

Scottish Correspondence Chess Association

Special Issue

Christmas 2002

- **Silver Jubilee Edition**
- the first 25 years!
 - **Featuring**
- excerpts from editions 1-72
 - **Articles**
- by the sackful!
 - **Authors**
- by the hackful!
 - **Nostalgia**
- guaranteed for the sentimental!
 - **Accuracy**
- within reasonable tolerances!
 - **Wisdom**
- intermittent flashes!



Free Souvenir Magazine

2002 Silver Jubilee Year



SCCA Magazine Silver Jubilee Souvenir Edition

This special edition is a selection of cuttings from magazines 1-72 (ie all the issues before the e-mag was introduced). I hope you find it representative of the history and annals of the Association as we near the end of our Silver Jubilee year. Happy reading, and all good wishes for 2003 from everyone at the SCCA!

Iain Mackintosh, President



We start with News Bulletin No. 1, published in January 1980, and Val Nye's Secretarial Notes.....

Welcome to the first issue of the Association's Magazine! This is a natural development of the Newsletter. All being well we will be able to bring out at least three issues each season which will give the latest positions in all our Tournaments. George Livie has volunteered to run the Games Column, so that each issue will contain a good selection of games. From time to time, Richard Beecham will give news about International Matches. (In passing, I must remark that there is a huge demand for international play and we are hoping to arrange more matches than originally anticipated.) As Secretary, I can probably manage to string together a few words about this and that..... All the Controllers and the members of the Executive Committee will have things to write on matters of importance to the Association. Certainly we can include basic items in the magazine but anything else must come from you, our members. If you feel strongly about anything, write a letter and we will put it in the magazine. If you have any ideas for articles, tell us. We need your support to make a success of the magazine.

The Association itself was the brainchild of Bernard Partridge and he employed what he calls his 'personal touch' to get a group of us together to form a steering committee. A Constitution was drawn up and an Executive Committee was established, and within a comparatively short space of time we have produced our own Playing Rules, Scorecard and an International Postcard. Guidelines have been agreed for the award of Scottish Master titles and we have made the first award to triple Scottish Champion, Ken McAlpine. Sooner or later, we will be recognized by ICCF and Scotland will be able to participate or be represented formally in international team and individual events.

In the meantime, it would be useful to have members' views on the structure of the Championships, whether there is demand for any new Tournaments, under what circumstances should play by telephone be allowed (and under what rules). The Executive Committee feels happy to have a Championship Final of eleven players, but a curious picture appears however when we look at the Premier and the Major. There are usually more players in the (higher

ranking) Premier than in the Major. Also, a typical Premier Section is far stronger than a typical Major Section. One possible way round this state of affairs is to introduce a Candidate's Tournament between the Final and the Premiers. Is there a demand for another type of tournament - an Openings tourney, for example? On telephone play, one or two may do a lot of travelling because of their work and they could find it useful - on occasion - to make use of the telephone. Should we permit this, and what rules should then apply?

I have records of over 300 players who have participated in more recent times in Scottish correspondence events. The number entering each season is gradually increasing. Our youngest member is probably Paul Hampton who is under 12. But who is the oldest member? Hart Hamilton (at Stewarton) says he is in the seventies but that he is a mere lad compared to J.W. Vernon (from Stranraer)! This season we have welcomed some Shetlanders. (I should point out that Ken Beer, the team captain who is also in the Premier, has requested that 1st class mail be used). There does not seem to be any sign, yet, of players from the more isolated parts of the Borders, the Highlands, nor from the Hebrides! Any members with contacts who might be interested in learning about our activities are encouraged to write to me - we will send them a complimentary copy of the magazine.

I must, finally, express our thanks to Alan Borwell for taking on the production of the first few editions of the magazine. This is an added responsibility over and above those he has already as Secretary of the SCA. Any volunteers of assistance, or for eventually taking over the editorship will, I am sure, be welcomed by our President.



Val's pen was also responsible for a profile of Bernard Partridge - this from Bulletin No. 1...

I first came across Bernard Partridge in an over-the-board game more years ago than either of us would care to remember. Club members had previously warned me that he would be a difficult opponent - the game was a tough one, and all our other games since have been tough as well. I later found out that Bernard, in his time, has been champion of the Carlisle and Gloucester clubs. Once you met Bernard it was very difficult to keep out of his way.... He would be wanting an article for his Glasgow High School Magazine or somebody would be needed to give a simultaneous display at the school. There was, at one time, a team of the school's masters in the Glasgow League, and the school played the occasional correspondence match with other schools. All thanks to Bernard's efforts.

Bernard originally hailed from Surrey. He was a leading County player - he had won the Felce Cup and had done well in the Slater-Kennington (both of these being competitions run by the Surrey Chess Association). A war came along, however, and the RAF felt they had just the job for him! Undeterred by this change of routine, Bernard somehow found the time to arrange matches between his own camp, RAF Gloucester, and several other camps. This led to matches being played by correspondence between the various camps. If one looks through the records, the BCCA

magazine shows that a certain Sergeant B.B. Partridge won a Premier Tourney in the season 1945/6 and took part in the BCCA Championship the following season.

In between times he had found himself a Scottish wife! When demob came, there was only one thing to do. Sure enough, as an ex-serviceman, he was able to come to the University of Glasgow to be one of the first students taking joint honours in Geography and Political Economics. A year at Jordanhill followed and Bernard was able to realise his wish to be a teacher. He taught at various schools in Coatbridge and Airdrie. Glasgow High School then was fortunate to get him - but only for 19 years, since the closure came a few years before retirement! On leaving the High School, Bernard was able to do a certain amount of teaching, as a teacher on supply. Interesting part-time jobs he found, included being a 'lollipop man' - he tells me he had some interesting experiences with the 'stick'. A useful idea came to him, and this should be taken up by the authorities, that the 'stick' should be on wheels.....

Bernard's strong interest in chess led him to starting the famous High School of Glasgow Magazine. It filled a gap in Scottish chess since the SCA only more recently began to put out a magazine on a regular basis. Considering that only one person looked after all the preparation, the magazine was a remarkable achievement. Arising from the readership, 'friendly' postal quartets began. As time went by, more people took up the correspondence events which Bernard was arranging. Eventually, the Scottish Championships were instituted and it is a wonder how Bernard found the time to run everything virtually single-handed for so many years. In SCA circles, Bernard was on the original committee which set up the Regional Competition (now run on Jamboree lines).

There is no doubt at all that Scottish chess is greatly indebted to Bernard. There are many things missed out as there is only so much space available. However, this is sufficient for us all to say 'thank you' to Bernard and to wish him and his wife, Jean, a long happy and well-deserved retirement. Here is one of Bernard's games which demonstrates that he can 'play' as well as 'organise'!

Scottish Correspondence Championship 1971/72

White : E.A. Ellison

Black : B.B. Partridge

1. P-Q4 P-Q4 2. P-QB4 P-K3 3. N-QB3 N-KB3
4. B-N5 B-K2 5. N-B3 0-0 6. P-K3 P-KR3
7. B-R4 P-QN3 8. PxP NxP 9. BxB QxB 10. NxN PxN
11. Q-Q2 B-K3 12. R-B1 P-QB4 13. PxP PxP
14. B-N5 P-R3 15. B-R4 R-B1 16. 0-0 N-Q2
17. KR-Q1 N-B3 18. Q-R5 QR-N1 19. R-Q2 N-K5
20. R(2)-B2 Q-B3 21. P-N3 B-B4 22. N-K1 P-Q5
23. PxP PxP 24. RxRch RxR 25. RxRch BxR
26. P-B3 N-B6 27. Q-B7 B-B4 28. Q-QB4 Q-K4
29. Q-B1 N-K7ch 30. K-R1 P-Q6 31. Resigns



There was some debate in Readers' Letters about the wisdom of moving to algebraic notation. In Bulletin 5, Ken Beer of Shetland argued for, and George Weeden of Edinburgh argued against, with the islander eventually victorious!

Meanwhile, Allan Hislop (a telephone engineer), reflected on mixing business with pleasure - this from Bulletin No.2 (April 80)...

Sending chess moves by telephone instead of by post will be quite an attractive method to many players. It is not new by any means and in fact a telephone chess organisation operates from London. It is a very easy and economic way to send moves. Provided the rate of play is kept at the usual rate as in correspondence chess a comparable level of play will result. If the game is played too hastily with a dozen moves being exchanged in a week, it becomes rather light-hearted which in itself can be very enjoyable but would not do for a serious tournament. Some years ago we did run one of the Premiers on a telephone move basis and it was very successful with few problems arising. However, it was noticeable that few elected to repeat this method of play in the following season. This I believe was due to a number of factors, one of which was having to be available at certain times to receive moves on the phone and having to make calls at fixed times in the evening to opponents which can be a nuisance if other matters have to be seen to. Nor are things helped when the telephone is in use at the time of contact. Again a player may miss the more relaxed approach which can be made when dealing with a postal move.

Having said all that, I am not giving the thumbs down to telephone chess and I hope these remarks will point out some of the problems which occur and which may help those interested to decide if they would like to use this method in a separate tournament.

The great advantages are the speed of reply and the cost per game. A local call during the cheap rate costs 3½p for 12 mins. and 3½p for 1 min. to the furthest place in Britain. There are intermediate lengths of time for 3½p for places in-between those I have quoted. As can be seen, the local call gives ample time to pass the move while the extreme case might be a bit of a scramble, but even paying for 2 mins. if it was found necessary would still be cheaper than the post.

The speed of reply is much quicker and players may be tempted to speed up their play, but if the actual playing time is kept to the normal 10 moves in 20 days as in correspondence play, this will keep the game at as high a level. In order to achieve this high quality of game, it is necessary in a tournament to introduce certain rules and procedures. So I will give the main outline of the way a tournament would be run, and if there are enough players interested in telephone chess, I am sure the ScoCCA would run such a tournament.



And Allan duly did supply a 16-step procedure! The attractiveness of cheaper play was echoed in Bulletin 5, where an outraged Committee wrote to the Post Office protesting about 40-70% increases in postage rates. The PO were unrepentant! Before that, Games Columnist George Livie announced in Bulletin 4 that the first Best Game prize (£10) had been won by JN McNeill for his efforts against RG Hagelin in the friendly international v Sweden. In Bulletin 6 (September 81), Allan Hislop's telephone idea seemed to have caught on...

**SCOTLAND versus NORWAY In the WORLD
TELECHESS OLYMPIAD** (Report by Alan Borwell)

The World Telechess Olympiad 1st round match between Scotland and Norway was played at the Dean Park Hotel, Renfrew, on Sunday 21st June. Beginning at 10am, the moves were transmitted between the two countries by telephone, with sponsorship being provided by the Scottish Telecommunications Board. When the two outstanding games were agreed for adjudication at 5.45pm, the match score was 3-3. Both positions appeared to be advantageous to Scotland and therefore the home players were confident of the victory which would take them into Round 2. The adjudication decisions had not been received when this edition went for printing.

An additional feature of the match was the inclusion of two non-scoring boards for disabled players, which both resulted in victories for the Norwegians, one of their players being blind and the other physically disabled. The idea was in recognition of the International Year of the Disabled.

The match details were:

Bd	Scotland	Elo	Res	Norway	Elo	Res
1W	C W Pritchett IM	2395	½	A V Gulbrandson	2395	½
2	T J Upton	2305	½	E Paulsson	2380	½
3W	P A Motwani	2260	½	B Tiller FM	2320	½
4	Dr K B McAlpine	2160	0	R Hoen FM	2355	1
5W	C J Morrison	2240	adj	J H Ulrichsen	2305	adj
6	D M Bryson	2245	1	M Groth	2235	0
7W	M L Condie	2240	adj	S Agdestein	-	adj
8	Miss R Jackson	1855	½	Mrs M Klinger	-	½
Non-scoring:						
9W	J Dykes		0	S T Fesche		1
10	F Martin		0	M K Melchier		1

The World Telechess competition is designed for teams made up of 'over the board' and 'postal' chess players and is run jointly by FIDE and ICCF. Scotland had three postal chess players in its team on boards 4, 5 and 6, although telephone/telex chess tends to be more favourable to over the board players rather than correspondence players.

The games were all keenly contested, with the 50 moves in 2 hour time limit being a key factor on several boards. The only player to suffer the ultimate penalty of losing on time was Ken McAlpine, but both Paul Motwani and Chris Morrison came very close to joining him. The 'flags' on the Norwegian players' clocks must also have been precariously placed, judging from the clock times being exchanged over the telephone lines. Certainly the Arbiter, Dr. Ken Stewart, was kept busy and the same must have been the case in Norway!

In the early stages of the match, Scotland seemed to have the initiative in several games, although it was not too clear whether Craig Pritchett's knight sacrifice for two pawns on

board 1 would be sufficient. However, a draw was agreed, when repetition of moves seemed the probable outcome.

Tim Upton always had a sound position to ensure equality and Paul Motwani offered a draw when in time trouble, after having a slight initiative for most of the game.

Ken McAlpine's valiant efforts to obtain full equality with the black pieces, against a very strong and careful opponent, seemed to have materialised when a bishops of opposite colour ending was reached. However, the presence of two rooks each and white's slightly more active position could have been sufficient for the Norwegian player to win had Ken not lost on time with 5 more moves to play.

On the bottom board, the youthful Rosie Jackson played very soundly against her experienced lady opponent and seemed to have the better of most of the game. However, numerous exchanges led to a king and pawn ending, agreed drawn when repetition of position was about to occur.

Probably the best game played for Scotland was by one of our postal chess representatives, Douglas Bryson, on Board 6. With the black pieces he adopted an aggressive variation of the Slav Defence and won a lively game in 28 moves.

In the remaining games on boards 5 and 7 respectively, the positions at the time for adjudication had been reached via rather different circumstances. Chris Morrison had a long uphill struggle for much of his game but, in typical style, managed to secure an advantage at the critical stage when in severe time trouble. On the other hand, Mark Condie always had the initiative and his opponent only managed to survive until adjudication by giving up his Queen for a rook just before the finish.

Finally, a word of thanks to Scottish Telecoms for providing the telephone lines, Dean Park Hotel for facilities, Steve Mannion for making the arrangements, Ken Stewart for equipment and acting as Arbiter and Gerald Bonner for being Scotland's team captain; to Mike McKenzie and David Wallace for assisting Steve and myself on the telephone and to all those SCA and SCCA members who helped with stewarding and upkeep of the demonstration boards for the 8 hours duration of the Norway match!



The Scottish team duly won both adjudicated games and went on to play the USSR (a match delayed by a snowstorm in Glasgow, and interrupted by a jammed telex machine!). The Russians won by 6½-1½, with Pritchett, Bryson and Condie scoring half points. On the administrative side, Scotland were still niggling at ICCF for independent recognition, and George Livie went to Paris in 1981 to eat baguettes and negotiate... (Bulletin 7, February 82)

..... The most important matter of Congress business affecting Scotland was the question of the SCCA's application for affiliation to ICCF and, in particular, the recognition by ICCF of the right of Scottish correspondence chess players to represent their country. Alan Borwell and I attended the Congress with the initial intention of addressing delegates on the merits of the SCCA application. The

passing of ten years had not resolved the issue and, whilst we were confident of the justice of our case, past experience alas did not give rise for undue optimism.

It was particularly gratifying therefore to find on our arrival that there was a sincere desire on the part of all concerned, particularly the President of ICCF, to try to find an acceptable solution during the Congress. As the official translation of the ICCF Constitution would not have allowed the delegates to have accepted Scotland into full membership immediately, the President arranged private discussions with us before the Congress commenced. During these discussions with Herr H.V. von Massow, Mr H.J. Mostert (Netherlands) and Dr. Charles Hunter (BPCF Life President), both Alan and I gained a better appreciation of ICCF's problem. It was agreed mutually that the best arrangement at this stage would be for a proposal to be made by the ICCF Praesidium to Congress to extend its Rules as follows:

"In addition to the member federations, countries may also take part in the title team tournaments of the ICCF under the following conditions:

1. when the properly qualified national federation agrees to the participation, and
2. when the country concerned is a member of FIDE.

The above was later approved unanimously by the ICCF Congress and, in an interview at the end of the Congress, President von Massow said: "I would like particularly to mention the decision which enabled Scotland and Wales to play their own teams in team competitions, a problem to which I think we have found the best possible solution".....



Progress indeed, though the story still had some way to run. Back on the playing side, Tim Wickens advocated a softly, softly approach to winning with Black in Bulletin 10 (February 83)...

Particularly in ICCF events where a score of around 90% is required to finish first, it is essential to win with Black as well as White. One method is to find new moves in the sharp "in vogue" lines of the day, or simply try other latest fashions from the Informant. This method has never worked for me; my "new moves" invariably rebound. I prefer the "softly, softly" method, i.e. playing a variation with a bad reputation, but one that leads to a position with chances for both sides. White will frequently become over-confident, and, by worrying more about his poisoned pawns, drift into a bad position. This is well illustrated by the following games:

N Karker vs J Sloth - European Correspondence Championship 1971-73

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 dxe4 5.Nxe4 Be7 6.Bxf6 gxf6

[Here Sloth comments in his notes that "when playing for a win 6... gxf6 is better than 6... Bxf6". I was puzzled when I first read this - playing for a win with the Rubinstein variation of the French? Surely not, why not the sharp Winawer, or the infamous poisoned pawn. However, Sloth is a grandmaster of the softly, softly approach.]

7.Nf3 b6 8.Bc4 Bb7 9.Qe2 c6 10.0-0-0 Qc7 11.Kb1 Nd7 12.Nc3!?

[White is distracted by the cheap trick 12... 0-0-0 13.d5! Perhaps White was still worried about his other games; his position still looks good to him.]

12... Nf8 13.Rhe1 Ng6 14.g3 0-0-0 15.a3 Kb8 16.h4 h5 17.Ng1

[This allows Black to seize the initiative.]

17... b5! 18.Bd3 f5 19.d5 cxd5! 20.Nxb5 Qb6

[As Sloth now comments, Black has a strategically won game, White's breakthrough having backfired. A triumph for the softly, softly method. Sloth now winds up in style.]

21.Ka1 Bf6 22.f4 a6 23.Nc3 Rc8 24.Qd2 Bc6 25.Nge2 Ka8 26.Rb1 Qa5! 27.Qc1 Ne7 28.b4 Qb6 29.Ka2 d4 30.Nd1 Rc7 31.Nb2 Rhc8 32.Rd1 a5 33.b5 Bd5+ 34.Ka1 Qd6 35.Na4 Rxc2! 36.Bxc2 Rxc2 0-1

A fine win from Sloth and, again, he displays the same principles in the following game from the IX European Correspondence Championships. You are unlikely to see many books or articles on "Win for Black with Kholmov's Variation of the Lopez" to paraphrase a book by Larsen on the Open Lopez. But, whereas the Open Lopez may be the high road to win with Black, the Kholmov and other unfashionable lines are the low road. I was most interested in this game because the winner won the European Championships. Would you expect the winner to play the Kholmov?

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.0-0 Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 d6 8.c3 0-0 9.h3 Be6 10.d4 Bxb3 11.axb3 exd4 12.cxd4 d5 13.e5 Nd7 (TN) 14.Nc3 Nb6 15.Bf4 Qd7 16.Qe2 Qe6 17.Rad1 h6 18.Bg3 Rfc8 19.Nh2 Na5 20.Qd3?! Bb4 21.Rf1 c5 22.Na2 c4! 23.Qe2 Bf8 24.bxc4 Rxc4 25.Ng4 Nc6 26.Qe3 Ne7 27.Qf4 Rc2 28.Rb1 Nc4! 0-1

Both games have the same theme: purposeful play by Black, lacklustre play by White. One wonders, when did the White players realise that their once-easy opening variation was drifting away?



Bulletin 11 contained a nice letter from Mrs Elaine Hartford extolling the undiminished energy and wits of 88 year-old Major WE Bruges, at that time still active at the Salisbury Club as well as our CC Premiers. Edition 12 noted the wins of Philip Giulian in the 82-83 Championship, and Douglas Bryson in the British - more of that later. Bulletin 13 (April 84) announced the arrival of a nice little earner:

THE "ONE HUNDRED" CLUB

It has been decided by the Executive Committee to form an SCCA "100" Club, with the objective of providing a continuing means of extra financial support to the Association for the years ahead. In the short term, it will assist us in raising the necessary funds for the hosting of the 1985 ICCF Congress.

The Club will issue up to 100 units, each of £1 per month, with participants eligible to take more than one unit of they so wish. The units will be numbered consecutively from 1

to 100 and each will bear the name and address of the holder, who must be a current member of the SCCA, eg. Life Members, Full Members or League Members.

There will be a monthly draw on the last Saturday of each month at the premises of Chess Suppliers (Scotland) Ltd., 15 Hope Street, Glasgow, G2 6AB when not less than two members of the SCCA Executive Committee shall officiate. All members are welcome to attend.

The total prize money each month will be exactly one half of the value of the units which have been issued for that month, with the first prize being equivalent to 30% and the second prize 20% of the total value.

The "100" Club commenced in March 1984 with 53 units having been taken up already by Executive Committee members, controllers, etc. The prizes in March 1984, of £15.90 and £10.60 respectively, were won by George Pyrich and George Livie (most appropriate after their efforts on the lottery!)

It is hoped that all 100 units will be taken up before 14th May, so that the monthly prizes for May 1984 and thereafter would be £30 and £20 respectively (i.e. for a monthly subscription of £1 per unit).

Members who would like to join the 100 Club should send their first monthly payment to the SCCA Treasurer, Alan Shaw, at Chess Suppliers (Scotland) Ltd., to reach him not later than the 14th of a month, for inclusion in that month's draw. He will then send a Banker's Order form for completion for future months. Should a member prefer to pay annually in advance at £12 per unit the, of course, this would be quite acceptable. It is hoped that those who join the Club will remain long-term members. However, they may withdraw at any time, but, in such event, immediate notification to the Treasurer would be helpful as he will maintain a waiting list of members, after the Club has issued 100 units. If, as we hope, the Club is significantly oversubscribed, then the Executive Committee will consider either enlarging the club or introducing a second club.

PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR ASSOCIATION BY JOINING THE 100 CLUB AND TAKING AS MANY UNITS AS YOU CAN.



Which exhortation of course still holds true today! The author of the piece wasn't named, but the use of the passive voice in recording corporate decisions was quite popular in Perth at the time... Round about now, John Hawkes was emerging as a prolific columnist, editing the Games Section Classic Games of CC and also Winning Continuations. At the board, Eddie Davis did well.... (Bulletin 15, January 85)

In a performance to rival Douglas Bryson's second successive British Championship, Eddie Davis became Scotland's newest CC star by winning the 2nd prestigious Grand Open, which included players from all four home countries. The following game sees the eclipse of England's newest CC grandmaster Peter Markland!

Ruy Lopez, Bird's Defence (C61)

White: PR Markland

Black: E Davis

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nd4 4.Nxd4

[Moves by the KB are not to be casually discounted. For example, 4.Ba4 Qf6 5.c3 Nxf3+ 6.gxf3 Qg6 7.d3 Qg2 8.Ke2! c6 9.Qg1 and White's original play yielded a fine win (Herendi-Galosfai, Hungarian CCL 81-83).]

4... exd4 5.0-0 Bc5 6.d3

[The 'Evans-related' gambit 6.b4 has been seen in some Soviet CC games.]

6... c6

[Not 6... Ne7 7.Qh5! Bb6 8.Bg5!]

7.Bc4 d5 8.exd5 cxd5 9.Bb3 Ne7 10.Qh5 0-0 11.Nd2 a5

[Black gets an active position now, and the variation beginning 7... d5 looks good!]

12.a3 a4 13.Ba2 Ra6 14.Nf3 Rg6 15.Ne5 Re6 16.Nf3 Rg6 17.h3?

[Hardly the sort of move to be looking for a win. A draw would have given Markland the cup!]

17... Qc7 18.Bd2 h6 19.Rfe1 Rf6

[With the little trap 20.Bxd5? Rf5]

20.Qe5 Qb6 21.b4 axb3 ep 22.Bxb3 Bxb3 23.Bb4 Ng6

24.Bxc5 Qxc5 25.Qxd4

[Finally White picks up one of the weak pawns, but Black can string together some fine attacking moves.]

25... Qc8! 26.Nh2 Nf4 27.g3 Re8! 28.Qxf6

[Quite desperate play - as his time consumption of 13 days confirms. If 28.Rxe8+ Qxe8 and Re6 is threatened in addition to Ne2+, whilst taking the knight is mate in a few moves.]

28... Rxe1+ 29.Rxe1 gxf6 30.gxf4 Qc3 31.Nf3 Bg4

32.Re8+ Kg7 33.Kg2 Qc6 34.Rd8 Bd7! 35.Ra8 Qe6

36.Nh2 h5 37.Ba4 b5 38.Bb3 h4 39.Ra7 Qc6 40.a4 d4+

41.f3 f5 42.Kf1 h3 0-1



In Bulletin 16, published in May 85, Reg Gillman, with eerie prescience, was encouraging us to enter ICCF Ascension tournaments. Having discovered that "Ascension" was the literal translation of the German "Aufstieg" Reg's linguistic (and nationalistic) sensitivities rebelled, and he proposed instead: "Ta-rah, ta-rah, tum, tum ta-rah! Promotion Tournaments". The Germans could find no equivalents for ta-rah and tum, so a classic European compromise was reached, and we are still blessed with the label of "Class" tournaments today. (Reg attended the ICCF Congress hosted by the SCCA in Peebles later that year, but could not be persuaded to enter the Bannockburn centre on the day of the delegates' outing. Apparently there was a video playing inside, featuring uncouth painted people shouting "ta-rah" and other difficult-to-translate war chants). Michael Anderson of Duns was the co-ordinator of Scots entries to the ICCF events in those days (including a couple from yours truly which I'd quite forgotten!).



Already in the ascendant was Douglas Bryson, winner of both Scottish and British Championships, who secured our first GM title in the Norwegian 40th Anniversary Tournament and performed to that level in winning the Scottish Centenary event. Here's the first part of an article, written in typical style by our then Games Columnist, from Bulletin 17/18 (a double issue), published in November 85.

BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIP 1984-85 (by Douglas Bryson)

Hort once observed that "chess is about patience". Seemingly trite, one will realise how very true this comment is on playing postal opponents from Eastern Europe where one move per month is standard.

C.H.O'D. Alexander pointed out "... a curious phenomenon can be observed with some opponents that the more difficult the position, the longer it seems to take your letters to reach them. In my experience, this effect is particularly marked in Bulgaria. Any serious threat on my part seemed to paralyse the Bulgarian postal service to such an extent that I began to feel nervous about dislocating the entire Bulgarian economy and bringing the country to a standstill(!)".

But there is no need to conduct chess at snail's pace if you seek strong opposition. I would recommend playing in the British Championships which run from October to July. Since first class post is compulsory, you can usually manage at least one move per week.

In the 1984-5 British Championship, there were 5 players with OTB grades of over 2200. However, a feature of this tournament is that everyone is dangerous, eg. I provided ID Thomson with his only win. No doubt Phil (Giulian) would have fared better if he had not had 40 other games to contend with in the early stage of this tournament.

British Championships 1984-5			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	Pts	Pos
1	Bryson, DM	SCCA	#	1	½	1	1	1	½	0	1	1	1	8	1=
2	Williams, CC	BCCA	0	#	½	1	½	1	1	1	1	1	1	8	1=
3	Kwiatkowski, F	BCCA	½	½	#	1	½	1	½	½	1	1	1	7½	3
4	Stewart, AM	PCC	0	0	0	#	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	4
5	Watson, RH	BPCF	0	½	½	1	#	0	½	1	0	½	1	5	5
6	Chandler, CR	BPCF	0	0	0	0	1	#	1	½	½	½	1	4½	6
7	Alcock, M	PCC	½	0	½	0	½	0	#	½	½	½	1	4	7=
8	Thompson, ID	BCCA	1	0	½	0	0	½	½	#	½	½	½	4	7=
9	Giulian, PM	SCCA	0	0	0	0	1	½	½	½	#	0	1	3½	9=
10	Sowray, PJ	BCCA	0	0	0	0	½	½	½	½	1	#	½	3½	9=
11	Barnes, DJR	NCCC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	0	½	#	1	11

In Bulletin 20, Allan Hislop recommended that the Handicap Tournament be renamed the "Challenge", a name which it retains to this day. Another double issue Bulletin, 21/22(our workaholic editor was overstretched in those days too!) published in December 86, featured a dialogue between two very well-known SCCA characters:

A CHAT WITH..... ALAN HIND (by Richard Beecham)

All the members of our Association are very familiar with the name of Alan Hind, but I am sure you would like to know more about our hardworking Secretary.

Alan, the rather obvious first question - when and where were you born?

I was born on 21st August 1954 at Irvine in Ayrshire.

Who first taught you to play chess and how old were you?

It was a primary school teacher, whose name I can't remember, but I was about 8 or 9 years old.

Did you have any notable victories in your school chess team or school chess club?

My school chess team was Kilmarnock Academy. We always lived "under the shadow" (in chess terms) of Ayr Academy who had Findlay, Bentley, etc and who won the Scotsman Schools Championship. Personally, I won the school chess cup in the 1971-2 season!

Did you go to University or College, and, if so, what did you study?

I spent 4 happy years at Edinburgh University doing a BSc (Hons) in Mathematics and Statistics. I followed that with 1 year at Glasgow University doing a diploma in Accounting. I gave up chess for the first two years at Edinburgh, but then captained the University 4th team to promotion then on to the Edinburgh League Div 2 in the 1st season.

Who did you start your first job with?

I qualified as a Chartered Accountant with Thomson McLintock and Company in 1979 and, having given up chess after Edinburgh, I began to play again, for Strathclyde University (never having been there!!).

Where do you work now and what sort of work do you do?

I have been working for Britoil plc for 4½ years. The majority of my work is related to budgeting and forecasting the costs of employees, buildings, etc., and control of the computer systems for recording their activities/costs.

Alan, I already know that you are married, but where did you meet your wife?

I met my wife originally in the Youth Fellowship in Kilmarnock (quite a few years ago!). I met her again when she was studying Speech Therapy at Jordanhill College in 1978, got engaged in 1979 and married on August 22nd 1980 (the day after my birthday, so I've no excuses about

forgetting our anniversary!). We married in St John's Church, Kilmarnock; the reception was Belleisle Hotel, Ayr.

Are you active in the church?

Yes, I'm an elder of the Church of Scotland - Cathcart South. I audit the church accounts and I'm a Sunday School teacher to the 12-16 year-olds.

Do you play any "over-the-board" chess and, if so, have you had any successes, either in a team or personally?

I played with Strathclyde University in 1979-81 mainly in the Glasgow League Div 6, but with statutory games in the 1st team in Div 1. I did not lose in either Div 1 or Richardson Cup with them! Played 4, won 2, drawn 2, and I got a Div 1 medal in 1980-1!! Since 1981, I have played with Cathcart in various divisions. I won a Div 4 medal in 1982-3, Div 3 medal in 1984-5. I played in the SCCA Executive team (G Livie, D Livie, and A Hind). Unfortunately, last season in Div 2, we didn't win a single game but still avoided relegation!

You once mentioned that you were controlling an OTB tournament - could you tell me more?

Yes, I organise and control the Whitbread La Taverna Tournament and I'm helped out by D Livie, M McGhee and J Reid. It runs on three consecutive Saturdays every January - next year's will start on 7th January. It is usually a strong tournament with more than ten 2000+ players. I hope that IM Roddy McKay will take part next year. My controlling started when my next-door neighbour, a restaurant owner, asked if I knew anyone who could run a chess tournament he would sponsor!

How did you become interested in C.C.?

Simply, I was asked to help organise by Alan Shaw. I enjoy being an administrator and I hope I'm good at my "job" as Secretary, which I have done for 3 years since Val Nye moved south.

You don't play a lot of domestic or international CC - why?

I don't have enough time! But seriously, I've got about 8 games on at the moment - 2 each against opponents from Poland, Ukraine, France, plus 2 domestic. I enjoy playing in Friendly Internationals and my games v France are actually follow-ups from our friendly international just to keep the correspondence going! It improves my French, I hope!

Do you have any other hobbies other than chess?

Other hobbies? - Squash - I've got to let off some physical steam somehow! I also act as tutor for the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Scotland.

Finally, what are your hopes for the future, both personally and for the Association?

I am quite happy to remain as Secretary for the foreseeable future. What I would like to see is a marked increase in correspondence players in Scotland. We now have a Grandmaster in Douglas Bryson and several ½ IMs and potential IMs. I'm never going to get to that standard but what I see as my personal GM norm is getting our active membership doubled or even better in the next 4 or 5 years.



Philip Giulian has contributed an abundance of column inches to the magazine. Here is a typically forthright piece from Bulletin 23 (April 1987)...

TREAT OPENING BOOKS WITH CAUTION

One of the main differences between correspondence play and over-the-board play is the opportunity to look up books on the opening. Some tournaments ban it in the rules, but most specifically allow it. I would like to advise extreme caution when using these books. Often there are mistakes and sometimes outright blunders in the analysis.

Why should this be? I believe there are three reasons. Firstly, a number of books are written by people I would call "chancers"; people who write books in a hurry with little attention to accuracy; people who see the book as an easy way of making money. Unfortunately, the laws of libel prevent me from identifying anyone here.

Then there are those who deliberately include mistakes in their analysis. The object is to obtain an easy win at a later date against some poor soul who believed what he read.

Finally, there are instances where an author makes a genuine mistake. Just consider the volume of analysis in a book. Think of the number of hours of research and homework that must go into its writing. Is it any wonder that mistakes are made?

Let me give an example from my own games. This occurred in the North Atlantic Team Tourney in which I was playing for Scotland.

White: A Stewart (England)

Black: P Giulian (Scotland)

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nc3 d5 3.Bg5 Bf5

[The analysis I was following (written by a Grandmaster) suggested playing the opening in a similar way to the Caro-Kann (4... Nf6). This is an opening I like, and so it seemed like a good idea.]

4.Bxf6 gxf6 5.e3 e6 6.Nge2!

[This move was not mentioned in the analysis, but is sometimes played in the Caro-Kann, so I continued as intended with:]

6... c5 7.Ng3 Bg6 8.h4!

[Again, this is often played against the Caro-Kann.

Unfortunately, I didn't have the usual h5 reply because the pawn would be easily lost, so the only move must be:]

8... h6 9.h5 Bh7 10.e4!!

[This is what I had missed when playing my sixth move. It seems so illogical, opening the position for my bishops, but on closer examination, my dreadful pawn structure and lack of development leaves me with a lost position. Either pawn capture speeds White's development, so:]

10... Nc6 11.exd5 Nxd4 12.Bd3 Bxd3 13.Qxd3 Qb6 14.0-0-0 0-0-0 15.Qc4

[Now White has terrible threats with Rxd4, Na4 and Ne4.]

15... e5 16.Nce2

[Now my position is virtually hopeless. White intends to swap my knight and then place his own knight on f5.]

16... Kb8 17.c3 Nb5 18.Nf5 Nd6 19.Nxd6 Bxd6 20.Ng3 e4!

[The loss of a pawn is a small price to pay for activating my bishop. If White takes the pawn, I can play f5 and have reasonable drawing chances.]

21.Nf5! Rhe8 22.Rh4
[Not 22.Nxh6?? Bf4+]
22... Bf8 23.Rxe4 Re5 24.Rxe5 fxe5 25.d6! Bxd6
26.Nxh6 Be7 27.Rxd8+ Qxd8 28.Nxf7 Bg5+ 29.f4 1-0

I don't think I will repeat that opening again!



In issue 24, Alan Hind reported sufficient entrants for 4 Openings Tournament sections, while in the double issue 25/26, Philip Giulian entertained the readers with a number of annotated games from the 1985-87 Championship, won by Tim Wickens with 9/10. Also in this issue was the first article describing the start of a new rating system, penned by Graham Wood. In Bulletin 27, Scotland's first GM described his famous victory over Professor Sagarowski.

Sagarowski,P - Bryson,D [B85]
Scottish Centenary International, 1987
1.e4 c5

[I decided that my opponent would have been quite happy to go into a Ruy Lopez, so I risked a Sicilian - quite a big risk in postal play where the success rate of the opening is far less than in over-the-board games.]

2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be2

[As I suspected, he is not interested in the fun move 6.Bg5.]
6...e6

[The "real" Najdorf move is 6... e5. After all, that is the basic reason behind 5... a6. However, there are a number of Karpov games where Black was left with no counterplay and the only feature of the position was the big hole on d5.]

7.0-0 Be7 8.f4 0-0 9.Be3

[After 9. Be3, White is more or less committed to a set up with a4. If White tries the other plan of shifting his queen to the kingside, then he will find that the bishop has been posted too early to e3. For example, 9.Qe1 Qc7 10.Kh1 b5 11.Bf3 Bb7 12.e5 dxe5 13.fxe5 Nfd7 14.Qg3 Kh8 15.Bf4!]

9...Qc7 10.a4 Nc6 11.Nb3 b6 12.Kh1

[Quite a confusing move to meet. Black can get counterplay against the more usual 12.Bf3 by playing 12... Rb8 and 13... Na5 with the idea of Nc4 or, if White exchanges on a5, then the open b-line easily compensates for the doubled pawns. Since White hasn't yet posted the bishop to f3, then 12... Rb8 didn't seem appropriate, eg 13.Bd3! Na5 14.Qe2 annoying the a6 pawn and preventing Nc4.]

12...Re8

[Just waiting to see where White is going, and also preparing Bf8.]

13.Bd3

[As I suspected, White doesn't play Bf3. This was quite a jolt, because it seemed that my famous opponent had volunteered to transpose to a very poor line for White. If you look up BCO, you will see 10.a4 Nc6 11.Nb3 b6 12.Bd3 as a game Savon-Polugayevsky (the same position as I now had, but without the moves Kh1 and Re8). This continued 12... Bb7 13.Qf3 Nb4 14.Nd4 g6 15.Rad1 e5 16.Nde2 d5 17.fxe5 Qxe5 with a clear advantage to Black, as described by Pritchett in his book on the Scheveningen.]

13...Bb7 14.Qf3 Nb4 15.Nd4

[From taking 5 days over my first 11 moves, I spent 30 days on the following 6. I was trying to work out if the Savon game had been wrongly assessed. Also, did Re8 help Black? There could easily be some nasty line which ended in Qxf7+.]

15...Bf8

[Chickening out, but consoled by the thought that Bf8 was part of regrouping anyway.]

16.Rae1 Nd7 17.Bd2 Nc5

[I began to think my position was quite good. I wasn't being attacked and there were some weak pawn targets on e4 and a4. White can initiate some tactics with 18.Ncb5 (loose N on b4) axb5 19.Nxb5 Qd7 20.Bxb4 Nxd3 21.Qxd3 Rxa4 22 Ba3 Ba6 23.c4 Rxc4! but this would be good for Black.]

18.Qh3 Qd7

[18.Qh3 was accompanied by the offer of a draw, which I declined. This was just the confirmation I needed that my position was ok.]

19.Bc4

[Black cannot take on a4 - 19... Nxa4 20.Nxa4 Qxa4 21.Ra1.]

19...d5!

[Ending any attacking ambitions of White.]

20.exd5 exd5 21.Qxd7 Nxd7 22.Bb3 Nc5 23.Nce2 Nxb3 24.cxb3

[Cannot take with the N because of the pawn on c2.]

24...Nd3 25.Rb1

[It is not immediately obvious how to continue. Black has 2 bishops and a superior pawn structure but White has an excellent blockading square on d4.]

25...Nc5

[This sets up a tactic.]

26.Bc3 Nxb3

[Which White falls for - I don't know if my opponent saw this simple trick. Perhaps he thought that the blockade on d4 would be sufficient compensation for a pawn. I certainly did not expect 26.Bc3 and was looking at the counter tactic 26.b4 with the idea of 26... Nxa4 27.b3 and the knight has no retreat. But the knight can retreat with another trick - 27... Nc5 and if 28.bxc5 bxc5. 26.Rbe1 was also possible, when I intended 26... Ne4 with a great square for the knight.]

27.Nxb3 Rxe2 28.Rbe1 Rae8

[And if Black was given another move he would play d4! - but he never gets the chance.]

29.Rxe2 Rxe2 30.Nd4 Re4

[Black is still thinking of advancing the d-pawn. 31... Bc5 is a threat.]

31.g3

[So that 31... Bc5 can be met by 32.Rd1 and the f-pawn is defended. This weakness on the white squares looks to further encourage the bishop on b7 but it perversely leaves the diagonal immediately.]

31...Bc8!

[Seems to be the only way to make progress. The "question" will be put to the a-pawn of whether it intends to advance or be defended by pawn b3.]

32.Rd1 Bd7 33.a5

[b3 meant that the bishop could not be completely safe on c3. Black plays 33... Re3 with the idea of 34.Ba1 Bc5 attacking the defender of the b-pawn.]

33...b5

[Black threatens to win a piece with 34... b4 35.Be1 Bg4. 34.b4 was possible, radically preventing b5 to b4, but Black can play 34... Re3 35.Rc1 g6 36.Kg2 Bg7 and Black is

threatening 37... Rd3 and then a push d4. Winning two pieces for a rook with 37... Rxc3 and 38... Bxd4 may not be so clever since White will quickly set up a passed pawn by taking the pawn on a6.]

34.Re1

[White finally decides that his best chances are with rooks off. There will no longer be threats of rook and bishop attacking knight on d4. But exchanging rooks improves the Black pawn position. White switches to a blockade on e3.]

34...b4 35.Rxe4 dxe4 36.Bd2 Bc5 37.Be3 b3!

[A tactical solution. If Black can defend his pawn on b3, then he can play Bb4 and win the a-pawn. White cannot take on b3 for a few moves until he defends the Be3.]

38.Kg2 Be6!!

[Probably the most difficult move in the game. Why not play 38... Ba4 and then 39... Bb4 - looks like 2 pawns up, but Black pays dearly for the offside bishop on a4, eg. 38... Ba4 39.Kf2 Bb4 40.Bc1! And White plays Ke3 and takes the e-pawn. The idea of 38... Be6 is to defend b3 from the central square d5, also defending e4. The difficulty of playing Be6 is what happens if Nxe6. Black takes the bishop and then White gets a passed pawn by attacking and then taking the pawn on a6. 38... Be6 39.Nxe6 Bxe3 40.Nc7 - what now? If 40... Bd4 41.Nxa6 Bxb2 42.Nc5 with a possible draw. But Black has better - 40... Bc5! 41.Nxa6 Ba3! (and White cannot come back to c5 immediately) 42.Kf2 (loses tactically 42... Bxb2 43.Nc5 Bd4+ so 42.Kf1 is better) 42... Kf8 43.Ke2 Ke7 44.Kd2 Kd6! And Black wins.]

39.Kf2 Bd5 40.Nf5 Bb4 41.Bd4 g6 42.Nh6+ Kf8 43.Ng4 f5 44.Nf6 Bc6 45.Nxh7+ Ke7 46.Ng5 Kd6

[Equal pawns for a moment, but Black has a definite winning plan. Take the pawn on a5, advance the a-pawn to a3, after White plays bxa3, Black retakes on a3 with the bishop and wins the White bishop by pushing on b2.]

47.Ke3 Bxa5 48.g4

[White also has a definite line of play - gxf5 and advance the h-pawn to queen.]

48...Be1

[Preventing the advance of the h-pawn.]

49.Be5+ Kd5 50.gxf5 gxf5 51.Nh7

[The problem with 51.Ke2 (to shift the bishop which is preventing h4) is that 51... Bb4 now threatens 52... Bb5+ and a quick advance of the e-pawn.]

51...a5 52.Nf6+ Kc4 53.Ke2 Bb4

[After 54.h4 a4 55.h5 a3 56.bxa3 (if 56.h6 a2 57 h7 a1=Q 58.h8=Q Qe1#) 56... Bc3 57.Bxc3 Kxc3 58.h6 b2 59.h7 b1=Q 60.h8=Q Bb5+ 61.Kf2 Qf1+ 62.Kg3 Qg1+ 63.Kh4 Qh2+ winning the queen. White's best is here to play 59.Nxe4+ Bxe4 60.h7 b1=Q 61.h8=Q+ Kb3 but Black must win. The game began on 15 February 1984 and ended on 22 December 1987. White's time - 116 days; Black's time - 70 days.]

0-1



Bulletin 28 featured an interview by Alan Borwell with the new ICCF President, Henk Mostert, and a report by Philip Giulian on the progress of the strong Glasgow team (Bryson, McAlpine, Muir and Giulian) in the European Town Team Tourney. This issue was a bumper 72 pages, and was the last in the original "thin-paper" cover - issue 29 remained A5-size, but had a stiff, shiny paper cover with

four figurine pieces - better able to accommodate the 104 pages inside! This Bulletin (December 88) contained an obituary of Hans-Werner von Massow, the previous ICCF President, and an article by Ian Marks on Fritz Baumbach, the new ICCF world champion. (In those days, the Fritzes had surnames!). Issue 30 decided to award itself the title of "Magazine" - possibly to go with that flash new cover. The issue carried the second instalment of the new rating system, and with it the first of a few letters pointing out some of its anomalies! Ian Marks' most recognisable column got its first airing in Magazine 31 (August 89)...



We've all been influenced by Tal. Even if we say we haven't. In early school tournaments, I knew all about sacrifices: B-K3, Q-Q2, B-R6, QxP on R6, N-N5 and QxRP mate (I still used descriptive in those days). An enemy knight on KB3? Oh well...!

But experience teaches us that material must be invested wisely. Me? I gave up sacrificing ages ago (Sorry Misha). True, I sac'ed my Q against Golding (Bulletin No.7), but that was hardly a sac...

All the same, the spirit of the Magician is never far away...

White: I A Marks

Black: M McGhee

Scottish CC 1979-80

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5

[Trompowsky's inspiration (which proves that ANYONE can have an opening named after them). Its main virtue is the depressing effect it often has on confirmed Nf6ers.]

2... Ne4

[One of about ten(!) reasonable replies. Give your opponent as many options as possible and you increase his/her chance of uncorking a lulu.]

3.Bh4

[To keep the e-pawn pinned.]

3... d5

[? From Hort. Sometimes Black flicks in ... g5, eg Balashov-Furman, Moscow 1969, went: 3... c5 4.f3 g5 5.fxe4 gxh4 with a surrealistic position. But here: 3... g5 4.Bg3 Nxg3 5.hxg3 or 3... g5 4.Bg3 h5 5.f3 Nxg3 6.hxg3 leaves White solid. 3... g5 4.Bg3 h5 5.Be5 f6 6.Qd3 d5 7.f3 fxe5 8.fxe4 dxe4 9.Qxe4 Qxd4 10.Qxd4 exd4 11.Nf3 Nc6 12.Nxg5 is fun to analyse, but =+]

4.f3 Nd6 5.e4

[A positional move to stop ... Nf5! But now we get a sort of BDG where White has an extra tempo.]

5... dxe4 6.fxe4 Nxe4 7.Nf3 Bf5

[Ever noticed how, in most QP openings, the Black QB usually belongs behind the pawns, rather than out in the open? And here Black puts it on the open f-file...]

8.Bc4 Nd7 9.0-0 Ndf6

[To unpin the e-pawn, but it was time to dig in by 9... Bg6]

10.Bxf7+!

[*"The use of the exclamation mark is a sign of failure. It is the literary equivalent of a man holding up a card reading LAUGHTER to a studio audience." Miles Kington]*

10... Kxf7 11.Ne5+ Ke6

[To defend the B...]

12.Rxf5!

[See note to move 10.]

12. . Kxf5 13.Bxf6

[So I can play Nc3 unmolested later on and develop the QR. Besides, with the Black QB gone, the action is going to be on the light squares.]

13... Nxf6

[Otherwise the N goes.

When in the green lanes I muse

Alone and hear birds sing

God's pity then, say I,

On some poor King.

W H Davies, "Poor Kings"]

14.Qf3+ Ke6 15.Qh3+ Kd6

[Not much choice here. 15... Kf5 16.Nc3+ Kxd4 17.Qd3+ and now: (i) 17... Kxe5 18.Re1+ Kf4 (18... Ne4 19.Qxe4+ Kf6 20.Qe6+ Kg5 21.Re5+ etc) 19.Qg3+ Kf5 20.Re5#; or (ii) 17... Kc5 18.Na4+ Kb4 19.Qb3+ Ka5 20.Nc4+ Ka6 21.Nc5# Good knights!]

16.Nf7+

[Family fork. Shame the B isn't on g5...]

16... Kc6 17.Nxd8+

[Pity to have to take this. It would've been nice to mate the Black K with everything else still on the back rank.]

17... Rxd8 18.Nc3 b6

[Hey, he's trying to make a run for it. Better stop him.]

19.Qf3+ Kd7 20.d5

[Pinning down c6 and e6, so that, if 20... g6 21.d6!? cxd6 22.Qb7+ Ke8 23.Re1 (stops Bg7!) Rd7 24.Qc8+ Rd8 (24... Kf7 25.Nd5!) 25.Qe6]

20... Ke8 21.Re1

[Stops 21... g6 this time, so the K sets off again.]

21... Kf7 22.Ne4 Kg8

[The d-pawn is taboo.]

23.Qb3 h6

[So's the N; 23... Nxe4 24.d6+]

24.d6+ Kh7 25.dxc7 Rc8 26.Ng5+ 1-0

[26... hxg5 27.Qh3+ or 26... Kg6 27.Nf7 Rh7 28.Ne5+ Kg5 29.Qg3+ Kf5 (or Kh5) 30.Qh3+ shanghais the R.]

Game trivia: the Black K made eleven moves; the White Q never got beyond the third rank!



And that Dictionary of Quotations was a well-thumbed tome by the end of the series! Magazine 32 carried the news of Alan Shaw's win in the 1987-89 Championship, and the joint triumph of Mark Thomas and Ernie Wood in the Scottish Centenary Open. Philip Giulian contributed pieces on the British Championship, the International scene and the XI Olympiad preliminaries, where Colin McNab achieved an IM norm on board 2 with 5 1/2/7. Here's how:

White: CA McNab (Scotland)

Black: B Marcussi (Argentina)

English Opening (A29)

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Nc6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.g3 d5 5.cxd5 Nxd5 6.Bg2 Nb6 7.0-0 Be7 8.d3 0-0 9.Be3 Be6 10.Qc1 f6 11.Nd2 Nd5 12.Nb3 Nxe3 13.Qxe3 Qd7 14.Nc5 Bxc5 15.Qxc5 Nd4 16.Bxb7 Rab8 17.Bg2 Rxb2 18.e3 Nc2 19.Nd1 Qb5 20.Qc3 Rb1 21.a4 Qb3 22.Rxb1 Qxb1 23.Nb2 Qa2 24.Qxc2 Rb8 25.Qc6 1-0



Magazine 33 (May 90) carried a nice masochistic introduction from David Salter to one of his little debacles:

"In recent months, some of my chess positions have met with untimely deaths. They can be explained by factors such as over-adventurous opening plans, dubious development schemes, or a touch of carelessness against competent opponents. The following game is a good (or bad?) example of strange early play which was soundly punished. However, it may provide some entertainment to those readers who tire of prolonged endgames."



Well, fair enough David, but did you ever lose a game where you committed all of these infelicities?! Issue 34 (August 90) carried a report from Douglas Bryson on a notable triumph for Glasgow in the Illrd Polish Team Tournament for Cultural European Towns.

Town Teams Tournament			Pts	%
1	Glasgow	SCO	27½	68.75
2	s-Hertogenbosch	NLD	25½	63.75
3	Budapest	HUN	22	55.00
4	Prague	CZE	21½	53.75
5	Warsaw	POL	20½	51.25
6	Lund	SWE	19	47.50
7	Aarhus	DEN	19	47.50
8	Hamburg	GER	18	45.00
9	Woronez	RUS	18	45.00
10	Poznan	POL	14½	36.25
11	Gdansk	POL	13½	33.75

Board Results		Pts	Pos	Norm
1	Bryson, Douglas	7½	1st	
2	McAlpine, Ken	7½	1st	½IM
3	Muir, Andrew	7½	2nd	½IM
4	Giulian, Philip	5	4th	

On board 2, Ken McAlpine concentrated exclusively on his ten games, and was rewarded with an unbeaten 7½/10, and a final norm to clinch his IM title.

White: I Torok (Budapest)

Black: KB McAlpine (Glasgow)

Pirc Defence (B07)

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.f4 c6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.Bc4 e6 7.a4

["Losing" a pawn which I could not take on the last move since 6.Bc4 Bxf3 7.Qxf3 Bxd4 8.Ne2 Bg7 9.Qb3 with advantage. However, with the e-pawn affording a defence to this ploy, surely I can capture the d-pawn now in safety.]

7... Bxf3 8.Qxf3 Bxd4 9.Ne2 Bg7 10.f5

[This looks dangerous, but perhaps first 10.0-0 as I can hardly play Qb6+]

10... gxf5

[I would have preferred to play exf5 but was anxious about Bxf7+ Kxf7 and Qb3+]

11.exf5

[He should have played 0-0 here with some K-side pressure. Though he is at present 2 pawns down, he should certainly get 1 back. After the text, the queens are exchanged.]

11... Qh4+ 12.Qg3 Qxg3+ 13.hxg3 d5 14.Ba2 e5
[Clear edge to Black - the rest is not too difficult.]
15.Bg5 Na6 16.c3 Nc5 17.0-0 Ne4 18.Bh4 Bh6 19.c4
Be3+ 20.Kh1 d4 21.Rae1 Nf2+ 22.Rxf2 Bxf2 23.Rf1
Be3 24.c5 Nh6 25.Bf6 Rg8 26.Bxe5 Rg5 27.Bf6 Rh5+
28.Bh4 Nxf5 29.Kh2 f6 30.Nf4 Bxf4 31.Rxf4 d3 32.Bb3
Nxh4 0-1



Copious contributor John Hawkes produced another in his series of Classic Games of Correspondence Chess inside Magazine 35 (December 90). John was always very particular about copyrighting his work, but I'm sure he won't mind this reprint...

The setting for this game is the Final of the First European Team Tournament. The USSR team won ahead of the West Germans. On Board 10 they had to replace Kagan and found a man who has figured prominently in individual World Championships, almost taking the title - Gennady Nesis. The Netherlands had the same problem, and had replaced Waal by W Boom.

White: W Boom

Black: G E Nesis

I European Team Tournament Final 1978-83

Ruy Lopez (C75)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 d6 5.c3 Bd7 6.d4
Nge7 7.0-0 Ng6 8.Be3

[Kostro-Spitzberger on Board 2 was going 8.Nbd2 Be7 9.Re1 b5 10.Bc2 0-0 11.Nf1 Na5 12.Ne3 Re8 13.b4 Nb7 14.d5 Bf8 15.g3 Bh3 16.a4 h6 17.a5 and White's Q-side expansion by c3-c4 soon proved decisive.]

8... Be7 9.d5 Nb8 10.c4 0-0

[There were two other plans for Black. He can exchange Bs and follow with Nbd7, or play 10... h6 with the thematic idea of getting his QB traded off by ... Bg5 eg. 10... h6 11.Nc3 Bg5 12.Re1 Bxe3 13.Rxe3 0-0 14.Rc1 a5 as in a 1956 Yugoslavia-USSR match game between Trifunovic and Keres.]

11.Bc2

[This looks even better than 11.Bxd7 Nxd7 12.Nc3 h6 13.b4 Nf6 14.Ne1 Nh7 15.g3 Qd7 16.Qh5 Bg5 17.Bxg5 Nxg5 18.Nd3 in Mikenas-Stolyar, Leningrad 1956.]

11... a5 12.Nc3 Na6 13.a3 c5 14.Qd2 Nh4 15.Nxh4
Bxh4 16.f4 Bf6 17.f5

[Very strong.]

17... Nc7 18.Rf3 b5 19.g4 h6

[Now this little move is forced and weakening.]

20.Raf1 bxc4

[White now breaks through with two pawn sacrifices, followed by an exchange sacrifice!]

21.h4! Bxh4 22.f6! Bxf6 23.Rxf6! gxf6 24.Qh2

[And the man from Leningrad, despite all his talent and ingenuity, is unable to put together a defence.]

24... f5 25.exf5 f6 26.Bxh6 Qe7 27.Rf3 Rf7 28.Rg3 Ne8
29.g5! Ng7 30.g6 Rff8 31.Rh3 1-0

[Thus the Netherlands drew 6-6 with the USSR.]



Issue 36 featured Philip Giulian dipping into "Theory Corner" with a review of the Modern Bishop's Game (C54) - quite refreshing, as the Magazine hadn't devoted a huge amount of space to opening analysis hitherto. More momentous though, was Alan Borwell's Editorial in issue 37 (September 91)...

SCOTLAND BECOMES FULL MEMBER OF ICCF

After many years of endeavour, Scotland secured full membership of ICCF at this year's Congress in Järvenpää, Finland. Our country now has equivalent rights to the Scottish Chess Association, which has been a member of FIDE since 1932 for over-the-board chess. The voting was almost unanimously in favour, with only 4 abstentions. The support of the ICCF President, Henk Mostert, and of the BPCF delegate, Reg Gillman, was very important and they deserve a special vote of thanks from the Scottish CCA and its members. Another piece of excellent news is that Scotland is now very likely to achieve a place at the next Olympiad CC Final, which would be a tremendous achievement at only our second attempt.

It is hoped that the Scottish CCA members will respond by showing even greater interest in international correspondence chess by participating in ICCF events as well as our own national tournaments. Details are available from Phil Giulian, Colin Macgregor, George Livie or myself, but our December magazine will include a special feature on all international activities.



Although he didn't mention it in the editorial, Alan received the Bertl von Massow silver medal for 10 years meritorious service to ICCF at the same Congress. In the same Magazine, David Kilgour, in the process of winning the IM title via the SCCA Magazine Invitation Tournament, and later to become a GM and SCCA President, put pen to paper on "Keeping an 'open' mind about 1.e4"....

Alan Borwell asked me to write an article for the magazine on any chess subject of interest to readers. I decided to write the following article based on my choice of opening system against 1.e4.

The story starts some fifteen years ago when I was a Fischer fan and played the Najdorf, relishing the prospect of an exciting game, but also hoping to "out-book" my opponent with my many prepared lines. Usually at that time, if I did not get an advantage from the opening, I would lose the ending, as I knew nothing about rook endings, or any other ending for that matter.

Ten years ago, it looked very likely that Fischer would not return to chess, and the Najdorf had been suffering at the hands of Karpov and the after-effect of the Fischer-Spassky match, and I decided that I would play the French Defence mainly because Korchnoi played it, and had some good results with it.

Foe eight years, I always played the French as Black against 1.e4, only varying when I thought my opponent might have prepared something to unleash against me.

I played the French in my correspondence games and did quite well until about five years ago. When I reviewed my results at correspondence chess for the previous five years, I discovered that my French had let me down on quite a few occasions, especially against good opposition, eg. Zapletal in the last Olympiad I defended for 56 moves to draw.

I decided that White too often played by the book and got an advantage which could be nullified by Black, but at the cost of only obtaining a draw, which was not good enough if you had to achieve 75% of the points to get an IM norm.

At this point I decided to try new openings as Black against 1.e4. First the Sicilian - Pelikan, then Scheveningen, next the Alekhine, even the Caro-Kann, but I was not really happy with the positions I got against these openings.

About this time, I started play in the Horowitz correspondence tournament, and played an Alekhine, a Najdorf, and 1... e5 just for a change. My first thought was to play the Marshall in this game, but I decided that the Open Ruy was worth a try and played this against Kubach. Here was an opening that gave Black a solid position with some hope of an advantage at a later stage, especially in the ending; also Korchnoi played it - a recommendation?!

I discovered that there were not too many books on the Open Ruy, and only a few well-known GMs played it, so I looked through my last year (or two)'s chess magazines to see if I could find any games, especially annotated ones, as these would give me a rough idea of what Black's objectives are, and what types of positions are favourable and unfavourable for each side.

The games below (not reprinted due to lack of space) relate to my search for the variation played by Kubach, but in total I had 200 games on the Open to look at.

I think all players should decide what openings they play by trying each one at least once in actual play, and getting a broad idea of what the themes of each opening are, rather than just follow the openings of your hero, as his style may be different from yours and, while he gets results with a particular opening, mere mortals often find that they do not. Also, by only following book lines, you might lose track of the opening theory and the type of middle- and endgames that the opening could lead to. Remember, there are three stages to most games - opening, middle game and ending.



Magazine 39 saw Tommy Craig winning the 1989-91 Championship, and Douglas Bryson handing over as Games Editor to George Pyrich. Games submitted to George had to be in algebraic notation (we were still smoking out descriptive recidivists apparently) and, amusingly, "the notes should use words rather than Informator symbols (which are not understood by all of our readers)". Some things don't change! Having lamented the lack of response to his "Theory Corner" articles in issue 38,

Philip Giulian must have been grinning from ear to ear when issue 39 carried three articles (by Joe Watson, Jonathan Lennox and Ted Greiner), all inspired by Philip's subtle promptings! Even better, PG had secured an IM norm in the Magazine Invitation Tournament, reaching the required 7 points after 10 games. Magazine 40 continued the "computers in chess" debate which the previous edition had kicked off with observations from David Cumming, Douglas Bryson, Philip Giulian and Alan Borwell. That debate is still running, if intermittently, and so are many friendly internationals. Colin Macgregor wrote the report in Magazine 40 (June 92):

In the fifteen months since I became Assistant International Secretary of the SCCA, I have been fortunate to be able to arrange matches against Algeria, Iceland, Luxembourg, New Zealand and Poland, with a 30-board match against France due to start in March of next year. It is my intention to start a 10-15 board match against another country, possibly Singapore or a Scandinavian country, starting in August or September of this year. I will need more people to play in this match though. If you want to play, then don't hesitate to get in touch with me. The time control for the matches will be 10 moves in 30 days and you can exceed the time control twice before you lose on time!

The current matches are going very well, with only one or two problems, due mainly to moves going astray in the post. These problems have been solved quite easily on the whole. Our toughest match is against Iceland, where their Board 14 has an ICCF grade of 2125! In all the other games however, most players are playing opponents of a similar strength to themselves. If anybody plays a game that they feel worthy of publishing, then please send a copy of the game, preferably annotated, to either myself or George Pyrich.

I can certainly recommend playing friendly internationals - it's a great way of getting to know new friends from abroad, even when they turn up on your doorstep at 1am on a Saturday morning, as Jerzy Jablonski, the Polish Team Captain, did last August!!



Magazine 41 boasted a mottled rather than a shiny cover, but otherwise the production was unchanged. A new format was announced for the Championship, Candidates, Premiers, Majors and Minors which persists to this day. A friendly international was started against Latvia, and I found myself paired with Nickolai Gurtovoi - a match which began a longer association than I'd expected! The selection committee announced the team for the XI Olympiad Final - Bryson, Muir, McNab, Kilgour, Giulian and Borwell. Ted Greiner re-appeared in issue 42, treatising on theory....

Whenever I hear or read a story of a confidence man cheating people in some get-rich-quick scheme, I shake my head and wonder how people can be so gullible.

However, when I was scanning my bookshelf recently, it struck me that I had a lot of books with titles like "Beating the Sicilian", "Winning with 1.d4" and "Opening Repertoire for the Attacking Player". Looking at all these chess versions of the get-rich-quick scheme, I realised I wasn't as

worldly-wise as I thought I was. Most of my opponents weren't so easily crushed by these winning ideas as the advertising blurbs promised.

To be honest, many of these books aren't really bad - it's just that the promises of winning advantages from the opening have had me constantly changing my systems with White.

The result is that I don't have a feel for any of the positions I get out of the opening. My openings with Black have not changed much in 20 years so, even if I'm playing a supposedly inferior variation, I feel more comfortable in a familiar position.

When the B group of the 10th Anniversary Scottish CCA Magazine Tournament began, I was a 1.d4 player. Despite being armed with secret moves in the Grünfeld and Nimzo-Indian, the following example will show you that I lost the opening battle.

White: T Greiner (USA)

Black: G Rickers (GER)

QGD, Semi-Slav (D47)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5 8.Bd3 Bb7 9.e4 b4 10.Na4 c5 11.e5 Nd5 12.Nxc5 Nxc5 13.dxc5 Bxc5 14.0-0 h6 15.Nd2

[What is White planning with this move? Is the knight going to c4 or e4? None of my references were helpful in explaining the idea of 15.Nd2. The subsequent continuation didn't help either because Black immediately cuts across White's plan with 15... Nc3, leading eventually to a position where "White is better". But why does Black have to play 15... Nc3? Why not something like 0-0? After looking at the position for a while, I could not find anything concrete for White - maybe 16.Ne4 looking for a K-side attack. But what are the chances he would play 15... 0-0 anyway, so I went ahead with 12.Nxc5. Needless to say, 15... 0-0 was exactly what Black played and I never did solve the problem. The game continued:]

15... 0-0 16.Ne4 Bd4 17.Qh5 f5 18.exf6 ep

[18.Bxh6 was not good.]

18... Nxf6 19.Qe2 Qd5 20.Re1

[White had to fatally weaken f2 with this move. What should White do after 15... 0-0 - any ideas?]



Well, the 2002 ChessBase database would confirm that Ted should play 16.Ne4 (12 games, 67% success rate for White) in preference to 16.Nc4 (3 games, 50% success rate for White). After 16... Bd4, White gets more from playing 17.Nd6 rather than 17.Qh5 as in the game.

In Magazines 43 (July 93) and 44 (November 93), Philip Giulian looked at the three Scottish IM successes in the SCCA Magazine Invitation Tournament...

With our event in Sections A and B now virtually finished, I feel it is time to reflect on the Scottish successes. Scotland has gained in terms of international esteem, but also in the playing sense with three new International Masters. To achieve the title in this event, players in Section A had to score 7/13, a rating performance in excess of 2450. At the start of the tournament, none of the Scots had a grading near

this level. David Kilgour and I were about 50 points short, but Alan Borwell had to find a massive 150 points.

Reaching the International Master norm never seemed in doubt for David Kilgour. He regarded the tournament as fairly uneventful. He won his good positions, drew his level ones, and lost his poor ones! Despite his excellent score of 8/13 and fourth position, David was critical afterwards of his approach. He felt he paid too much attention to the title norm and this led to his playing too solidly and, with Black, not aggressively enough. David feels that this approach was wrong and advises others not to follow his example!

In the following game, David quickly disposes of the strong English International Master Cliff Chandler.

White: DA Kilgour (SCO, 2410)

Black: CR Chandler (ENG, 2445)

Berlin Defence (C67)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.d4 Be7

6.Qe2 Nd6 7.Bxc6 bxc6 8.dxe5 Nb7

[Often played here is 8... Nf5 9.Qe4 g6 10.b3 0-0 11.Bb2 Bb7 12.Re1 d5 13.exd6 cxd6 14. Nbd2 +=]

9.Nc3 Nc5 10.Be3 0-0 11.Rad1 Ne6 12.Rfe1 f6

[More usual here is d5 or Rb8, after which White has a slight advantage in space.]

13.Nd4 Nxd4 14.Bxd4 fxe5 15.Bxe5 Bf6 16.Qc4+ Kh8 17.Bg3

[All theory so far!]

17... Rb8 18.b3 a5 19.Ne4 Rb5??

[Better is Rb4, but White is still better. Presumably Black missed White's reply.]

20.Bxc7!! Qxc7 21.Nd6 Be5 22.Nf7+ Rxf7

[Also losing is 22... Kg8 23.Nh6+ Kh8 24.Qg8+ Rxc8 25.Nf7#]

23.Qxf7 h6 24.f4 Bf6 25.Qg6 1-0

Unlike David, my title was in the balance almost until the end. Initially, my games followed a similar pattern to David's - I won my good positions, drew my level ones and lost my poor ones.

The following game may not have been the most exciting game I have ever played, but it was crucial. Ragnar Wikman had remorselessly ground me down in the John Kellner Invitation, thereby depriving me of the title in that tournament. Here was my chance of revenge!

White: PM Giulian (SCO, 2395)

Black: R Wikman (FIN, 2385)

Nimzo-Indian (E20)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3 c5 5.d5 Nh5 6.g3

Bxc3+?!

[An unnecessary move. Better is 6... f5 7.e4 0-0 8.e5 f4 9.Ne2 d6 with an unclear position.]

7.bxc3 f5 8.e4 f4

[Better than 8... Qf6 9.f4 Nxc3 10.hxc3 Qxc3+ 11.Bd2 Qxc3+ 12.Ke2 fxe4 13.Qb3 and White stood much better in Nogueiras-Kindermann, Dubai 1986.]

9.dxe6 Qf6

[Csom was destroyed by Ivanchuk (Erevan 1989) when he tried 9... fxg3 10.Qd5 g2 11.Qxh5+ g6 12.Qe5 Qh4+ 13.Ke2 gxh1=Q 14.Qxh8+ Ke7 15.Qg7+ Ke6 16.Bh3+]

10.Ne2 fxg3 11.Bg2 dxe6!

[A TN and an interesting try. 11... Qxe6 12.hxg3 Nf6 13.Nf4 Qxc4 14.e5 Qxc3+ 15.Kf2 Qxa1 16.exf6 was much better for White in Nogueiras-Rodriguez, San Juan 1985.]

12.Be3!?

[Not 12.hxg3? Nxg3 13.Nxg3 Qxc3+ 14.Bd2 Qxc4 with an unclear position which possibly favours Black.]

12... Qe7?

[Much better is 12... gxh2 13.Rxh2 g6 14.Bxc5 e5 unclear.]

13.hxg3 Nf6 14.e5 Nfd7 15.f4 g6?!

[Better is 15... Nc6 and then 16.Be4 h6 17.Bg6+ is much better for White.]

16.Qd3 0-0 17.g4

[White's plan is simple: Ng3, Ne4, 0-0-0 with an overwhelming attack.]

17... Nc6 18.Ng3 Nd8 19.Ne4 Nf7 20.Bf2

[Threatening Bh4 and/or Qh3 winning.]

20... Rb8 20.0-0-0 1-0

[Black resigned because of the overwhelming threats: (i) 22.Qxd7 Bxd7 32.Rxd7 Qxd7 24.Nf6+ followed by 25.Rxh7#; (ii) if 21... Nd8 22.Bh4 Qf7 23.Bf6 is crushing.]

Alan Borwell had a much more eventful path to the title. He began with much the same philosophy as David Kilgour. These plans counted for little as Alan made a disappointing start. A favourable position had been reached when his Dutch opponent had to withdraw, and then disaster struck.

First, Prystenski produced a neat knight sacrifice which completely refuted Alan's rather risky Queen's Gambit accepted. Then David Kilgour took full advantage of Alan's premature thrust in a French Defence after he had achieved virtual equality. Alan followed this with five draws, three with the White pieces where he was unable to convert several good positions into full points.

Full points were then duly gained from the games versus Rennemo and Wikman, but Fabri managed to produce a clever piece sacrifice to secure a draw. Against Chandler, Alan had a moment of "chess blindness", completely missing an obvious resource which allowed his opponent to win a piece for two pawns. Fortunately, Alan saved a half point through perpetual check after 57 moves.

This left Alan needing 1½ out of 2 against de Ruiter and Callaghan, where he was approaching endgames a pawn down - a seemingly impossible task. After 38 moves of his game with de Ruiter, with Alan playing White, the following position had been reached:



Black is a sound passed pawn up, but has some difficulties with his imprisoned king. Alan planned to try g5 and then attempt to infiltrate with his rook, hopefully via f8. The game continued:

39.Rf4 Rh7 40.Kg2

[At this stage, Alan agonised for hours over 40.g5 Rh5 41.g6 fxg6 42.Rf8 Nc6 43.Nb6 Nb8 44.Nc8+ drawing, before he concluded that better for Black would be 40... Rg7 41.Rxh4 Nc6 42.Rh8 b5]

40... Nc6 41.Kf2 Rg7 42.Ke2 d4 43.Nc5 Nxb4 44.Rxd4 Nd5 45.Kd2 b6 46.axb6+ Kxb6 47.Ne4 a5 48.Nd6 Ne7 49.Rf4 Ng6 50.Re4 Kc6 51.Ke3 Rg8?

[Black needs to extricate his R. He could have tried 51... Nxe5 52.Ne8! Rg8 53.Rxe5 Rxe8 54.Rxa4 e5 55.Ke4 which should be a draw. Alan considers this to be a dubious line for Black, as it concedes the draw. However, what else could Black try to win? - certainly not the move played!]

52.Nxf7 Ra8 53.Rd4 a4 54.Nd8+ Kb6

[Black now has a difficult choice of where to put his king. C5 and c7 allows Nxe6 with check; b5 could hamper him from playing Nxe5 because of Rd5+]

55.Rd6+ Kb5 56.Nxe6 Nxe5?

[Better is 56... Kb4 57.Nc7 Rg8 58.Kd4 a3 59.Rb6+ Ka4 60.Ra6+ Kb3 and Black still has possible winning chances.]

57.Nc7+ Kc5 58.Rd5+! Kc6 59.Nxa8 Kxd5 60.Nb6+ Ke6 61.Nxa4

[Black is now lost because he doesn't have time for a knight sacrifice.]

61... Kf6 62.Nc5 1-0

[If 62... Kg5 63.Ne4+ Kg6 64.Nd2 Kf6 65.Nf3 Ng6 66.Ke4 Ke6 67.g5 Kf7 68.Kf5! (not 68.Ne5+? Nxe5 69.Kxe5 Kg6 70.Kf4 Kh5! =)]

Who could have anticipated this from the position after 39 moves, without the assistance of Houdini!? Alan followed this with a fine, resourceful draw against Callaghan and the IM title was secured!

Looking at Alan's last three games (Chandler, de Ruiter and Callaghan), most pundits would adjudicate them as three losses, yet they produced two points, more than compensating for some of Alan's earlier disappointments. Based on his postal chess experiences, including these three games, Alan is reluctant to give up too quickly!

So the tournament ended with three new Scottish International Masters. This was an undoubted triumph for us, but even David Kilgour in fourth place was never in a position to challenge for first place - won by Ferenc Fabri of Hungary by the massive margin of 2½ points.

(In the higher graded Section B, George Pyrich also finished 4th with 8½ points behind GM Sven Teichmeister of Austria who won with 10 points. Alas, the IM norm in this section was 9½ points!)



Edition 44 employed a heat-seal binding method for the spine, instead of the older-fashioned stapling (to which technology we have now returned!). This issue also featured an article from heat-seeking Brian Goodwin:

WHY I GAVE UP OTB CHESS

It was a small town American chess event, and I was doing pretty well. Won my first two games, and spent the remainder of that Saturday night relating to family and friends how well I had played. And how I might just win the glittering first prize.

That was all of fifteen years ago. But at that time I was enjoying my OTB chess and would enter as many weekend congresses as time, and my wallet, would allow. It was while visiting my mother who lived in the United States, that I found myself playing in my first "foreign" tournament.

Sunday dawned bright and breezy and found me paired with the local child prodigy, or to be more exact, the *enfant terrible*. This whizz kid, who tells me he is twelve years old but looks only five, spends the entire game drinking coke and eating chocolate cake. The kid's teeth must be a nightmare. Apart from moving the pieces and writing down his moves on the scoresheet, the only other movements he makes is when shovelling wedges of cake into his mouth.

I started well enough against the brat, but soon about a dozen players, including a few Masters, stood at our table, and it was patently obvious they were rooting for the damn kid.

Now I don't know if it was nerves or what, but the game started to slip away, and before too long it was apparent to the gallery that the kid would claim another victim.

I decided to play a waiting game. No way was I going to resign amid this lot of sneering locals. I sat back in my chair and contemplated the ceiling. Unfortunately, and to further add to my distress, the table I was allocated was directly under the rim of the balcony and, rather than viewing the ornamental ceiling, my eyes were drawn to a row of well kent faces! Yes, family and friends having been assured from the previous night that I would "sweep" the event, had come to enjoy my triumph.

The blood drained from my face. I looked at my opponent. He smiled knowingly with just a hint of contempt. This kid would surely grow up to be an axe murderer. I sought solace by burying my head in my hands. After what seemed an eternity, the watchers at the table having decided it was all over, drifted away, no doubt to put the frighteners on some other poor unsuspecting player, and I was left alone with the brat - and a balcony full of fans.

Why is it that we hate to be seen in the final act of resignation? A win can be celebrated with great waves of the arms and a flurry of replayed moves to show our adversary where he went wrong. Defeat however, must be a sneaky affair. The retreat from the table as unobtrusive as possible. When both protagonists practice their respective "endgame" techniques, a comedy of sorts can develop. Watch out for this at your next weekend congress.

With my chin still on my chest, my eyes were almost climbing up my sweat-sodden forehead in an effort to see if the family were still at their station. They were not to be seen! With a quick scratch of my pen, I signed the scoresheet, whispered: "I resign" to the kid, and stood up to make my escape.

SCCA Silver Jubilee Souvenir Magazine

But damn it, why should this kid have all the fun?

Throughout the game he had smiled and leered at me, enjoying my predicament. He was probably a Freudian mess into the bargain, a real terror in the home - I had to do something to vindicate my generation.

With a smile that only halfway matched his own leer, and with a flourish that stated adults would always come out on top in the long run, I swiped the brat's remaining piece of chocolate cake and strode manfully away from the table, munching the spoils. I had resigned with dignity.

After that, things went downhill. A couple of half points were the only embellishments to my score, and in the end I didn't even win *bottom* prize.

However, I did learn one thing, and it is this: you must not let family and friends attend tournaments with you. And especially not if you have told them you are going to win it.

For myself, I took an easier way out of the predicament. I took up correspondence chess!



Magazine 45 was published in March 1994, and heralded that the Olympiad team were currently leading the final, partly due to an incredible 4½-½ score against England! This news was welcome relief after the death notices of Bernard Partridge and Alan Shaw.

Scotland got full points on boards 1-4, via Bryson (v Webb), Muir (v Hollis), McNab (v Povah) and Kilgour (v Thomas). Giulian and Timson shared the spoils on board 5, and the Borwell-Sowray encounter was unfinished at this stage (Sowray won it in the end). Here we give the games of the Shettleston duo on boards 1 and 2:

On top board, Douglas Bryson had Black against an old adversary, Simon Webb, who must have been looking for revenge for his defeat by Douglas in the Scottish Centenary International Tournament.

White: S Webb (ENG, 2615)

Black: DM Bryson (SCO, 2580)

Semi-Slav, Botvinnik (D44)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bg5 dxc4 6.e4 b5 7.e5 h6 8.Bh4 g5 9.Nxg5 hxg5 10.Bxg5 Nbd7 11.g3 Qa5 12.exf6 b4 13.Ne4 Ba6 14.b3 0-0-0

[I had lost an OTB game to GM Vadim Ruban at Hastings 1991-92 playing 14... Nb6. 14... 0-0-0 must be better, giving Black Ne5 tricks.]

15.Qc2 Nb6 16.Be3 e5!

[I got this from ChessBase (copy of Correspondence Yearbook on disk). I used to have 20 Informators open at the same time trying to track down a game, now I use a computer. Some players like Phil Giulian think there is a moral problem here! In the past, students use log tables and slide rules, now they use calculators. The drudgery of mindless number-crunching is replaced with a few key-presses. The same students will be top of the class whether in the age of logs or calculators: it is just that calculators get the work done faster. Everyone will eventually have

computers, so I cannot see Luddite objections to chess databases as rational. Just because a move is on the database doesn't mean that it is correct. The better player will still win if both have the same information. However, I should point out that 16... e5 was news to Simon.]

17.dxe5

[17.0-0-0 occurred in the ChessBase game Panman-Nooman.]

17... Qxe5 18.Rc1 Re8 19.Bg2

[On my own now, 19.f3 was floppy ("book" sounded better).]

19... c3 20.f4 Qh5

[SW mentions 20... Qd5 21.Rd1 Qh5 as "I no longer have 22.Qd1".]

21.Kf2 Nd5 22.Qd1 Nxe3 23.Qxh5 Rxh5 24.Kxe3 Rd5 25.Rhd1??

[This misses Black's threat. 25.Kf3 Rd3+ 26.Kg4 Re3 was indicated by SW as "pretty dodgy" but is not completely clear after 27.Rhe1 Be2+ 28.Kf5]

25... Rxd1 26.Rxd1 Bc5+ 27.Kf3 Bd3!!

[Suddenly White is completely lost.]

28.Bh3+ Kc7 29.Rxd3

[Or 29.Nxc5 Be2+]

29... c2 30.Nxc5 c1=Q 31.Rd7+ Kb6 32.Re7 Qd1+

33.Kf2 Qd4+ 34.Kg2?

[34.Kf3 loses to Qd5+, eg. 35.Ke2 Qh5+ or 35.Kg4 Rg8+. 34.Kf1 is the most resilient, but 34... Qa1+ 35.Kf2 Qxa2+ 36.Kf1 Kxc5 37.Rxe8 Qxb3 should win.]

34... Qd5+ 0-1

[After 35.Kf1 (35.Kg1 and 35.Kh2 fail to Qxc5+) 35... Qf3+ followed by Rxe7 and a check to win the e7 pawn.]

Andy Muir was up against Adrian Hollis on board 2, who had been unbeaten in the last three CC Olympiad finals!

White: AJ Muir (SCO, 2540)

Black: AS Hollis (ENG, 2545)

English/King's Indian transposition (A16)

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 g6 3.e4

[Avoids the Grünfeld at which Hollis is a renowned expert.]

3... e5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.d4 exd4 6.Nxd4 Bg7

[We have now reached an off-beat line of the King's Indian where Black has dispensed with ... d6. The critical line is 7.Nxc6 bxc6 8.e5 Ng8 but I felt this might over-extend. Natural moves like 7.Be2 Ne4! Or 7.Be3 Ng4! allow Black to equalise, so ...]

7.Nc2 0-0 8.Be2 Re8 9.f3 d6 10.Bg5!

[Forcing a weakness.]

10... h6 11.Be3 Ne5 12.Qd2 Kh7 13.0-0 Be6 14.b3 a5

15.Nd4 Bd7 16.Ndb5!

[Black's weakness here will be c7. I intend to follow up with Nd5.]

16... Bxb5 17.cxb5!

[Much better than Nxb5 as I now have pressure on the c-file.]

17... Ned7

[This N was threatened to be kicked away by 18.h3 and 19.f4. Also, Black plans to put it on c5 to block the c-file.]

18.Rac1 Re7

[Overprotecting c7.]

19.Rfd1 b6 20.Rc2 Nc5

[I must now dislodge the c5 knight.]

21.Bc4 Qh8

[An unusual move. This adds to Black's pressure on the a1-h8 diagonal (similar to doubling rooks on an open file).]

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22.a3 a4?

[22... Ra7 is better.]

23.b4 Nb3?

[Black wants to get in ... Nd5, but the N is poorly placed here. Better is ... Ncd7]

24.Qd3 Nd7

[What else? I was threatening 25.Nd5 Nxd5 26.Bxd5 Ra7 27.Bxb3, winning a pawn.]

25.Nd5 Ne5 26.Qf1! Rd7

[26... Nxc5 gives up his best-placed piece and I play 27.Rxc5 followed by capturing on c7.]

27.Be2

[Now I threaten f4, trapping the N.]

27... g5

[Ugly, but best. If 27... f5 28.exf5 gxf5 29.f5]

28.g3!

[Much better than capturing on c7.]

28... Ra7

[Not 28... Rc8 29.f4 gxf4 30.gxf4 Ng6 31.Bg4]

29.f4 gxf4 30.gxf4 Ng6 31.f5! Ne5 32.f6 Bf8 33.Bh5! 1-0

[Black can hardly move any of his pieces, especially the R on a7, N on b3, B on f8 and Q on h8. A finish might be: 33... Rd8 34.Qf5+ Ng6 35.Rg2 Qg8 36.Nf5 and hit g6.]

Adrian thought that this was perhaps his most "gruesome" postal chess loss. Indeed, he must be feeling the Scots have a jinx over him, as Douglas Bryson also beat him in the Norwegian 40th Anniversary Tournament.



Round about this period, Stephen Riley was contributing some off-the-wall articles. Here's one from issue 46 (June 94), where he looks at possible SCCA pairings...

Neil	-	Armstrong
Lewis	-	Carroll
Vann	-	Morrison
Parker	-	Penman
Plant	-	Grose
Green	-	Pearce
Reid	-	Wright
King	-	Arthur
Knox	-	Down
Young	-	Gunn
Falconer	-	Bird
Cook	-	Boyle
May	-	Orr
Stalker	-	Golightly
Cox	-	Roach
Wood	-	Turner
Cosgrove	-	Hall
<i>(the Dangermouse company!)</i>		
Fryer	-	Parsons
Innes	-	Mackintosh
Marshall	-	Montgomery
Holmes	-	Watson

And some President's Cup entries - Wilson, Johnstone, Ford, Grant and Nixon!



Having been co-opted to assist with Membership and Publicity, Bernard Milligan lost no time in publicising the virtues of membership. This from Magazine 47 (September 94)...

Attracting new members to correspondence chess has traditionally proved to be a difficult task. As devotees of this particular form of the noble game, we are a breed apart. Each game can take a long time to complete; the games can involve many hours of analysis, all of which may lead to little or no reward other than the satisfaction of having taken part in an enjoyable game. Yet, for those of us who play correspondence chess, it quite often becomes a lifelong hobby. This enthusiasm is in fact the best medium for encouraging new members.

If we all managed to introduce one new member per year, then in no time at all we would have record membership levels, which would allow your Association to do more for you. Next time you speak to your chess friends, try telling them about the advantages of correspondence chess. For one thing, it is an ideal medium for studying the game; looking up books is much more interesting if they are relevant to a game you are currently playing and, as such, beats the socks off studying lines which you may never even get the chance to try out over-the-board. You will also enjoy exchanging gossip with many of your opponents.

If at first you don't succeed in attracting new members, then don't give up ... try and try again! The Executive Committee will continue to do its utmost to attract new members, but your help is always welcome.

This year we will be introducing two new initiatives. The first will be a free penpal service for youngsters. Once sufficient names have been received, they will be paired up and can play a couple of games against each other, whilst at the same time enjoying the usual penpal friendships which can develop. Anyone who is under 16 who is interested in this should send their name, address, date of birth and numbers of penpals wanted to Bernard Milligan at the address below. We hope that by introducing youngsters to correspondence chess that, in the years to come, they will want to become full adult members.

The second initiative will require your help. Many chess players may be reluctant to go to the expense of trying correspondence chess, particularly if they are uncertain if they would enjoy this form of the game. To help get over any such doubts, we intend to offer a free introductory service. The idea is simple. Anyone wanting to try out correspondence chess for the first time would be given the opportunity of being introduced to a member who would play two games with them. This would enable them to sample the delights of correspondence chess without the pressure of active competition or the expense of playing more than one opponent.

For this to succeed, I will need a large number of members willing to volunteer to play introductory opponents. Don't delay, let me know if you are willing to help out - my address is *15 Bothwell Court, Hawick TD9 7EP*. I look

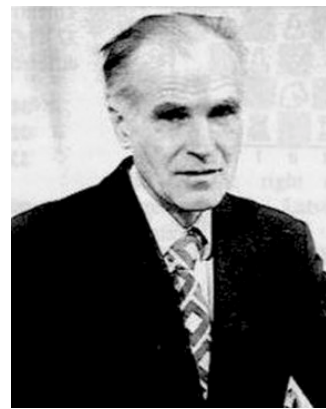
forward to hearing from as many volunteers as possible. Remember, everyone can do their bit to help increase membership!



Magazine 48 announced the Bernard Partridge Memorial - North Sea, "Stars Barred", Open Tournament. Entries were invited from players with grades below 2200, at £10 per head. The prize fund was 45% of entry fees. This tournament is still in play! One game is awaited to decide the winner, and the ratings of the finalists have improved markedly from the entry criterion over the years!

Issue 49 saw a new columnist take the stage - the Latvian Nikolai Gurtovoi, who had some original ideas on where to stick his king during games...

WINNING WITHOUT CASTLING!



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

120 years later, these bold thoughts by the first world champion are highly topical in our day. Many outstanding chess players, Capablanca, Alekhine, Botvinnik, Mikhail Tal, Bobby Fischer, Tigran Petrosian, Anatoly Karpov, Garry Kasparov, have played very well without castling.

Their uncastled play has inspired my correspondence chess!

Castling has several defects:

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

Here is a typical example from the 1941 USSR Championship:

Keres,P - Botvinnik,M [E35]

USSR Championship, 1941

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 d5 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Bg5 h6 7.Bh4 c5 8.0-0-0?

[Alas! Paul Keres is an outstanding chessplayer, but he didn't know the Steinitz doctrine!]

8...Bxc3 9.Qxc3 g5! 10.Bg3 cxd4! 11.Qxd4 Nc6 12.Qa4 Bf5! 13.e3

[Or 13.f3 Qb6! 14.e4 dxe4 15.Kb1 exf3+ 16.Ka1 Qb4!
17.Qxb4 Nxb4 18.Bb5+ Kf8! 19.Bd6+ Kg7 20.Bxb4 fxg2!]
13...Rc8 14.Bd3 Qd7!
[Threatening 15... Nb4+]
15.Kb1 Bxd3+ 16.Rxd3 Qf5! 17.e4 Nxe4 18.Ka1 0-0
[Another possibility is 18... Kf8!]
19.Rd1 b5! 20.Qxb5 Nd4 21.Qd3 Nc2+! 22.Kb1 Nb4! 0-1

My articles will try to demonstrate the benefits of play without castling. Here is one of my games from the 1970s.

Deutsch,H - Gurtovoi,N [B32]

International Thematic T433/23-G, 1975

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 e5 5.Nb5 a6 6.Nd6+ Bxd6 7.Qxd6 Qf6 8.Qd1 Qg6 9.Nc3 Nge7 10.h4 h5 11.Bg5 d6!?

[I don't think that the theoretical 11... d5 (?) is a weak move. The game Strautynsh-Norkin (III USSR Team CC Championship, 1972) has the following: 12.exd5 Nd4 13.Bd3 Bf5 14.Bxf5 Qxf5 15.0-0 f6 16.Be3 Nxc2 17.Rc1 Nxe3 18.fxe3 Qd7 19.d6 Nc6 20.Nd5 0-0 21.Rxc6! 1-0]

12.Bd3

[12.Rg1 is better.]

12...f6 13.Be3 Qxg2 14.Kd2!? Bg4 15.Qe1

[Other possibilities were 15.Qg1 or 15.Rg1]

15...Nd4 16.Bxd4 exd4 17.Nd5 Rc8 18.Qg1?

[White errs. After 18.Rg1! Qh2 19.Rh1 Qe5 20.f4 Qe6 21.Nxe7 Kxe7 22.Qf2 Rc5 23.Qxd4 Rhc8 24.c3 it is a position with complex play.]

18...Qf3 19.Re1 Kf7!

[Black's K is very well positioned without castling, as is White's.]

20.Be2 Rxc2+!

[Not 20... Qxe4? because of 21.Bc4!]

21.Kxc2 Qxe4+ 22.Kd2 Nxd5 23.Qg3

[If 23.Bc4 Qf4+ (a) 24.Kc2 Rc8 25.Kb3 Rxc4! 26.Kxc4 b5+! 27.Kxd5 (or 27.Kb3 Qf3+) 27... Bf3+; (b) 24.Kd3 Bf5+ 25.Ke2 d3+! 26.Bxd3 Re8]

23...Bxe2 24.Rxe2 Qxh1 25.Re1

[On first glance, Black's Q is in a trap, but ...]

25...Nc3! 26.f3

[If 26.Rxh1 Ne4+ and 27... Nxc3, or 26.bxc3 dxc3+]

26...Ne2! 27.Qf2

[Or 27.Rxe2 Qb1]

27...Qh3 28.Rxe2 Re8 29.Rxe8 Kxe8 30.Qxd4 Qe6 31.a4 Qe5 32.Qc4 Qxb2+ 33.Kd3 Kd7 34.Qf7+ Kc6 35.Qxg7 Qb3+ 36.Ke2 Qc4+ 37.Ke3 Qxh4 0-1



By my reckoning, we've now had 64 illustrated games, and he's still sending them in! I hope we publish many more!

The 50th edition of the Magazine came out in June 95, and it confirmed the invitation list for the Alan Shaw Memorial Tournament. Amongst the 15 were Scots Jim Stewart, Tommy Craig, Douglas Livie, Chris Boyle, Ian Marks and Tom Thomson.

The very literate Peter Jack entertained us with "A Midsummer Knight's Dream" (more from Peter later), while David Pritchard tried to interest us in...

PROGRESSIVE CHESS

Progressive chess has long been a popular medium for filling odd minutes at the club. In recent years however, it has also become a popular correspondence game, thanks largely to AISE, an Italian organisation devoted to variant chess.

Progressive chess, also known as Scotch or Scottish Chess (because Znosko-Borovski, who first publicised the game in 1947, claimed to have seen it first played in Scotland), has very simple rules. White opens with one move; Black then plays two consecutive moves either with the same or different pieces; White now has three consecutive moves; and so on. Games rarely go beyond about move 7 or 8. A player may not check until the last move of a turn, and the second player loses if unable to get out of a check immediately. Under the old rule, if you checked before the completion of your move sequence, this ended your turn; under the new rule, introduced in 1972, you lose if you check before the last move of your turn. The effect of this is to increase the power of the king and add new, lively play.

What are the advantages of progressive chess?

- It is fascinating from start to finish - no dull wood-pushing
- It is quick - a game takes only a few weeks (unless your opponent happens to be in Khatmandu!)
- No adjudications are necessary and draws represent a bare 1% of games played.
- You know you are playing another human being, not a computer dressed up as one!

Regular correspondence tournaments are organised by AISE and also by the British periodical *Variant Chess*. There is already a little literature, though mostly in Italian (Italian players dominate the game in the way the Soviets once dominated chess) - one book contains 10,000 tournament games! My own *Encyclopedia of Chess Variants* includes 15 game scores, reviews openings and the endgame. (Here, curiously, K+N+N wins for Black but not for White!).

To whet your appetite, some games from recent tournaments:

White: G Jellis

Black: Z Woronowicz

1.e3 2.e5,Nh6 3.a4,Bb5,Nh3 4.c6,d5,Bg4,Bxd1?

5.Kxd1,Ra3,Rc3,Rxc6,Re6#

White:G Dipilato

Black: M Leoncini

1.d4 2.Nf6,d5 3.e4,e5,Bb5+ 4.c6,Ne4,Kd7,exb5

5.Nc3,Nxe4,Ke2,f4,Nc5+ 6.Kc7,Bf5,Bxc2,f5,b6,Bxd1+?

7.Kd2,Kc3,Kb4,Na4,Nxb6,Ka5,Nxa8 - mate, as Black must now give check.



Issue 51 (September 95) featured a new series - Grandmasters of Correspondence Chess, with the first subject being Volker Anton.

Volker Anton was born in Magdeburg, Germany, on 31st October 1951. He has suffered from muscular dystrophy

since childhood, and is dependent upon a wheelchair. He works from home for the Stadtparkasse (Municipal Bank) in Magdeburg.

Volker tells us that he learned chess at age 11 from his father, and has been an active postal player since 1967, with early successes in East German Youth and Cup Tournaments. Since 1980, he has concentrated on international CC, becoming a regular member of the DDR Olympiad team since that year, and achieving his IM title in 1983. Volker was runner-up in the Scottish CCA Centenary Tournament, achieving his GM title in that event in 1987. He is playing on board 5 of the unified German team in the final of the CI Olympiad, with a fine score of 8 points from 11 completed games.

His current ICCF rating is 2630 (18th position), and he heads the BdF Rating List with 2567. Here is a short game from the CCCA-70 Tournament of 1993.

White: G van Perlo (NLD, 2415)
Black: V-M Anton (GER, 2630)
French Defence by transposition (C18)
1.Nc3!?

[Also has its supporters in prominent GM circles!]

1... d5 2.e4 e6 3.d4 Bb4

[We have landed in the realms of the French.]

4.e5 Ne7 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 c5 7.Qg4

[After our previous games were marked by long positional battles, my Dutch friend goes in for a sharper line this time - with something quite special up his sleeve!]

7... Qc7 8.Bd3 c4

[Preferring the closed handling of the position, whereas the alternative 8... cxd4 leads to livelier variations. But it was this very move on which White had been waiting!]

9.Qxg7?!

[A tremendous surprise! 9.Be2 is normal.]

9... Rg8 10.Qxh7 exd3 11.Qxd3

[Now the White plan after the bishop-for-three-pawns sacrifice is clear: keep the centre closed and advance the h-pawn on the K-side. Black reacts however with a clever set-up.]

11... b6! 12.h4 Ba6 13.Qf3 Qc4!

[Now the deficiencies of the White position are clear. The king is stuck in the centre, and an irony of fate: the h-pawn with its "field marshal's" baton in its rucksack doesn't even get one square closer to its dream square, h8!]

14.Nh3 Nf5

[14... Rg4! is also interesting.]

15.Ng5 Nc6

[There is no satisfactory defence to the sacrificial threat Nxd4]

16.Bb2

[Still hoping to castle queenside. 16.Bd2 Rxd5! 17.hxg5 Ncxd4! 18.cxd4 Nxd4 19.Rh8+ Kd7 20.Qxf7+ Kc6 and wins.]

16... Ncxd4! 17.cxd4 Qxc2!

[The point and refutation of 9.Qxg7?]

18.Rd1

[18.Bc3 Be2]

18... Qxb2 19.Rd2 Qb1+ 20.Rd1 Qb5! 21.Rc1 Kd7!!

[For me the most beautiful move of the game! Not White, but Black threatens to penetrate decisively via the c-file.]

22.Qh5

[A final, futile bluff.]

22... Nh6! 23.Nxf7 Rg4!

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[Mate can only be delayed by heavy losses, so ...]

0-1



In Magazine 52 (December 95), hidden in the small print was the award of the IM title to George Pyrich, the first to be awarded in a fax-only tournament! Alan Borwell was also able to announce that ICCF were splitting infinitives and preparing to boldly go with new technology...

From 1/1/96, ICCF is offering tournaments for all standards of chess player using fax or e-mail exclusively. The time of reflection for both will be 10 moves in 40 days, etc., and entry fees will be identical to those for normal CC play.

The fax-only events will begin for 7-player sections in all World and European classes, with 15-player sections in M Class only.

The e-mail tournaments (which will be organised by ICCF in conjunction with IECG) will be of two types:

1. E-mail Promotion Tournaments (leading to ICCF E-mail Championships). For players Elo 2100+ (CC or OTB ratings), there will be 7- or 15-player World Master Class sections, with promotion to Candidates and E-mail Championships. ICCF ratings and titles will be available in these tournaments.
2. E-mail Cup Tournament which will be progressive three-stage events for all standards of chess players, with Preliminary Sections of 7 players, Semi-Finals of 9 players and Finals of 11 players. In each Final, there will be cash prizes of CHF 400, 200 and 100 for the first three places, and all players scoring 50% or more will qualify for E-mail Promotion Tournaments.



Magazine 53 was something of a showcase for Andy Muir, recently qualified as a GM after his sparkling performance in the XI Olympiad Final.

I was born on 17th October 1958 in Glasgow. My father was a Statistics lecturer at Strathclyde University, and my mother a teacher. I needed to wear glasses from the age of six, and have been very studious ever since!

Indeed, it was while reading *Encyclopaedia Britannica* at the age of nine that I first read about chess. I wanted to play through some games, but didn't have a chess set, so I used two packs of playing cards to play. This involved placing 64 cards face down in the form of a square, while the pieces would be face-up cards. For the kings and queens, I would use the same playing cards as chess pieces, an ace would be a rook, a jack a bishop, a 10 a knight, and 2-9 were pawns!

I was fortunate that my school, St Aloysius College, had a chess club, and we moved house in 1969 to live only half a mile away from Giffnock Chess Club, one of the biggest in Scotland. I first represented Scotland in Junior International tournaments in 1973 and played regularly in these till 1978.

In 1979, I graduated from Glasgow University with a BSc Hons Statistics degree. I decided I was not strong enough to play chess professionally, so I started to study for Actuarial exams which I completed in 1986.

In 1987, having saved up some money, I started to work part-time in order to concentrate more on chess. I then concentrated full-time on chess between 1989 and 1991, and gained my International Master title (FIDE). I represented Scotland in the FIDE Olympiad in 1984, 1990 and 1992.

I first played correspondence chess in 1982, and scored my first IM norm in the Tournament of Merited Teams 1986-89, a tournament of European cities, organised from Poland, but won by Glasgow! I scored further IM norms in the preliminary section of the 4th European Team Championships and 3rd North Atlantic Team Tournament, and secured my GM title in the XI Olympiad Final, with a score of 9/12 on board 2.

I have only lost one correspondence chess game out of 64 played. That was in the Tournament of Merited Teams when I sacrificed a pawn and never got it back!

I can attribute my success to several factors:

1. I have been lucky not to be hit by too many opening innovations!
2. Other things in life have not distracted me too much from my games!
3. Playing only one tournament at a time, and deliberately not playing too many games at once.
4. I never play quick moves, no matter how obvious they may seem.
5. Writing down all my analysis so as not to forget it.

In 1991, I wanted to go back to full-time work but, due to the advance of computers in the insurance industry, I took up another career in schoolteaching. For the last three years, I have been doing supply teaching in the Strathclyde area. I was supposed to teach just mathematics, but I now end up teaching every subject in the curriculum, and have taught in 68 different schools. I often phone the Regional Education Dept at 850am and they will tell me which school I have to go to. It can be a very tiring job, because in the current moral climate, many schoolchildren have no respect for their elders, and it can be impossible to control a class.

I believe one hundred points should be deducted from all chess ratings. There will always be inflation in any system, especially as it is in human nature for ways of improving ratings for individuals for publicity, etc. This would be one way of correcting that!

Although I don't like the introduction of computers in chess, as they take a lot of skill out of the game and making it more of a test of who has the computer with the best memory or database, I believe that correspondence chess rules should be changed so that any outside help is permitted. This would then make correspondence chess like project work, similar to the work schoolchildren have to undertake when doing continuous assessment for an exam. I certainly don't care what assistance my opponent is having during the game, and just assume he is always going to play the best moves when doing my analysis.

I am not sure I shall be playing much correspondence chess in the near future. Whilst I have always found chess a fulfilling hobby, I cannot say the same about my career - either in actuarial work or teaching.

Therefore, I intend over the next few years to spend more time concentrating on my career. I have recently started a new actuarial job which involves making insurance quotations more "online" in a computing sense. I also tutor two evenings a week in mathematics and physics.

I have also developed an interest in foreign travel. This started off when I played Junior International chess tournaments in the 1970s, and I have now been to more than thirty-five countries. Work permitting, these holidays have been getting longer and longer, and involve going to faraway places. During the Olympiad Final, I have been sending moves from eg. Denmark or Thailand or Hungary, and this involves making expensive telephone calls home to see if any postcards have arrived. My "Eastern European Tour" of last summer lasted eight weeks, and you are only allowed four weeks holiday in international correspondence chess tournaments. What to do?

Muir,A - Peretjatkowicz,T [A67]

Tournament of Merited Teams, 1989

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 e6 4.Nc3 exd5 5.cxd5 d6 6.e4 g6 7.f4 Bg7 8.Bb5+ Nfd7

[Taimanov's Variation and this is the main line, stopping threats of e5. However, 8... Nbd7 is a provocative alternative played at the highest level, eg 8... Nbd7 9.e5 dxe5 10.fxe5 Nh5 11.e6 Qh4+ 12.g3 Nxg3 13.hxg3 Qxh1 14.Be3 Bxc3+ 15.bxc3 a6 16.exd7+ Bxd7 17.Bxd7 Kxd7 18.Qb3! and White won in Sokolov-Topalov, 1996.]

9.a4 0-0 10.Nf3 a6 11.Be2

[It is a question of style where to retreat this bishop. On e2, it is intended to meet Black's plan of ... Nf6 and ... Bb4 with e5. One of my recent adversaries, Adrian Hollis, was one of the first to play in this way. 11.Bd3 is another option when White would play for f5 instead.]

11...Qc7

[Unusual. Now, not 12.Nd2? Bd4!]

12.0-0 c4!?

[Now we see the point of 11... Qc7. Black intends to develop his d7 knight on c5 and unravel his development another way. He is prepared to sacrifice the c4 pawn if necessary.]

13.Nd2 b5!

[Not 13... Nb6? 14.a5. Black sacrifices his less useful b-pawn rather than the c-pawn which is controlling some important squares.]

14.axb5 Nb6 15.Kh1!

[I want to be able to capture on b5 with my knight after ... axb5, without allowing Qc5+. 15.bxa6? is too greedy. Black can play Bxa6 followed by N8-d7-c5 with great dark-square control, similar to that enjoyed in the Benko Gambit.]

15...Bd7!

[This improves on 15... N8d7 16.e5! dxe5 17.Nde4 Bb7 18.bxa6 Rxa6 19.Rxa6 Bxa6 20.f5! Bb7 21.f6 and White should win as in Li Zunian-Sax, 1985.]

16.e5! [I decide to sacrifice a pawn now, meeting 16... dxe5 by 17.Nde4 rather than pawn-grabbing by 16.bxa6.]

16...axb5 17.Rxa8 Nxa8 18.exd6!?

[I could have played 18.Nde4 here. Black is better placed than the Li Zunian-Sax game, having a bishop on d7 rather than the knight, and so can meet this with 18... dxe5 19.f5

Bxf5 though 19.d6 is possible. I decide to regain my material with a tempo attack on the black queen.]

18...Qxd6 19.Nde4 Qb4!

[The most active square for the queen.]

20.Qc2

[I have to waste a tempo defending my b-pawn. I didn't like 20.Be3 Qxb2 21.Bd4 b4! 22.Bxg7 Kxg7 23.Qd4+ f6 24.Rb1 Qa3 25.Qc5 Na6 when Black has a dangerous passed pawn, or 20.d6 (giving up the c6 square to the Nb8), eg 20... Nb6 21.Be3 Qxb2 22.Bd4 Nc6!]

20...Na6 21.Be3

[If 21.d6 Bf5!]

21...Re8

[Threatening 22... f5.]

22.Ra1! Bc8?

[I didn't like this move at the time, but I can't remember why! I have given it a ? in my old notes, but if 22... N6c7 23.Bc5 or 22... N8c7 23.d6 seem good for White, perhaps 23... Bc6 24.dxc7 Nxc7 25.Bf3 f5 might give some counterplay.]

23.d6! Bb7

[If 23... f5 24.Nd5 Qxb2 25.Qxb2 Bxb2 26.Nef6+ Kf7 27.d7! Bxd7 28.Rxa6 saves the rook just in time.]

24.Bf3 f5

[Forcing the Ne4 to choose a square. If 24... Kh8 25.d7 Rd8 26.Ng5 wins.]

25.d7 Rb8 26.Nf6+! Bxf6 27.Bxb7 N6c7

[If 27... Rxb7 28.Rxa6 Qf8 (or if 27... N8c7 28.Bxa6) 29.Qd2 Rb8 30.Qd5+ Kg7 31.Rxf6+ Kxf6 32.Bd4+ wins.]

28.Qd2!!

[My favourite move of the game. A waiting move, controlling the important squares d4, d5 d7, d8. The more direct 28.Nd5? fails to 28... Nxd5 29.Bxd5+ Kg7 30.Bxa8 Rxa8 31.Rxa8 Rxa8 32.Bg1 Bd4 33.Rg8+ Kh6! and Black wins! Or 28.Bf3 Kg7! and ... Qf8 and Black defends more easily.]

28...Rxb7 [If 28... Qf8 29.Nd5, or 28... Kg7 29.Bxa8 Nxa8 30.Bd4 Qd6 31.Nxb5!]

29.Rxa8+! [Since if 29... Nxa8 30.Qd5+ wins.] **1-0**



In response to Andy's question, today's email player can do quite nicely anywhere in the world by travelling with a notebook or palm computer which can dial the internet and allow mail to be retrieved quickly and cheaply. Web server chess is more sophisticated, but can be accessed in the same way. No sooner had Andy's article appeared, than we were sitting down to David Kilgour's GM story, he having won his final norm by scoring 9/12 in the Algerian Invitation Tournament. This from Magazine 54 (July 96)....

I was born in Dundee on 18th September 1957 and lived there until married in 1983, from which time we have moved around Scotland. Currently, my wife Sheila and I live in Galashiels with two cats.

I played over-the-board chess until about 1984, but realised that, even in Scottish terms, I was never going to be good at it, so I started playing correspondence chess about 1972 (with no real success).

My games were mostly interesting, if sometimes difficult to understand, but I still remember one window envelope that

Chris Morrison and I shared for thirteen moves using only one stamp! (*A practice now outlawed!*)

From about 1984, my play improved and my results reflected this improvement.

I must parallel the article in the previous magazine by Andrew Muir at this stage, by trying to identify the reasons for my success (well, in becoming a Grandmaster at least).

1. *I have been lucky not to be hit by too many opening innovations!* This is also the case in my recent games but, on the other hand, when I am lost in most modern opening lines, I rarely notice that my game has produced an innovation anyway.
2. *Other things in life have not distracted me too much from my games!* In my case, my games have distracted me from other things in life!
3. *Playing only one tournament at a time, and deliberately not playing too many games at once.* I have always thought that this is a good idea. It was Douglas Bryson who first told me that this is the way to get good results, but I have always tried to play in as many events as possible as I can still remember the times when I was not selected to play.
4. *I never play quick moves, no matter how obvious they may seem.* I usually try to play quick moves or else the flood of cards coming in would engulf me.
5. *Writing down all my analysis so as not to forget it.* I do agree with this factor and have in the last three or four years started to use a notebook to keep my analysis and, reviewing my notebook at the present time, find that I have almost completed the first page!

As you can see from the above, it takes all types to make up the world of chess players, but I would say that the Andrew Muir method of playing correspondence chess by recording everything and only playing a limited number of games is probably the best method to achieve success.

Alan Borwell asked me to annotate a couple of exciting games, but unfortunately I have not played any exciting games in the last twenty years, so I offer the following *mildly exciting* game as my best effort!

**Fabri,F - Kilgour,D [C02]
XI Olympiad Final, 1995
1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5**

[This is the advance variation, which results in a difficult game for Black as he is constrained by the wedge of white pawns on b2, c3, d4 and e5, but these pawns allow Black strong counterplay by c5, b5-b4, and f6. The main idea for White is to tie Black up and then start a kingside attack as Black often castles there. Even if Black castles queenside, he will find that White can open that side of the board by playing b4, a4, etc., or perhaps c4 in some variations. Black has to plan how to play after 3.e5 with the following choices available:

- a. try to exchange white-squared bishops as the black bishop will not have much scope for some time
- b. knights will be good pieces for attacking the white centre in this closed position, so f5 and c6 will be good positions for black knights
- c. play c5 to attack the base of the pawn chain and develop the black queen to b6 and knight to c6 to build up pressure on the d-pawn

d. play c5 and rook to the c-file and play cxd-pawn with the plan of control of the open file
e. play f6 and try to undermine the white centre - this will often result in either the f- or g-file being opened, giving Black attacking opportunities.]

3...c5 4.Nf3 Nc6

[4... cxd4 is fine, but I prefer the long-term closed lines as, after cxd4, the position is opened and the e-pawn could become weak, but White gets good attacking chances.]

5.c3 Qb6 6.a3

[Black's last move stops the white black-squared bishop moving and adds to the pressure on the d4 square. If 6.b3 cxd4 7.cxd4 Bb4+ or 6.dxc5 Bxc5 and Black is active. The main alternative to 6.a3 is 6.Be2 and Black could try the plan with the knights explained above.]

6...c4

[I played Fabri in the SCCA Magazine Tourney, and tried a plan involving a5, cxd4 and f6 to clear the white centre, but White managed to get a good kingside attack and I lost in 32 moves. White has the idea of queenside expansion involving b4 and a4, so c4 stops this idea for the moment.]

7.Nbd2 Na5 8.g3 Bd7 9.h4

[9.Bh3 or 9.Bg2 seem better, but the idea behind 9.h4 is to gain space on the kingside by h5-h6 and Nh2-g4.]

9...0-0 10.Bh3 f5

[With the idea of playing Nh6-f7, protecting d6 and threatening to further undermine e5 by g5.]

11.exf6 gxf6 12.0-0 Ne7

[Black is planning a kingside attack by opening the centre with e5, but first he must take control of the g-file. Black will exchange the white-squared bishops after e5, which will help with the attack on the kingside, but it does also weaken the black king.]

13.Re1 Rg8 14.Nh2

[Perhaps this is part of a long-term plan, but it is difficult to see it in the game, as e5 opens the position and the knight is left at the edge of the board with no place to go. I was rather troubled at this point, as I wished to play Bg7 before e5, but e5 is now quite good as it will open up the centre to Black's advantage as his pieces are better developed.]

14...e5 15.Bxd7+ Rxd7 16.Qh5

[Perhaps 16.Nhf3 was better here.]

16...exd4 17.Kf1

[There were various threats due to the black queen being on the a7-g1 diagonal, which 17.Kf1 stops. White really has major difficulties in developing his queenside pieces. Black has some advantage, especially as his plan has worked quite well, and he controls the centre. White will get some queenside play if Black accepts the pawn, and Black should strengthen the centre with Nac6.]

17...dxc3? 18.bxc3 d4 19.Rb1 Qa6 20.Qxh7 dxc3 21.Ndf3 Nac6

[The white king is still in trouble, but it is amazing that the pair of black-squared bishops are static after 21 moves.]

22.Re3 f5 23.Ne1 Rd1 24.Kg2 Qa4 25.Nhf3 c2 26.Rb4 Qa6 27.Rc3 Nxb4

[The black-squared bishops never moved in this game, while the knights played a major part in the destruction of the white centre, which is often the case in closed variations of the French.] 0-1

(Forever modest, David explained this win by giving a question mark to Fabri's move from Hungary to New Zealand during the game!).

I would like to close this article by thanking the many people who have helped me gain the GM title, with special tributes to Michael Fallone and the late Nancy Elder, who were responsible for encouraging and training a generation of players in the Dundee area during the 1970s.



Magazine 55 featured a nice piece of chess fiction ("Predicting the Opponent's Move") by Neil McEwan, sadly too long to reproduce here. In issue 56, Bernard Milligan legislated for how the "new" technologies of fax and email could be incorporated into SCCA domestic tournaments. Number 57 (Spring 97) broke new ground by moving to A4 size - same cover and heat-sealed spine as before, but try getting it into your jacket pocket! The issue featured a profile of prolific CC author and publisher Tim Harding, and one of his games from "Black is ok in CC too!" is reprinted here:

Irish CC Championship 1995-96

White: Tim Harding

Black: John Delaney

Caro-Kann, Pseudo Latvian (B10)

1.e4 c6 2.c4 e5

[John avoids the Panov Attack, which led to a draw in one of our OTB encounters. His other main defence to 1.e4 is the Sveshnikov, but for some reason he never tried to play this against me, probably suspecting I would avoid it.]

3.Nf3 f5

[There is so little on this in Caro-Kann books, so John may have reckoned he was getting me "out of the book".

However, I have six books on the Latvian (though I don't play it with Black and rarely meet it), so most of my openings research now concentrated on the line 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.exf5, looking for differences I could exploit.]

4.exf5 d6 5.d4 e4 6.Ng5

[This is the right move in the corresponding Latvian Gambit variation.]

6... Nf6

[Probably he should prefer 6... Qa5+, an option Black lacks in the Latvian, when 7.Nc3 Bxf5 (7... Qxf5 8.Ngxe4 stays a pawn up) 8. Qb3 is interesting; 8.Bd2 also comes into consideration. Instead, if 6... Bxf5 7.Nc3 (Bücker) looks best in this Caro variation. 7.Qe2 is a known idea, although with c-pawns removed I like this less. By analogy also, not 7.f3? Qe7! 8.fxe4 h6! (a Tiemann move overlooked by Kosten in his Latvian book).]

7.Ne6

[Now White at least obtains the bishop pair. I wasn't keen on 7.f3?! which is recommended in the analogous position by Bücker and Kosten. The issue is, what difference does the move 2 c-pawn advance make? In my opinion, it should help White (he has more space and no ... Nc6 to worry about), so the weakening f2-f3 is unnecessary.]

7... Bxe6 8.fxe6 d5

[This is known to give double-edged play in the Latvian line, but here White probably has the advantage as he can play cxd5 prior to either g3 (threat Bh3) or Bh5/Qa4 ideas.]

9.Nc3 Bb4 10.Qb3 Qe7 11.Bg5 0-0 12.Be2

[The soft answer that turneth away wrath. White just plays calmly and Black gradually falls apart without White having to take any risks. Instead, computers want to play moves like 12.0-0-0 (which leads to a risky pawn grab with White's

king exposed: 12... Bxc3 13.bxc3 Qxe6 unclear) or 12.cxd5?! cxd5 13.Bxf6 Qxf6 14.Qxb4 Qxf2+ 15.Kd1 Nc6 when Black's compensation for the piece looks excellent, exactly the sort of game that Delaney wanted.]
12... a5 13.a3 Bxc3+ 14.bxc3 Qxe6 15.Bxf6 Qxf6 16.0-0 Qe6 17.cxd5 cxd5 18.c4 Qa6?!

[This is overdoing the queen moves, but Black is reduced to playing for traps. If 18... Nc6 19.cxd5 Nxd4 20.dxe6 Nxb3 21.e7+ or 18... Nd7 19.cxd5, but 18... Qf7 19.cxd5 Nc6 looks like some improvement.]

19.Rab1 Rf7

[If 19... Nc6 White is ready to break up the centre: 20.cxd5 Nxd4 21.Bxa6 Nxb3 22.Bxb7 Nd2 23.Bxa8 Nxb1 24.Rxb1 and White is a pawn up in the endgame.]

20.f3 Qf6

[Another surprise, but if 20... Nc6 21.cxd5 Nxd4 (21... Qxe2 22.dxc6 exf3?? 23.Rxf3+ or 22... a4 23.cxb7 Rb8 24.Qd5+-) 22.Bxa6 Nxb3 23.Rxb3 looks simplest.]

21.fxe4 Qxd4+ 22.Kh1 a4

[If 22... dxe4 23.c5 or 22... Rf2 23.cxd5 Nd7 24.d6+ Kh8 25.Qxb7 Rd8 26.Qxd7 or 22... Rc7 23.cxd5 a4 24.Qg3 should be a comfortable White win.]

23.Qb5 Re7 24. Rbd1 1-0

[White had sent the conditional 24... Qxe4 (or 24... Qe5 25.Rxd5) 25.Bf3]



David Kilgour succeeded Alan Borwell as President at the AGM in Stirling on 1st June 1997, and paid tribute to the 20 years of unstinting service put in by his predecessor. Peter Jack, who likes his literature, was prompted by the summer sun to contribute this ditty in issue 58 (Summer 97)....

THE PLAYING OF CHESS

(With Apologies to TS Eliot)

The playing of chess is a difficult matter,
 It isn't just one of your holiday games;
 You may think at first I'm as mad as a hatter
 When I tell you a player has THREE DIFFERENT AIMS.
 First of all there's the wish to come first and not second,
 To make sure that the one kicking cats isn't you,
 By the employment of logic and wit that is fecund,
 Combinations that sparkle, and ideas that are new.
 There's a fancier aim if you wax philosophical
 And trawl through the maze of the mind's hidden lairs;
 To conclude in the end that it's all allegorical,
 An attempt to find truth within sixty-four squares.
 But above and beyond there's still one aim left over,
 And that is the aim that you never will guess;
 The aim that no human research can discover -
 But THE PLAYER DOES KNOW, and will never confess.
 When you notice a player in profound meditation,
 The reason, I tell you, is simple to prove:
 His mind is engaged in a rapt contemplation
 Of the thought, of the thought, of the thought of his move:
 His ineffable effable
 Effanineffable
 Deep and inscrutable singular Move.



New ICCF President Alan Borwell was interviewed by David Kilgour in issue 59 (the text of this is on the website), and Tommy Craig, Simon Gillam and Joe Watson were confirmed as SMs by Grading Officer Raymond Baxter.

Magazine 60 carried news of the demise of old friend Reg Gillman, and of the impending SCCA website, while John Hawkes wrote on the queen v 3 minor pieces motif. In issue 61 (Spring 98), Joe Watson chronicled the Pelikan Memorial Email Tournament, from which this game comes:

White: J Watson (SCO, 2500)

Black: CS Allaria (ARG, 2350)

Nimzo-Indian Classical (E32)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2

[The Classical variation of the Nimzo-Indian, popular in recent years, and highly popular at GM level. I have a really huge score with it in the past few years. White normally gets the two bishops without having to suffer grotty pawns on the c-file. It is hardly a refutation of the Nimzo-Indian, but offers White a small but enduring edge for a long time.]

4... 0-0 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Qxc3 Qe8

[This is an unusual sideline, b6, d6 and even b5 being more common. I played the antidote Ivan Sokolov recommends in his book "Nimzo-Indian Defence - Classical Variation".]

7.f3 d6 8.e4 e5 9.Be3 Nbd7 10.Ne2 a5 11.b3

[To stop Black fixing White's queenside pawns with a5-a4.]

11... c6 12.Ng3 d5

[Black tries to free his game, but the open lines that result

suit White's two bishops.]
13.cxd5 cxd5 14.dxe5 Qxe5 15.Bd4 Qe6 16.Bd3 dxe4 17.fxe4 b6

[Black wants to swap a pair of bishops to blunt White's attacking prospects on the kingside. On the face of it, this seems a reasonable plan, but White's control of some important white squares on the kingside, notably f5, is undiminished, and perhaps a plan involving pressure on the e-file with ... Re8, together with blocking the long diagonal with ... Ne5, would have been better.]

18.0-0 Ba6 19.Bxa6 Rxa6 20.Nf5!

[I like this one. Black faces severe problems on the black squares around his king.]

20... Kh8

[20... Qxe4 21.Rae1 Qb7 (21... Qg4 22.Bxf6 Nxf6 23.Qxf6) 22.Qg3 g6 23.Ne7+ Kg7 24.Rxf6 Nxf6 25.Bxf6+ Kxf6 26.Qe5#; 20... Nxe4 21.Qc2 Nec5 22.Bxg7 Re8 23.Nh6+ Kxg7 24.Rxf7+ +-]

21.Rf4

[White has more time to move more of the big pieces over to the kingside, where their influence should decide matters quickly, given Black's indefensible problems on the black squares. Nxe7 is an obvious try here instead, but I couldn't make it work quickly, so it must be premature given White's supremacy here.]

21... b5

[Allowing a fourth Black piece to defend the vulnerable f6 square. It's not enough.]

22.Raf1 b4 23.Qg3 Rg8 24.Rh4 g6

[24... h6 25.Nxh6 gxh6 26.Rxh6#; 24... Nf8 25.Nxg7 Rxg7 26.Rxf6! Rxg3 27.Rxe6+ Kg8 28.Rxa6 +-]

25.Qh3 1-0

[25... h5 (25... Nf8 26.Nh6 Qxh3 27.Rxh3 Kg7 28.Rxf6 Rxf6 29.Bxf6+ Kxf6 30.Nxg8+ +-) 26.Rxh5+ gxh5 27.Qxh5#]



In Magazine 62, we read of Alan Hind retiring as Secretary after 15 years service, to be replaced by Iain Sneddon, and George Pyrich handed over the Games Column after 6 years to Bernard Milligan.

Issue 63 saw three new SMS - George Sprott, Jim Stewart and Raymond Baxter, and a very different slant on chess from Carlos Almarza-Mato - philosophical and mystical! Also, Bernard Milligan began his series of ChessBase reviews (refer the website for the full set of articles).

Edition 64 (Winter 98) featured articles by David Salter, Carlos Almarza-Mato and Peter Jack, while Tommy Craig was developing the "Corresponding Difference" series....

"It was having to win the game twice that got to me. After winning the actual game, you have to win the post-mortem. My defeated opponents always tried to prove they should have won the game".

My old friend Craig Murray gave up chess at Strathclyde University in the late 1970s. Similar experiences with the "Shall we go over the game?" invitation may have been a factor when I abstained from OTB chess for a couple of years in the early 1980s.

During a critical Edinburgh League match, I tried an enterprising double piece sacrifice and won in less than 20 moves. I made the mistake of justifying this sacrificial play in the post-mortem. That very irate defeated opponent became convinced that a different third move against my Grand Prix Attack would have resulted in his victory!

Pedro Martinez Acosta Memorial, Group B, 1995-98

White: Tom Craig (SCO)

Black: Marcelo Hedrera (ARG)

QP Marshall's Gambit (D31)

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6 4.e4

[Marshall's Gambit is a sharp pawn sacrifice which attempts to punish Black for delaying Nf6.]

4... dxe4 5.Nxe4 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Qxd4 7.Bxb4 Qxe4+

8.Be2

[8.Ne2 e5!?!]

8... Ne7

[In the analysis room, some defeated OTB opponents would argue that, if they had chosen a different eighth move, I would have been on the ropes! A recent OTB game perhaps demonstrates a better approach: 8... Na6 9.Bc3 f6 10.Nf3 Ne7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Re1 Qf4 13.b4 Qc7 14.Bd3 e5 15.Nxe5 fxe5 16.Bxe5 Qd8 17.Bxh7+ Kxh7 18.Qh5+ Kg8 19.Bxg7 Kxg7 20.Rad1 Qc7 21.c5 Ng6 22.Rd6 Qf7 23.f4 Nxb4 24.g4 Nd5 25.f5 Bxf5 Williams-Barsov, Oxford GMB 1998]

9.Qd2

[9.Nf3 Nd5!]

9... Ng6 10.Nh3!

[10.0-0-0 Qf4!]

10... f6 11.0-0-0 Kf7 12.f3

[12.g4!?! c5 unclear]

12... Qh4 13.Bc5 e5

[In CC, an opponent does not have to wait until the analysis room to know that he has reason to regret his chosen line.

"I've just received a copy of Informant 65, where I find your move 10. I realise that I'm not doing too bad thinking by myself; now I've got to find a move to make better than in that game." In CC, you often have to win the post-mortem during the game!]

14.Nf2 Nf4!? 15.Ne4 Na6 16.Nd6+

[16.Bf2 Nxe2+ 17.Qxe2 Qh6+ 18.Be3 Qg6 19.h4 h5 =+]

16... Kg8 17.Bxa7 Nxe2+ 18.Qxe2 Qg5+

[18... Rxa7? 19.Nxc8!]

19.Be3

[19.Kb1? Bf5+]

19... Qg6 20.h4

[threat h5!]

20... h5 21.a3 Kh7 22.g4 Rd8

[22... hxg4? 23.h5!!]

23.gxh5 Qxh5 24.Bb6 Rd7 25.Qe4+ Kh8 26.Nxc8

Rxd1+ 27.Rxd1 Rxc8 28.Rd7 Rb8 29.Ba7 Rc8 30.Rxb7

Qe8 31.Be3 Nc7

[31... Rc7]

32.h5 Qxh5 33.Qxc6 Qh1+ 34.Kc2 Rd8 35.Kb3

[35.Qxc7 Qd1+ 36.Kc3 Qe1+ 37.Kb3 Qxe3+ 38.Ka2 Rg8]

35... Ne6

[35... Rd3+? 36.Ka2 Rxe3 37.Qxc7 Qh6 (37... Qg2

38.Qd8+ Kh7 39.Qxf6) 38.c5! Rxf3 39.c6]

36.Ka2

[36.Qxe6?! Qxf3!]

36... Rd1?

[36... Nd4 37.Bxd4 exd4 (37... Rxd4?? 38.Qc8+ Kh7

39.Qf5+ Kh6 40.Rb8 +-) 38.Rxg7; 36... Nf4 37.Bxf4 exf4

38.Qc7+; 36... Qh3 37.a4!?! (37.Bb6); 36... Nf8 37.Bb6!

Rd1 38.Rb8 +-]

37.Rb8+ Kh7 38.Qe4+ g6 39.Qb7+ Ng7 40.Qa8! Ra1+

41.Kb3 Qd1+ 42.Kb4 g5 43.Rh8+ Kg6 44.Qe4+ Nf5

[44... Kf7 45.Qb7+; 44... f5 45.Qc6+]

45.Qb7! Qe1+

[45... Qd6+ 46.Bc5 Qd2+ 47.Ka4]

46.Ka4 1-0



Magazine 65 saw Carlos Almarza-Mato back in action again, this time trying to analyse Bobby Fischer. Here is an excerpt from a long article:

*"What is now proved,
was once only imagined."*

William Blake

Chess is a very complicated game. Any player whose aim is to become a strong player or whose goal is to devote himself to chess in a professional way, or even any player who wanted to make his way in the field of postal chess, is in fact entering the difficult realm of competitive sport. It does not matter if you want to win tournaments or become a correspondence chess GM. In both cases, the player needs a systematic training. Training methods have been devised by professional trainers, and any of us can find them in books, articles, chess magazines, etc. And in my humble opinion, the first requisite one needs is that of an open mind. The player has to devote his time not only to memorise opening variations, and the ideas expressed by the leading players of the moment. You need independent thought and the strength and capacity for discerning the many prejudices this world is full of.

One of the defects of many modern top players is that they have consciously forgotten the study of the classics. "Nobody plays like that now." This is too frequently said, and far worse, I add. I have read interviews made by strong professional players, who say they have never studied the games played by Fischer, Spassky, Botvinnik, let alone Capablanca or Alekhine. And this explains why they will never become World Champions or even Candidates. Take Karpov or Spassky, for instance. Karpov became what he has been thanks to the study of Capablanca, while Spassky's model was Alekhine.

So, if the study of players who preceded them thirty or forty years in time helped them to become World Champions, how can it be said today that it is not necessary to study Fischer, Spassky or Botvinnik at the same time that you study the contemporary GMs? By accepting concepts like this, the player is simply hampering his own development. An important part of the strength of a chess player is the knowledge of all those who have preceded him. In the study of the classics you will find the development of the different strategic and tactical ideas which are part of the player's weaponry.

Ideas have changed, new methods have been discovered, new approaches are used, but to know the exceptions you must know the rules first. It is very funny to see how many leading players say one thing but do a different one. The games played by Steinitz, Alekhine, etc, can be a source of inspiration to produce even some opening surprises. Perhaps some of their ideas have been forgotten, but many others can become deadly weapons if re-assessed under the light of the new approaches in the field of chess strategy. With the present state of chess, the use of computers, etc, we must accept - the earlier the better - that the more weapons we have, the more success we can achieve. And ideas are not the patrimony of modernity. Anything which is useful is useful, and has to be quickly integrated into our own set of concepts. It does not matter who produced it or when it was produced.....



Edition 66 confirmed Simon Gillam's win in the 1998-99 Championship, and 67 announced two more SMs - Doug Finnie and Tom Thomson. Scotland's bronze at the XI Olympiad was confirmed - a great achievement! Issue 68 featured Andrew Macmillen reviewing Robert Dalglish's book "Lenin's Casino", and John Knudsen kicking off a series of articles on the Swede Sture Nyman.

Issue 69 contained a report from George Pyrich (something of an unsung hero with his work on both the international and domestic fronts) on the Dutch 30th Anniversary Tournament. Here is a win by George from NBC 30:

White: Y Oksanen (FIN)
Black: G D Pyrich (SCO)
QGD (D58)

[I finally managed to win a game in this, my last to finish.]
1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 Be7 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bg5 0-0 6.e3 h6 7.Bh4 b6 8.Be2 Bb7 9.cxd5 exd5 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Rc1 Ne4

[11... c5 is the most popular move here, when 12.dxc5 is most commonly played. Instead, 12.Bb5 is not so good.]

12.Bxe7 Qxe7 13.Qb3 Ndf6 14.Rc2?!

[I suspect he intended first 14.Nxe4 Nxe4 and then 15.Rc2 Rfc8 16.Rfc1 c5 17.Qa3 Rc6 18.dxc5 bxc5 19.Nd4 Rg6 with chances for both sides in Portisch-Vaganian, Niksic 1978]

14... c5 15.Ne5?!

[I'm not sure what his idea was here.]

15... c4 16.Qb5 Nd6 17.Qb4 a5! 18.Qa4

[Not 18.Qxb6?? Rfc8 with Ra6 to follow, trapping the White Q.]

18... Nfe4 19.Bf3 Nxc3 20.Rxc3 b5

[A fairly easy position to play, where Black's plan is simply to advance on the Q-side.]

21.Qd1 b4 22.Rc1 a4 23.Qd2 Nb5 24.Qe2 Ra5 25.Rb1 Rfa8 26.Qc2 b3

[With a winning position for Black. White now tries to generate some counterplay on the K-side, but it's already too late.]

27.axb3 axb3 28.Qf5 Nd6 29.Qf4 R8a6

[Planning to treble on the a-file and play Ra1.]

30.Bh5 Bc8 31.Bg4 Bxg4 32.Qxg4 Qa7 33.h3 Ra1

34.Kh2 Rxb1 35.Rxb1 Qc7

[Trying another tack as 35... Ra1 36.Qd1 doesn't lead anywhere.]

36.Qd1 Ne4 37.f3 Nd6 38.Kg1 Qc8 39.Qe1 Ra2 40.e4

[Virtually forced, as Black planned 40... f6 with Qe8-g6-c2 to follow.]

40... dxe4 41.fxe4 Qe6! 42.Qb4 f6 43.Nxc4

[Giving up the piece, but there was nothing better.]

43... Nxc4 44.Qxb3 Ra6 45.Qd3 Ra7 46.b3 Nd6 47.Re1 Re7 0-1

[The e-pawn soon falls and Black will convert the material advantage.]



Magazine 70 announced that Iain Mackintosh was taking over as President after David Kilgour's retirement.

Edition 71 carried interesting articles from George Pyrich, Dave Savage, John Knudsen, John Hawkes, Bernard Milligan, and Tom Thomson (later to join the IM ranks).

Finally, issue 72 (Winter 2000) wound up the series, with a well-deserved vote of thanks to Alan and Moira Borwell for their long service in producing such a consistently high-quality magazine. Fittingly, a Magazine 21st Anniversary Tournament was being organised.... The coming e-mag was previewed, and the hot news was that Richard Beecham had won the first of his 100% Championships, and that the Email Team of Craig, Giulian, Finnie and Pyrich would receive certificates for their excellent 2nd= place in the first Email TT Final.

And that's all we have room for! I hope this collection of articles has given you a flavour of the achievements of the Association and its members over our first 25 years.

If I've missed out or cannibalised your favourite article, then please forgive me - whoever does the Golden Jubilee souvenir is hereby charged with putting things to rights!