship

Webserver Semi-Final 1		Bulgaria	Israel	Malta	Netherlands	Norway	Poland	Slovenia	Spain	Turkey	Ukraine	Points	Percentage
													
1	Mackintosh, I	0	0	½	0	0	½	0	½	½	0	2	20.0
2	Brown, Dr A C	½	½	½	0	1	0	½	½	½	0	4	40.0
3	Pyrich, G D	0	½	1	½	0	0	½	0	1		3½	38.9
4	Lloyd, G	½	0	1	0	½	0	½	½	0	½	3½	35.0
5	Matheis, T		½	1	½	1	½	½	½	½	½	5½	61.1
6	Montgomery, R S	½	½	½	0	½	1	0	½	0	0	3½	35.0
7	Roberts, A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.00
8	Cook, W M	0	½	1	0	½	0	½	0	0		2½	27.8
Team Total		1½	2½	5½	1	3½	2	2½	2½	2½	1	24½	31.8

Tough going all round in this event, but another strong unbeaten performance from Tom Matheis on board 5 – the only player to score >50%. The team is standing in tenth position at this stage, and Malta have thankfully collected the wooden spoon. Netherlands (51½) lead Slovenia (50) in the top spots.



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 2007

Theme 4/07: King's Indian Fianchetto variation, E60

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

Entries by 1 August; play starts 1 September

Theme 5/07: Metz Attack, C31

1.e4 e5 2.f4 d5 3.exd5 c6 4.Qe2

Entries by 15 September; play starts 15 October

Email Events 2007

Theme 5/07: Centre Game, C22

1.e4 e5 2.d4 exd4 3.Qxd4 Nc6 4.Qe3

Entries by 1 September; play starts 15 September

Theme 6/07: Sicilian Paulsen System, B41-3

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 a6

Entries by 15 October; play starts 1 November

Webserver Events 2007

Theme 4/07: Ruy Lopez, Marshall Attack, C89

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

Entries by 15 September; play starts 1 October

Theme 5/07: Nimzo-Indian, E20-59

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

Entries by 1 November; play starts 15 November

News

- ❑ Dutchman Joop van Oosterom is the 21st ICCF World Champion. This is his second triumph, having won the 18th Championship, and he was also runner-up in the 15th. The GM is number 1 in the grading list, at 2770.
- ❑ This year's ICCF Congress will be held in Benalmádena, Spain, from October 20-26. Scotland will be represented by George Pyrich, our delegate, and Alan Borwell, honorary president and current chairman of the webserver development committee.
- ❑ ICCF has launched a new online forum, located at www.iccf.com/forum. You need to register with a valid email address in order to post messages.

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

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