

EFCC CORRESPONDENT

*Correspondence Chess quarterly •
Issue 3 / January 2024*

BCCA Amalgamation

**4th English
Championship**

**ICCF
Ratings**

**World Champion
Jon Edwards**

**BBC The
Master Game**

EFCC

EFCC Information



MEMBERSHIP

EFCC OFFICERS

President: Ian M Pheby
Deputy President: Keith Kitson
General Secretary: John Rhodes
International Secretary: Phillip J Beckett
Treasurer: Ian M Pheby
Tournament Organiser: Keith Kitson

BECOME A MEMBER



Please consider joining us, all English correspondence players are encouraged to support the work of the Federation by becoming a Patron. Patrons may attend and speak at Executive Committee meetings and may vote at Annual General Meetings. The funds raised in this way are vital to the work of the Federation.

Annual Patronage of the EFCC costs £12 or you can become a Life Patron for £120.00. To join , please send a cheque (payable to EFCC) to the Treasurer, Ian M Pheby, Oaklea Cottage, Horsham Road, Capel, Dorking, Surrey RH5 5JH) or use the PayPal facility at <https://bit.ly/JoinEFCC>

MEMBER ORGANISATIONS

Clergy Correspondence Chess Club, Braille Chess Assn. , British CC Association., Natcor Chess Club, Yorkshire Chess Association, Social Correspondence Chess Association,

LIFE PATRONS

Paul A. Batchelor; Phillip J. Beckett; I Wes Bell; Michael J Blake; Johnathan D Bourne; Richard J Braunton; John G Brookes; Ian S Brooks; A C Carrington; Duncan Chambers; C R Chandler; Colin Cheek; Sean Clark; Julian Corfield; Alastair Cowan; Andrew Dearnley; Leslie Eastoe; Les Ellis, Derek Gallimore; Clive F Girling; Stan J Grayland; Richard V M Hall; Maurice W Johnson; Mary E Jones; David A Kilgour; Keith Kitson; Neil Limbert; Peter R Markland; Ian J Mason; Peter J Millican; Peter S Morton; Andrew Muir; Richard Perrin; Ian M Pheby; Peter S Phillips; C R Pope; Nigel E Povah; Michael Prizant; Alan J C Rawlings; Peter Rice; John D Rhodes; Nigel E Robson; John Vivante-Sowter; Michael B Squires; Janos I Suto; John B Taylor; John T Walker; Richard Webster; George Wharam; John A Wharam; Jo A Wharrier; Stephen M Williams.Williams.

ANNUAL PATRONS

Jerry E C Asquith; Rev Bruce Carlin; Les Ellis; Michael Farmer; William F Lumley; Ajoy Mukherjee; Kenneth J Owen; Brian Thompson; Richard Ward; David Weldon.

THE ENGLISH FEDERATION

We represent England within the International Correspondence Chess Federation and organise a range of national tournaments.

ENGLISH CORRESPONDENCE CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

EFCC's premier event. Held biennially since 2017. Consisting of a Championship Final & Semi-Finals (and Preliminary groups where necessary). <https://bit.ly/3rdEnglishCCC>



ENGLISH VETERANS CORRESPONDENCE CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP (EVCCC)

The EVCCC is held biennially consisting of a Championship final, and semi-finals. Preliminary groups are held where necessary. It starts in March in alternate years to the English Correspondence Chess Championship. It is open to those players who are aged 60 years or over on the date the tournament starts and are registered or able (in the case of new players) to be registered to play under the England flag in the ICCF <https://www.efccchess.org.uk/bvccc.html>

BRITISH CORRESPONDENCE CHESS CHAMPIONSHIP

Jointly organised by England, Wales and Scotland.Held annually commencing on the 15 October. The Championship section comprises 11 to 15 players, is played over 2 years, and will determine the next British Champion. There are also Candidates and Reserve sections.Competitors play one game against each of the others in the same section. <https://www.efccchess.org.uk/bccc.html>

BRITISH WEBSERVER TEAM TOURNAMENT

The BWSTT started in 2011. The first two seasons were run under the auspices of EFCC. The tournament is currently organised by Wales. Teams consist of 4 players who play (usually) 6 games each. <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=85258>

COUNTIES & DISTRICT CC CHAMPIONSHIP (C&DCCC)

The C&DCCC is jointly organised by Wales, England and Scotland. It is open to teams representing counties or districts in the United Kingdom. There are three divisions: Division One (Ward-Higgs Trophy), Division Two (Sinclair Trophy) & Division Three (Butler-Thomas Trophy). <https://www.efccchess.org.uk/cdccc.html>

INSIDE

Contents

REGULARS



[Your Comments](#) **4**
Comments from Readers, what you would like see in future editions?

[National News](#) **5**

Updates on the English Championships, amalgamation with BCCA and an introduction to new EFCC Tournaments.

[International News](#) **10**

The 1st EU Senior Cup and Veterans World Cup information alongside news from ICCF and the European Zone.



[ICCF Ratings](#) **22**

New titles awarded to English players. The Top 100 English players and new players on the rating list.

TOURNAMENTS & GAMES

[4th English Championship](#) **11**

Our premier tournament consisting of a Final, Semi-Finals and Preliminary groups.

[Memorial Tournaments](#) **14**

Updates on our Memorial Tournaments for Mike Nicholson, Peggy Clarke, and Keith Richardson.

[Trevor Thomas Memorial](#) **14**

Congratulations to Shaun Brewer on securing first place.

[International Friendlies](#) **15**

Coverage of current and recently completed matches.

[England v Wales](#) **17**

A win for England!



[ICCF Tournament Schedule](#) **26**

Current tournaments on offer from ICCF.

[SIM Mike Read Annotates](#) **27**

In depth analysis by Mike

FEATURE ARTICLES

[Meet the Player: CCM Ian Mason](#) **26**

The new member of the EFCC Executive Committee.

[Karl Ernst Adolf Anderssen](#) **29**

The leading chess player from 1862 to 1866.

[Are Opening Books Essential](#) **32**

Do we rely too much on opening books, discussed by Maurice Carter (USA)

[BBC The Master Game](#) **35**

A classic and at the time innovative TV program for chess players.

[World Champion Jon Edwards Interviewed](#) **35**

Award winning interview from Maurice Carter who caught up with Jon Edwards.

[World Champion Jon Edwards Annotates](#) **39**

Award winning interview from Maurice Carter who caught up with Jon Edwards.

[Part Two Setting Up a Computer System](#) **44**

Fantastic coverage of chess and computer systems by Keith Kitson.

[The Knights Tour](#) **48**

Awani Kumar pays tribute to GM Jonathan Penrose

Disclaimer

The opinions expressed by authors and advertisers do not necessarily reflect the opinions or views of the EFCC.

The Editor reserves the right to determine content of the magazine. Advertisements will be accepted at the discretion of the Editor on the understanding that EFCC are not liable for any errors or omissions due to content or printing.

Copyright ©

Articles produced by the editorial team may not be reproduced without permission in writing from the Editor.

▲ Follow us on Twitter
@ [/EFCCNews](#)



▼ Follow us on Facebook @ [/EFCCNews](#)



Contact Information

The Editor may be contacted by email to efccnews@icloud.com

Editor's Notes

Welcome!

Happy New Year to our readers! I wish you all great enjoyment and success in 2024.

Thank you to everybody for your support during my period of ill health. Unfortunately, such was my incapacity that I was unable to produce the 3rd edition of our magazine until now. Now that we are back the intention is to resume quarterly production timed to coincide with the ICCF ratings update. This will assist me to provide regular updates of players achieving ICCF titles and other related information.

In this issue, our player interview is with the World Correspondence Chess Champion. This wonderful interview won the author a Chess Journalist Award in the US and I am very grateful to Maurice for allowing us to publish this. Accompanying the interview we have a very instructive game with analysis from the World Champion, I hope that everyone enjoys it as much as I have.

If any player would be willing to feature in our next interview please get in touch via efccnews@icloud.com.

Keith Kitson continues his excellent coverage of developments within the chess computer world. His entire article will shortly be published on the EFCC website as a single publication for download. We also feature a Knights tour from Awani Kumar who honours Jonathan Penrose whilst Matthew Kirk remembers the innovative and exciting TV series 'The Master Game'.

Play Chess From the Comfort of Your Own Home!



National Correspondence Chess Club

Our philosophy: "To foster friendship between members"

"Beginners to Grandmasters"

A wide variety of tournaments

FREE web server chess

FREE bi-monthly magazine

For application form and full details visit our website: www.natcor.org.uk

or contact: Des Green

93 Elmdon Lane, Marston Green,
Birmingham B37 7DN
0121 246 2295

Happy New Year!

If you would like to contribute an article or analysis etc, please get in touch.

Michael Blake

Editor efccnews@icloud.com

We offer all member organisations the opportunity to advertise free of charge in 'EFCC Correspondent', we also accept news items and other appropriate content that helps to promote your organisation. Please get in touch with us if you wish to take up this offer.

FEEDBACK

Your Comments



Thank you to everyone who wrote in with encouragement for this new magazine. Your support is warmly appreciated.

Delays to the Magazine

I have not seen a new issue of the magazine for some time, do you intend to continue publishing or was there a problem with it?

Frank via email.

Editors Note: *Apologies Frank, we will be continuing the magazine and are hopefully now back on track with it. The considerable delay was due to ill health.*

Board Diagrams

I would like to see the board diagrams in colour rather than Black and White.

Keith via email

Editors Note: *Happy to give this a go in a future issue. As far as I know the B&W diagrams are standard in British Chess Magazine and they are a lot easier to produce for publication.*

Knight Travels

I enjoy the journey of the Knights on a chess board, would you like to include my articles in your magazine?

Awani Kumar via email

Thank you Kumar, I will be very pleased to include your contribution in the magazine.

Braille Chess Association

Sorry for being out of touch for so long. I came down with something nasty and I'm still catching up with work. I'll be in touch in a few days with some feedback. I'm going to send out a couple of different formats for people using specialist devices that don't like word documents so much. I'll let you know how it goes.

Once again, thank you so much for all your work on this.

Dan via email

Editors Note: *This refers to a project where we produced a copy of the magazine in a format suitable for the Braille Chess Association. This was quite a lot of work and sadly ended after I lost contact with Dan when emails were not replied to, the plan is to resurrect this project if either Dan or another person from BCA makes contact.*

Articles may be submitted to the editor at any time and may cover any matter of interest to the author. I am hoping we can recruit as many contributors as possible, these may be either for regular articles, occasional or one-off contributions.

Download Games

Could we have a downloadable file with the games from the magazine? It would make it easier to play through the games and enjoy the analysis.

Roger via email.

Editors Note: *Great idea. There is the option to do this or make the games viewable online via Chessbase. The alternative is to offer the pgn or Chessbase files for download. I wonder if other readers have a view on this?*

Game Analysis

I would like to see more game analysis and player profiles with some of their games. I am enjoying the magazine, great job so far!

Trevor via email.

Editors Note: *Thanks Trevor. I am trying to recruit a games analyst as the magazine would be greatly improved by the insight of a good analyst. It is my intention to get a more human feel to the analysis which of necessity for this issue has mostly come from Chessbase.*

Puzzles

I enjoyed the 6 puzzles provided, these were good fun and set at just about the right level for myself. Are there any plans to expand on this part of the magazine?

David via email.

Editors Note: *I have been considering this for some time as I was laid up for almost a year. My initial thought was to add a crossword puzzle with a chess theme. I haven't quite got there in time for this issue but the idea is still there, alternatively we can expand the puzzles taken from chess games.*

Book & Software Reviews

How about including reviews of chess books or software? There is an abundance of new issues and these would be an interesting addition to the magazine.

Charles via email

Editors Note: *Great idea and this issue we will have some related opinions from Maurice Carter who recently won an American Chess Publishers award for his interview with the new CC World Champion. I would also welcome any articles from readers on books, software and chess related materials.*

Please get in touch with me if you are able to contribute. Most file formats can be accepted and I welcome your ideas. email: efccnews@icloud.com

TOURNAMENTS

EFCC 2024 Tournament Schedule Update



The following announcement has been sent to English registered players on the ICCF webserver. This describes planned EFCC tournaments for 2024 following amalgamation with the BCCA.

Dear chess friend,
Following the EFCC EGM held on 6th January 2024, the EFCC is pleased to be offering the following events to all English flagged players and players who are able (in the case of new players) to be registered to play under the England flag in the ICCF.

All of these events are played on the ICCF server:

4th English Veterans' Correspondence Chess Championship (EVCCC)

This tournament is currently advertised on the EFCC website at www.efccchess.org.uk It is open to all players who:

- are aged 60 years or over on the date the tournament starts;
- and are registered or able (in the case of new players) to be registered to play under the England flag in the ICCF.

The closing date for entries is 1st February 2024 with a start date on 5th March 2024.

The entry fee is only £13, and entries can be made by PayPal on the EFCC website or by cheque payable to "EFCC" to be sent to Keith Kitson whose address is in the article on the EFCC website.

Cash prizes of £75, £40, and £20 are available in the Championship, with smaller prizes of £20 and £10 available in the semi-finals.

The winner of the Championship also receives an engraved trophy for retention.

All games are ICCF rated.

5th English Correspondence Chess Championship (ECCC)

This event is England's Premier event and is open to all players as specified earlier in this announcement. It starts in alternate years to the EVCCC listed above. The entry fee is only £15.

This event will be open for entries from November 2024 with a start date in March 2025.

An announcement will be made about this event on the EFCC website later in the year.

Cash prizes of £175, £80, £40, and £20 are available in the Championship, with smaller prizes of £40 and £20 available in the semi-finals.

The winner of the Championship also receives an engraved trophy for retention.

All games are ICCF rated.

William Mason Championship

This is now open to all players as specified earlier in this announcement. This event starts in September each year, and entries are accepted from July onwards.

An announcement will be made about this event on the EFCC website later in the year.

The entry fee will be £5. Cash prizes of £300, £150, £100, and £50 are available each year in the Championship section, with smaller prizes of £30 in the Candidates, and £20 in the Reserves.

All games are ICCF rated.

EFCC Medals events

Start in April 2024. The entry fee is £3 and should be made through the Online Fee Payment facility at the EFCC website. Please use "Medals" as your reference.

These events are open to all players as specified earlier in this announcement. There will be tournaments of up to three levels designated as :

- a) EFCC Gold Medal tournament. Winner receives an engraved medal and £20 in prize money.
- b) EFCC Silver Medal tournament. Winner receives an engraved medal and £15 in prize money.
- c) EFCC Bronze Medal tournament. Winner receives an engraved medal and £10 in prize money.

Entries may be sent from 8th January 2024. The entry fee is £3 and should be made through the Online Fee Payment facility at the EFCC website. Please use "Medals" as your reference. Alternatively, a cheque made payable to "EFCC" can be sent to Mr Ian M Pheby, Oaklea Cottage, Horsham Road, Capel, Dorking, Surrey RH5 5JH together with a note specifying for which event the cheque refers.

The closing date for entries is 15th March 2024.
The official start date for this event will be 11th April 2024.
All games are ICCF rated.

The ICCF standard time control of 10 moves in 40 days with duplication after 20 days will be used. 45 days of leave per year are available to each player. Players cannot agree to a draw before move 25.

The Tournament Organiser is SIM Ian M Pheby, IA who may be contacted at ian.pheby@tiscali.co.uk



EFCC Continuous tournament

This is a new tournament open to all players as specified earlier in this announcement. It will be run in three stages: preliminary, semi-final and final.

Preliminary groups will consist of four players, double round all-play-all, with the winner (with a plus score) progressing to the next semi-final.

Semi-final groups will consist of six players, double round all-play-all, with the winner (with a plus score) progressing to the next final which would consist of nine players, single round.

Winners will be determined using all ICCF tie breaks (where there is a multiple tie after all tie breaks have been applied all players will qualify).

The entry fee is £4 per preliminary group entered, and there is no additional entry fee for a semi-final or final. All players will start in a preliminary section.

The ICCF Triple Block time control will be used in all sections, with 350 days in the Preliminary and Semi Final Sections, and 550 days in a final.

Cash prizes will be available at each of the three stages. Preliminary stage winners receive £10. Semi-final stage winners receive £25. In the final the prizes are £200, £100, and £50.

Entries may be sent from 8th January 2024 to SIM Keith Kitson keith.kitson@hotmail.co.uk. Entry should be made through the Online Fee Payment facility at the EFCC website. Please use "CT" as your reference. Alternatively, a cheque made payable to "EFCC" can be sent to Mr Ian M Pheby, Oaklea Cottage, Horsham Road, Capel, Dorking, Surrey RH5 5JH together with a note specifying for which event the cheque refers.

Players may enter as many preliminary groups as they wish. There will be no seeding so everyone stands a chance of progressing to the next stage.

All groups will start as soon as the required number of players have entered or qualified to the next stage.

Those players who have already entered this event will have their entries carried forward to this new event. All games are ICCF rated.

The Tournament Organiser is SIM Keith Kitson who may be contacted at keith.kitson@hotmail.co.uk

Other important announcements will be made in due course.

The EFCC Tournament Co-ordinator is SIM Keith Kitson keith.kitson@hotmail.co.uk and the Deputy EFCC Tournament Co-ordinator is SIM Ian M Pheby, IA ian.pheby@tiscali.co.uk. Either person will be pleased to answer any questions you may have.

NEW

HIARCS Chess Explorer Pro

The ultimate chess database, analysis and playing software for PC Windows and Apple Mac



HIARCS Chess Explorer Pro is a new highly advanced chess database, analysis and playing software for **PC Windows** and **Apple Mac** computers. It offers a very powerful user interface with the strongest ever HIARCS chess engine and world class chess database capabilities. Supports major chess database formats including **PGN, HCE** and ChessBase, **CBH, CBV, CTG** with export to **PDF, EPUB** and **HTML**. Unrivalled easy to use capabilities managing chess databases, preparation, analysis and training for players of all abilities from beginner to Grandmasters and beyond.



- **Advanced Database Support**
 - Supports huge databases up to 30M games – PGN, HCE formats and reads ChessBase CBH, CBV, CTG
 - Fastest ever searching for players, openings, events, material, pawn structure and positions
 - Extensive game notation with variations, comments, symbols, diagrams and named openings
 - Export and publish your work, games and preparation to PGN, PDF, EPUB e-book and HTML
- **HIARCS 15 chess engine – more than 200 Elo stronger**
 - Full range of realistic set Elo levels with human like playing style, or have your strength matched
 - Very strong analysis and play, more than 200 Elo stronger than H14 World Chess Software Champion
 - Supports up to 32 threads/cores in any UCI chess user interface (HCE-Pro/ChessBase/Fritz)
- **Player Explorer**
 - View reports on players, their games, performances and favourite openings and statistics
 - Build trees of games and openings of players instantly into a player report with a single click
 - Automated repertoire summaries for databases and players. Merge misspelled players
- **Game, Opening and Tree Explorers**
 - Revolutionary multi-source chess trees with moves, statistics from games and advice
 - Build an opening repertoire tree instantly from database games to learn and prepare openings
 - Access huge online opening books, view multiple books and Chessbase CTG books
- **Analysis and Evaluation Explorers**
 - Analyse positions and games with multiple engines simultaneously with load management
 - Multiple lines of analysis with statistics, eval graph, pop up boards, multi-PV
 - Check games for blunders and improvements with post game analysis
- **Custom Playing modes**
 - Play chess against computer with full range of Elo handicap levels, practice openings and Chess960
 - Train with the guess the move feature, learn and improve your tactical and positional play
 - Coach to point out mistakes, show move quality and hints. Rates your play in Elo points
 - Engine matches – set up and watch them play or have them play out test or analysis positions
- **Packaged Databases**
 - Top quality database with 350,000 Master games, 1,000 IM/GM annotated games, tactical exercises
 - Online access to over 1,000 GB of endgame tablebases and opening book databases
 - Local book with latest GM theory and access to much larger online books

HIARCS Chess Explorer Pro from* **£58.29 / €69.95 / \$79.95**
available now on www.hiarcs.com

For PC Windows 7, 8, 10 & 11 (64 bit) or Apple Mac OS X 10.14 Mojave or later incl. macOS 12 Monterey (incl. latest Retina displays)
Languages: English (US & UK), French, German, Italian, Polish, Portuguese and Spanish. * VAT may apply depending on country of purchase

NEWS

Formed in 1906 the BCCA to Amalgamate with EFCC.

FOR OVER 100 years the BCCA has been meeting the needs of Correspondence Chess Players with a comprehensive range of Tournaments and Competitions. It is the longest running continuously operating correspondence chess organisation in the world.

On 25th November 2023 the British Correspondence Chess Association (BCCA) decided to request to amalgamate with the English Federation for Correspondence Chess (EFCC). The EFCC held an Extraordinary General Meeting on 6th January 2024 to discuss "Ratification of the BCCA request to amalgamate with the EFCC.". The EFCC EGM ratified the BCCA request, and therefore with effect from 6th January 2024 the EFCC has amalgamated with the BCCA.

How will this affect the EFCC?

1. The EFCC will be offering some new tournaments with prize money, namely:

EFCC Medal tournaments
EFCC Continuous tournament
EFCC William Mason Championship

Details about these tournaments and how to enter, all of which will be ICCF rated, will appear on the EFCC website and will be sent to all English flagged players.

Further information and details of the new EFCC tournaments will be made available via our website at <https://efccchess.org.uk/>

The EFCC will also continue to offer the English Correspondence Chess Championship (ECCC) and the English Veterans' Correspondence Chess Championship (EVCCC) as usual.

2. The EFCC will be offering three English titles: EFCC Senior Master title (ESM), EFCC Master title (EM), and EFCC Candidate Master title (ECM). Details of these titles and the criteria to obtain these titles will be published on the EFCC website soon.

3. The EFCC intends to publish a calendar of its tournaments and other important dates in due course.

4. All English flagged players will be able to participate in the new tournaments and obtain English titles.

I hope that all English flagged players will take up the opportunity to play in the above tournaments.

Ian M Pheby
EFCC President
January 2024



National News



Notice of EGM

Held on 6th January 2024 at 1:00pm was a Zoom meeting. The business of the EGM was the "Ratification of the BCCA request to amalgamate with the EFCC."

Announcements of the decision have been sent to all registered English players via the ICCF server, placed on the EFCC website and given in this issue of the magazine.

We hope that eligible players will give their support and enter the newly introduced tournaments to be held by EFCC following the agreed amalgamation with BCCA.

4th English Veterans

Keith Kitson is now taking entries for the 4th English Veterans Correspondence Chess Championship. Please visit <https://www.efccchess.org.uk/index.html> for further information and to enter.

England v Mexico

We lost this International Friendly which was played in a great spirit. Congratulations to our winners, Peter Ackley, David John Scott, Herman Kok and Robert Ryan. <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=98168>

4th English Championship

Danny Dixon leads the Final having secured the only win of the tournament so far. There are a further two semi-finals and one Preliminary section in this tournament. Valerie Craven and Robert Rozanski lead SF-1, James Toon and John Vivante-Sowter lead SF-B whilst Graeme Carey heads the Preliminary section with an excellent 15 wins recorded from 21 completed games.

Ray Pomeroy Memorial

This tournament is being held in memory of Raymond J Pomeroy who

amongst his other interests organised the United Kingdom's Civil Service correspondence chess teams for fifty years despite periods of serious ill-health. He was elected as a Vice-President of the Civil Service Chess Association (CSCA) and the London Civil Service, Post Office and Municipal Chess League (LCSP&MCL) in 1993 for his outstanding services to Civil Service chess.

There are 6 Sections in this event.

Robert Rozanski and James Toon shared first place in Section B. <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=100217>

Bruce Riddle has won Section E <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=100220>

Roy McCormick has won Section F <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=100221>

Narrow Defeat Against France

We were defeated by our friends from France in a 40 board match by the close score of 41-39. English wins came from James P. Wilkinson (2), Graeme Carey, Eugene Raby (2) and Chris Kenbt (2)

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=88279>

British Championship 2020/22

SIM Jerry E.C. Asquith leads on 8/14 with all tournament games completed. This is the premier British event with an average grade of 2407, for the first time GM norms are available and it is the strongest Championship for many years. Robert Marks has secured the IM Norm whilst George Wharam has obtained a CCE and CCM Norm.

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=88182>

British Candidates A 2020/22

Edward Holland, CCM Richard

Webster, Rhys Jones and CCE Oliver Graham are on 7½ pts. Are tied in first place with four game to be completed. <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=88184>

British Candidates B 2020/22

Won by Phillip Barber with a fantastic 5 wins and score of 9½ pts. <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=88186>

British Reserves A 2020/22

Matthew Bailey on 7/11 takes first place. <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=88187>

British Reserves B 2020/22

Gareth Jones (WAL) with an incredible 7/11 pts. wins this group/ <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=88188>

Tony Morley †

I am saddened to hear of the passing of Tony Morley. Tony never recovered from a stroke and passed away on 14th October. Condolences have been passed onto his family.

Phill Beckett

England Edge Home in USA Match

England have taken a decisive lead in the 105 board match against our friends from the USA. A draw on board 34 - <https://www.iccf.com/game?id=1169138> took us to 105.5 points for the match - <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=86774>

Well done team!

Defeat against New Zealand

We were defeated by our friends from New Zealand in a small match. Played over 9 board, this double round match saw a 12-6 win for New Zealand. <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=91324>

International News



Aleksandr Dronov R.I.P.

It is with deep sadness that we have been informed of the passing of Aleksandr Dronov (1946-2023), three times Correspondence Chess World Champion and ICCF Hall of Fame inductee in 2021.

Our thoughts and condolences go out to Aleksandr's family and friends during this difficult time. He will be greatly missed and his memory will forever remain in the annals of correspondence chess history.

Eric Ruch
ICCF President

ICCF Champions League 10

The ICCF is pleased to announce the ICCF Champions League 10. This is a team event for teams of 4 players. The league is structured in 3 Divisions and games are rated and, where all necessary requirements are met, title norms could be achieved. The Rating List that will be taken into consideration is 2024/1. Players are invited to form a team of four and enter the Champions League.

<https://www.iccf.com/message?message=1648>

ICCF Rating System

ICCF have recently changed the method of calculating the rating of individual players. The new process uses a statistical method designed to more accurately reflect the activity of a player in recent times.

A beginners guide to the new rating system has been written by Mark Glickman, Department of Statistics, Harvard University. This is available [online here](#).

Perhaps an easier version to under-

stand, is the Welsh Correspondence Chess Federation article at <https://www.welshccf.org.uk/article/1199>

ICCF publish a very useful list of ratings which also shows a forecast for the next rating period. <https://www.welshccf.org.uk/article/1199>

The new system should bed down, initially there are chunky differences for some players between the two methods of calculation. I have seen little feedback from the new system which may indicate widespread acceptance by the players.

Your comments are warmly welcomed!

World Championship 32

Jon Edwards (USA) is the 32nd World Correspondence Champion after winning WC32. Jon took the title on SB tie-break from Michel Lecroq (FRA), Sergey Adolfovich Osipov (RUS) and Horácio Neto (POR). <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=85042>

World Championship 33

WC 33 has begun with 17 players. There are 75 games still to finish after the first 61 completed games all ended in a draw. In such tight tournaments a single loss will be critical. <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=100104>

Use of ICCF Symbols

ICCF have encountered a problem previously experienced by EFCC. Recently mails have been distributed to ICCF players by using symbols of ICCF advertising for tournaments organised on servers outside ICCF. Wrongly these mails have evoked the impression, that the advertised tournaments have the approval and/or the support of ICCF and are organised within ICCF. Players have complained about this and were confused. Please note, that these tournaments

are not ICCF approved, not ICCF rated and not applicable for ICCF title norms. This behaviour is a violation of the ICCF regulations and statutes and will not be tolerated. <https://www.iccf.com/message?message=1659>

Jaromír Canibal R.I.P.

It is with great sadness that we announce to all ICCF players and officials that on Saturday, October 28 2023, a very important personality of domestic and international correspondence chess, a long-time member of the Executive Committee of the Czech Correspondence Chess Federation at the post of Secretary of the International Section and from 1995 till 2004 the delegate of the Czech Republic in ICCF, main organiser of the famous ICCF Congress 2003 in Ostrava, regular participant in domestic and international competitions of all kinds, Jaromír Canibal M. D. from Karviná deceased. He died after a serious illness at the age of 75 years.

Wales Champions of Europe!

Wales are now officially the undisputed Champions of Europe, having a now unassailable score of 50.5 in the 11th European Team Championship (<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=93573>)

Congratulations in particular to Tony Balshaw and Helen Sherwood for completing their final norms for the SIM and IM titles respectively in the event and to John Claridge for finishing first on Board Three and Ian Jones for finishing joint first on Board Four.

The event was completed without a single defeat. An incredible result for the lowest seeds in the event against some of the European CC giants, for a title which has never before been won by a British team.

TOURNAMENTS

4th English Championship

Previous Champions

3rd Championship - Praveen Kumar

Rallabandi & Brian Thomson

2nd Championship - David Evans

1st Championship - Mark Eldridge

THE 4TH ENGLISH Championship started on the 5th March 2023, there has been a total of 54 entries for this Championship placed into a final, two semi-finals and one preliminary group. Average Rating for Final: 2373. completing with a Final section of 15 players.

4th English Championship Final

Tables from 2nd January 2024.

				TD Wood, Ben A. (IA)															Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
Rated				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15					
1	+	211019	CCM Dixon, Danny	2367		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	.	1	½	7	1	47.5	1	1
2	+	211303	GM Coleman, Peter L.	2538	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	7	0	47.5	0	2
3	+	210425	GM Brookes, John G.	2415	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	7	0	47.5	0	2
4	+	212544	CCM Herman, Tom	2382	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	7	0	47.5	0	2
5	+	210854	IM Thompson, Brian	2369	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	7	0	47.5	0	2
6	+	212803	CCM Webster, Richard	2365	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	7	0	47.5	0	2
7	+	213011	CCM Bailey, Matthew W.	2356	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	7	0	47.5	0	2
8	+	210569	SIM Kitson, Keith	2349	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	7	0	47.5	0	2
9	+	210745	SIM Rawlings, Alan J. C.	2334	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	7	0	47.5	0	2
10	+	210690	CCE Marchant, Arnold	2276	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	7	0	47.5	0	2
11	+	211229	IM Ellis, Les	2398	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	6.5	0	44.75	1	11
12	+	211987	CCM Hughes, Stephen J.	2327	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	6.5	0	44.75	1	11
13	+	212397	CCM McDermott, Frank J.	2359	.	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	6.5	0	44.25	1	13
14	+	210717	CCM Blake, Michael J.	2384	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		6.5	0	44.25	0	14
15	+	210514	SIM Pheby, Ian M.	2380	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	.	.	½	½	6	0	41.5	2	15

4th English Championship Semi-Final A

						TD Wood, Ben A. (IA)																				
Rated						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place			
1	+	213184	CCM	Gittens, Mark	2278		½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	1	.	1	7	3	35.5	1	1			
2	+	210605	CCE	Craven, Valerie	2207	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	1	7	2	34.5	0	2			
3	+	421439	CCE	Róžański, Robert	2131	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	1	7	2	34.5	0	2			
4	+	211280	CCE	Perrin, Richard David	2258	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	.	½	½	1	6	1	30.5	1	4			
5	+	213068		Hooker, Stephen	2187	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	.	½	½	1	6	1	30.5	1	4			
6	+	212819	CCE	Cowan, Alastair	2245	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	6	0	32	0	6			
7	+	212334		Woodhouse, Stephen	2071	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	6	0	32	0	6			
8	+	210919	CCM	Girling, Clive F.	2323	0	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	.	1	5.5	1	27.75	1	8			
9	+	212209		Gosling, Brian G. E.	1953	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	.	½	5.5	0	30.5	1	9			
10	+	210823	CCM	Brotherton, Trevor S.	2295	½	½	½	.	.	½	½	½	½		.	.	1	4.5	1	23.5	4	10			
11	+	210719		Beer, Doug	2096	0	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	.		½	1	4.5	1	20.75	1	11			
12	+	211509	CCM	Plant, Kevin D.	2265	.	½	½	½	½	½	½	.	.	.	½		.	3.5	0	21.25	5	12			
13	+	213224		Hardingham, David	1900	0	0	0	0	0	½	½	0	½	0	0	.		1.5	0	8.75	1	13			

TOURNAMENTS

4th English Championship

THE PREMIER ENGLISH tournament organised by EFCC.







































Prizes:

The winner will receive £200 together with an engraved trophy for retention.

The Runner-up will receive £150.
Third place will receive £100.
Fourth place will receive £50.

Separate prizes for the other sections.

4th English Championship Semi-Final B

						TD Wood, Ben A. (IA)																	Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
Rated						1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13									
1		211552	CCE	Franks, Keith	2311		1/2	1/2	1/2	0	1/2	1	1/2	1/2	1	1/2	1 ^E	1	7.5	4	37.75	0	1				
2		213245		Toon, James	2203		1/2		1/2	1/2	1	1/2	1/2	1 ^E	1/2	1/2	1/2	1	7.5	3	39.5	0	2				
3		210953	SIM	Vivante-Sowter, John	2210		1/2	1/2		1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1	1 ^E	1	7.5	3	37.75	0	3				
4		210619	CCM	Norman, Nigel	2304		1/2	1/2	1/2		1/2	1/2	.	1/2	1	1/2	.	1 ^E	1	6.5	3	33.25	2	4			
5		213180		Swindells, Joshua Edwin Ben	2059		1	0	1/2	1/2		1/2	1/2	1/2	.	1/2	1/2	1	6	2	31.75	1	5				
6		210447	CCE	Cole, Steve	2265		1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2		1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	6	0	33.5	0	6				
7		211092		Hassell, Graham S.	1992		0	1/2	1/2	.	1/2	1/2		1/2	1/2	1/2	.	1 ^E	1	5.5	2	26.75	2	7			
8		211118	CCM	Roberts, Anthony Arthur	2273		1/2	0 ^E	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2		1/2	1/2	.	1/2	1	5.5	1	28.5	1	8		
9		210709	CCE	Sutton, Alan B.	2124		1/2	1/2	1/2	0	.	1/2	1/2	1/2		1/2	1/2	1/2	1	5.5	1	28.5	1	8			
10		211537		Ackley, Peter	2133		0	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2		1/2	1/2	1/2	5.5	0	30	0	10			
11		213100		Steward Anderson, Tony	2096		1/2	1/2	0	.	1/2	1/2	.	.	1/2	1/2		1 ^E	1	5	2	24	3	11			
12		211994	CCE	Hollands, George	2257		0 ^E	1/2	0 ^E	0 ^E	1/2	1/2	0 ^E	1/2	1/2	1/2	0 ^E		0 ^E	3	0	18	0	12			
13		210454		Beckett, Phillip J.	1923		0	0	0	0	0	1/2	0	0	0	1/2	0	1 ^E		2	1	8.75	0	13			

4th English Championship Preliminary Group

					TD Wood, Ben A. (IA)																																
Rated					1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6	7	7	8	8	9	9	10	10	11	11	12	12	13	13	Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place		
1	+	212954	Carey, Graeme	1938			1	½	½	0	.	½	1 ^E	1	½	.	1	1	1	½	1	1	1	1	1	1	1 ^E	1 ^E	1	1	18.5	16	151.5	2	1		
2	+	213277	de Maillet, Anthony	1997	½	0			½	.	1	½	1 ^E	1	½	.	1	1	.	.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	17	15	136.75	4	2		
3	+	213218	Cutler, Matthew	1800 ^P	1	½	.	½			.	.	.	½	1	.	1	1	.	.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1 ^E	1	1	15.5	14	119.5	7	3		
4	+	211254	Pooley, Mark C.	1877	½	.	½	0	.	.			1	.	.	.	1	1	.	1 ^E	1	1	1	1	1	1	1 ^E	1 ^E	1	1	15	14	104.25	7	4		
5	+	212975	Lockett, John	2008	0	0 ^E	0	0 ^E	½	.	.	0			.	.	1	1	1 ^E	.	1	1	1 ^E	1 ^E	1	1	1 ^E	1	1	1	13.5	13	80.75	5	5		
6	+	212505	Joslin, Kay	1729	.	½	.	½	.	0	.	.	.	.			1	½	.	.	1	1	1	1	1	1	1 ^E	1 ^E	1	1	12.5	11	76.75	9	6
7	+	210477	Morton, Peter S.	1493	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	0			½	1 ^E	1	½	1	1	½	1	1 ^E	1 ^E	½	½	10	7	56.25	0	7		
8	+	212579	Roberts, Stephen	1357	½	0	.	.	.	0 ^E	.	.	0 ^E	.	.	0 ^E	½			.	.	1 ^E	1	1	1	1 ^E	1 ^E	1	1	9	8	43.25	10	8			
9	+	212191	Ruffe, Alan	1500	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	0	.	.			1	0	1	1	1 ^E	1 ^E	1	1	7.5	7	29.5	2	9		
10	+	213247	Watson, Francis	1563	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 ^E	0 ^E	0	0	0	0	0	0	0 ^E	1	0			1	1	0	0	1	½	4.5	4	18.75	0	10	
11	+	213108	Stiles, Tony	1318	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			1 ^E	1 ^E	1	1	4.5	4	16	0	11	
12	+	213291	Devalia, Aadishesh	1800 ^P	0 ^E	0 ^E	0	0	0 ^E	0	0 ^E	0 ^E	0	0 ^E	0 ^E	0 ^E	0 ^E	0 ^E	0 ^E	0 ^E	0 ^E	0 ^E	1	1	0 ^E	0 ^E			1	1	4	4	12	0	12		
13	+	212100	Aitken, Nige	1535	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	½	0	0	0	0	½	0	0	0	0	0			1.5	0	12.25	0	13		

The premier English individual tournament may be followed on the ICCF server at -

Final - <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=91202>
Semi-Final A - <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=101023>
Semi-Final B - <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=101024>
Preliminary A - <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=101025>

PREVIOUS ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

1st English Championship - Mark Eldridge
2nd English Championship - David Evans
3rd English Championship - Praveen Kumar Rallabandi & Brian Thomson

MEMORIAL TOURNAMENTS

Memorial Tournaments



EFCC SEEK TO recognise the contribution that players make to Correspondence Chess. The ICCF webserver contains links to many of our past and Ongoing Tournaments at <https://www.iccf.com/tables>

Ray Pomeroy Memorial

This tournament is being held in memory of Raymond J Pomeroy who amongst his other interests organised the United Kingdom's Civil Service correspondence chess teams for fifty years despite periods of serious ill-health. He was elected as a Vice-President of the Civil Service Chess Association (CSCA) and the London Civil Service, Post Office and Municipal Chess League (LCSP&MCL) in 1993 for his outstanding services to Civil Service chess.

That Ray has carried out all of his responsibilities to a significantly high standard for the benefit of so many chess players throughout the United Kingdom testifies to his determination and his commitment which few equal. Without Ray's excellent work, correspondence chess in particular within various Bodies including the CSCA would likely to have ceased.

In 2022 Ray was awarded the English Chess Federation's President's Award for his services to chess.

There are 6 sections in this Memorial tournament.

Group A <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=100216> is currently led by Mike Richardt whilst the game between Ian Pheby and Kevin Thurlow will decide who wins the tournament.

Group B <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=100217> has been jointly won by James Toon and Robert Róžański.

Group C <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=100218> has one game outstanding with Joshua Edwin Ben Swindells, leading the tournament.

Group D <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=100219> also has one game remaining, Mark Pooley is likely to be declared the winner of this group.

Group E <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=100220> has been won by Bruce Riddle

Group F <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=100221> has been won by Roy McCormick

EFCC 60th Jubilee Tournament

Five tournaments are being held to celebrate the Diamond anniversary of the EFCC which was founded on 1st December 1962 as the British Postal Chess Federation which in due course became the English Federation for Correspondence Chess (EFCC) on 1st January 2015.

EFCC Gold

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=97303>

Steve Cole (ENG) has achieved a CCM Norm in this event. There are 16 games ongoing and the tournament is currently led by IM Corky Shakel (USA).

EFCC Ruby

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=97304>

Pascal Darnaux (FRA) has achieved CCE and CCM Norms in this event. The tournament has 7 games ongoing. Pacal Darnaux (FRA) and James Wiliinson (ENG) are tied at the top but may be caught by Peter Grayson (WAL), Gareth Jones (WAL), David Perrin (ENG), Geoffrey Lloyd (SCO) and Michael Millstone (USA).

EFCC Sapphire

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=97305>

Valerie Craven (ENG) leads this tournament having completed all of her games. Whilst 12 games are ongoing, Valerie looks quite secure in top place but could be caught by Jonathan Curry-Machado (ENG) and Charlie Taccog(Phi).

EFCC Ruby/Diamond

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=100266>
















IM Thomas Matheis (SCO) currently leads this tournament. There are four games ongoing and amazingly, any of the bottom 6 players may win the tournament. Along with IM Matheis, the players with a chance of placing 1st, are Brian Thomason (ENG), Richard Beecham (SCO), Les Ellis (ENG), Russell Sherwood (WAL), Erik van Vliet (NED) and Ian Pheby (ENG). Of course with SB tie-break we could see any of the 11 players win this group. Exciting stuff!

Please keep watching the EFCC Website and our Facebook page for opportunities to play in a Memorial or Other tournament. <https://www.facebook.com/EFCCchess>

MEMORIAL TOURNAMENTS

Trevor Thomas Memorial Tournament

TD Woodhouse, Stephen (IA)

Category 8		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	GM	SIM	IM	Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
1	 211765	IM	Brewer, Shaun	2442		1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1	9 1/2	8 1/2		7.5	1	52	0	1
2	 212902	CCM	Wharam, George	2403	1/2		1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1	1/2	9 1/2	8 1/2	7 1/2	7.5	1	52	0	1
3	 180364	IM	Dijon, Jean-Michel	2459	1/2	1/2		1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	9 1/2	8 1/2		7	0	49	0	3
4	 220159	IM	Bleker, Frits	2459	1/2	1/2	1/2		1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	9 1/2	8 1/2		7	0	49	0	3
5	 241635	IM	Esposito, Luca	2459	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2		1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	9 1/2	8 1/2		7	0	49	0	3
6	 450528	SIM	Forslöf, Lars	2459	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2		1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	9 1/2			7	0	49	0	3
7	 30222	IM	Murden, Clive	2454	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2		1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	9 1/2	8 1/2		7	0	49	0	3
8	 210788	IM	Lumley, Bill F.	2426	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2		1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	9 1/2	8 1/2		7	0	49	0	3
9	 210514	SIM	Pheby, Ian M.	2423	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2		1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	9 1/2			7	0	49	0	3
10	 211229	IM	Ellis, Les	2420	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2		1/2	1/2	1/2	9 1/2	8 1/2		7	0	49	0	3
11	 210265	SIM	Williams, Christopher C.	2415	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2		1/2	1/2	9 1/2			7	0	49	0	3
12	 211062	SIM	Asquith, Jerry E. C.	2407	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2		1/2	9 1/2			7	0	49	0	3
13	 810174	CCM	Bishop, William	2405	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	9 1/2	8 1/2	7 1/2	7	0	49	0	3
14	 810161	CCM	Sherwood, Russell	2416	1/2	0	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	9 1/2	8 1/2	7 1/2	6.5	0	45.5	0	14
15	 510980	IM	Schakel, Corky	2371	0	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	1/2	9 1/2	8 1/2		6.5	0	45.5	0	14

Congratulations to Shaun Brewer (ENG) on securing first place in the Trevor Thomas Memorial Tournament.

Trevor Thomas who died in January 2020 aged 97 was a very good over-the-board player and was an excellent correspondence chess player. Trevor was an ICCF International Master and Senior International Master, titles obtained in 1992 and 1999 respectively. His highest rating was 2525. He represented England on board 4 of the 11th Olympiad final and on board 2 of the 3rd North Atlantic team tournament, both with distinction.

He also made a significant contribution to England predominantly as a selector and as a tournament organiser over a period of many years.

Thomas, Trevor - Stefansson, A [C44]
ETC III Prelim2 (4), 1984

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 An unusual choice and perhaps worthy of further examination in modern times to get away from heavily analysed openings.

d5 4.Qa4 Qd6 5.Bb5 Bd7 6.exd5 [C44: Ponziani Opening and Scotch Gambit.] **6...Qxd5 [7.0-0 [7.d3=] 7..0-0-0 [Black should play 7...e4 8.Nd4 Bd6] 8.Bc4 Qd6**

9.Ng5 Qg6N [Predecessor: 9...Nh6 10.d3 Qg6 11.Be3 Be7 12.Ne4 f5 13.Nc5 f4 14.Nxd7 Rxd7 15.Bd2 f3 16.g3 Qg4 17.Qd1 Rf8 18.Be6 Qxe6-1 Corzo y Prinzipe, J-Kupchik, A Havana Masters 1913 (9)]

10.d4 Nh6 [White must now prevent ...Be7.] **11.f4?** [11.d5 12.Na3 (12.dxc6 Bxc6 13.Qa5 f6)]

11...exd4 12.cxd4 Nxd4 13.Qxa7 Bc6 14.f5 Qh5 15.Nc3!= [Strongly threatening Bf4. The board is on fire.]
[15.Qa8+? Kd7 16.Qa5 b6-+]

15...Nc2? [15...Ndxf5? 16.Nxf7+-; 15...Bd6= 16.Bf4 Bxg2] **16.Nxf7!+- 16...Bc5+ 17.Qxc5 Nxf7 18.Be6+ Kb8 19.Bf4! Nd4** [aiming for ...Nxe6.]

20.Bd5 [A strong pair of Bishops.]

21.Kh1! Nxf4 22.Bxc6 [White wants to mate with Nb5!]

22...Nd3 23.Qb5 Nd6 24.Qxd3 bxc6 25.Rf4 Rhe8? [25..Nb5 26.Qf1 Rd4 27.Nxb5 Rxf4 28.Qxf4 cxb5]

26.Qa6 Ne4 27.Nxe4 [White threatens Nc5 and mate.] **27..Rxe4 28.Rxe4** [White used his chance. Artfully played by Thomas. **1-0**

One of many fine games played by Trevor.

International Master George Wharam secured his 2nd IM Norm and the title in this tournament.

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES

International Friendly Matches

EFCC TEAM CAPTAIN and International Secretary Phill Beckett manages the very active England International Friendly team. Please get in touch with Phill if you are seeking opportunities to represent England in these matches.

England v Japan 2023

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=104249>



Ten boards starting 18/12/2023. England represented by SIM John D. Rhodes, Jo Primrose, Peter Ackley, Mel Suf-field, David Elwood, Sandy Smyth, Alan Ruffle, Andrew Herbert, Bill Ward and Jon Nichol.

England v Romania 2023

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=101177>

24 boards started 01/02/2023. England currently lead a very tight match 21-20 with 7 games to finish.

England v Cuba 2023

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=100878>

40 boards started 12/02/2023. England currently leading 45½ -27½ with 5 games ongoing.

England v Indonesia 2022

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=99643>

A 23 board match, England currently losing 13½ - 28½

England v Sweden Postal Match 2021

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=93020>

15 board double pairing postal match. England lead 15½- 9½. The players for England are, IM Maguire, Gary; SIM Kitson, Keith; IM Brockbank, Henry W.; Lyne, Colin J.; Beresford, Alan; Cunningham, Peter J.; Lefevre, Stephen D.; CCE Bruce, Robert; Smyth, Sandy; Morley, Tony; Gifford, M. J.; Kok, Herman; Robinson, Robin; White, Richard and Gosling, David.

RECENT RESULTS

England win 11½ v 4½ Wales 2022

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=100467>

A win for England thanks to victories by Bill Ward, John Nichol, Anthony de Maillet, Matthew Cutler and Mark Low.

England loss 22½ v 36½ Philippines 2022

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=99611>

Wins for Peter Ackley, David Scott, Herman Kok and Robert Ryan were not enough to secure victory.

England loss 18½ v 27½ Mexico 2021

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=91540>

A 12 board server match. England currently trail 4½-12½ with English wins recorded by J.M. Hutchings who won both games against Rojas, Esau.

England loss 31 v 43 France 2022

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=96998>

England wins scored by Anthony Roberts, Robert Bruce and J.M. Hutchings.

England loss 32½ v 41½ to Wales 2021

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=95781>

England loss 21 v 35 to Norway 2021

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=95044>

England wins scored by George Wharam, James Halliday, John Nichol and David Gosling.

England loss 63 v 139 to BeNeLux 2021

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=93922>

This was a huge 101 board match played in a great spirit. BeNeLux took the victory in a match that saw several players scoring that elusive win in modern correspondence chess.

England loss 28½ v 37½ to Sweden 2021

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=89984>

English winners were Jerry Asquith, Matthew Bailey and Terry Hart.

Please contact Phill if you would like to join the teams.

GAMES

England v Wales

International Friendly



Played over 14 boards this match resulted in a win for England. Congratulations to the team and Bill Ward, John Nichol, Anthony de Maillet, Matthew Cutler and Mark Low on scoring wins. <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=100467>

Low, Mark - Bevan, Paul [A80]
Wal v Eng ICCF, 12.12.2022

1.d4 f5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.Bg5 h6 4.Bxf6 exf6 5.e3 h5N [Predecessor: 5...d5 6.Qh5+ Ke7 7.Bd3 Qd7 8.Nge2 c6 9.Ng3 Qe8 10.Qf3 g6 11.h4 h5½-½ Weyerer, N (1536)-Guo, J (1551) GER-ch U12 Willingen 2020 (4)]

6.Bd3 [A80: Dutch Defence: Unusual White second moves.]

6...g6 7.Qf3 [Repels d5. White is more active.]

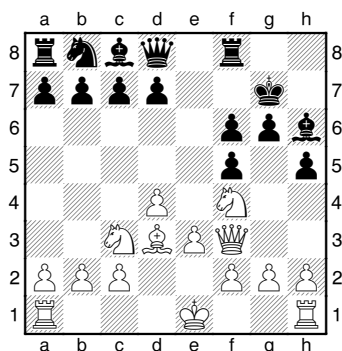
7...Bh6 [7...Nc6± 8.Nge2 Ne7]

8.Nge2 [And now h3 would win. White is clearly better.]

8...0-0? [8...Kf7± is a better defence. 9.e4 fxe4 10.Bxe4 (10.Qxe4 f5±) 10...c6]

9.Nf4 [△9.h3]

9...Kg7?



[9...Bxf4 is more resistant. 10.Qxf4 Kg7]

10.Nxg6!+-

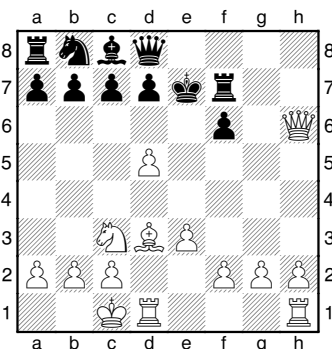
[Remove Defender, Decoy. White is clearly winning.]

10...Kxg6 [10...d6 11.Nxf8]

11.Qxf5+ Kf7 12.Qxh5+

[Black is weak on the light squares]

12...Ke6 13.d5+ Ke7 14.Qxh6 Rf7 15.0-0-0



Strongly threatening d6+!]

15...d6 16.Bg6 Qf8 17.Qxf8+ Rxf8 18.Bh5 Na6 19.Rd4 Bf5 20.Be2 Nc5 21.g4 Bh7 22.h4 Rae8 23.b4 Nd7 24.Rc4 Kd8 25.Kd2 Ne5 26.Rd4 f5 27.g5 Bg8 28.f4 Nd7 29.Bf3 Re7 30.Re1 Rfe8 31.h5 Nb6 32.e4 Nd7 33.Re2 c5 34.dxc6 bxc6 35.exf5 d5 36.Rxe7 Rxe7 37.Be2 Rf7 38.Bd3 Nb6 39.f6 Rf8 40.h6 Bf7 41.h7

[White took control after the opening.

1-0

Bevan, Paul - Low, Mark [D00]
Wal v Eng ICCF, 12.12.2022

1.d4 Nf6 2.e3 d5 3.Bd3 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nd2 e5 6.dxe5 [D00: 1 d4 d5: Unusual lines.]

6...Nxe5 7.Bc2 Be7 8.f4N [Black is slightly better.]

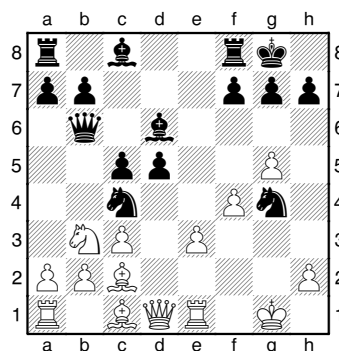
[Predecessor: 8.Ngf3 Nc6 9.0-0 0-0 10.e4 Bg4 11.exd5 Qxd5 12.h3 Bh5 13.Qe2 Rfe8 14.Ne4½-½ Sanudula, K (1717)-Koganov, M (2119) Titled Tuesday intern op 31st Aug Chess.com INT blitz 2021 (6)]

8...Nc6 9.Ngf3 0-0 10.0-0 Qb6 11.Ne5 Bd6 [11...c4± 12.Ndf3 Be6]

12.g4? [Now White is beyond hope.]

[12.Ndc4± keeps the upper hand. 12...Qc7 13.Nxd6 Qxd6 14.e4]

12...Nxe5+- 13.g5 Nfg4 14.Nb3 Nc4 15.Re1 [

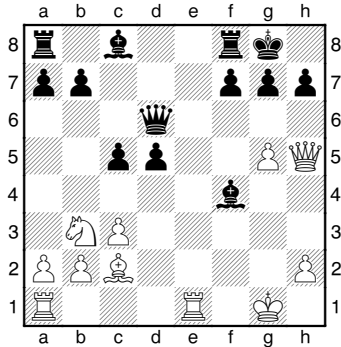


England v Wales International Friendly

15...Ngxe3! 16.Bxe3 [16.Rxe3 Nxe3]

16...Nxe3 [Inferior is 16...Nxb2
17.Qxd5 Be6 18.Qe4#]

17.Rxe3 Bxf4 18.Re1 Qd6 19.Qh5



19...g6 20.Qh6 Bd7 21.Re2 Bg4
22.Rg2 Be3+ 23.Kf1 Qf4+ 24.Ke1
Rae8 [Artfully played by Low.] 0-1

**Cutler,Matthew - Philpin,Les [A41]
Wal v Eng ICCF, 12.12.2022**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 Nc6 4.d5 Nce7
5.c4 Ng6 6.h4 [White is more active.
A41: 1 d4 d6: Tartakower System and
Modern Defence.]

6...Bg4N [Predecessor: 6...Be7 7.h5 Nf8
8.Be2 h6 9.Nc3 Bg4 10.Qa4+ Nd7
11.Nxe5 Bxe2 12.Nxd7 Qxd7 13.Qxd7+
Kxd7 14.Kxe20-1 Laske,E (2132)-
Stanek,S (2044) Liechtenstein op 29th
Triesen 2011 (6)]

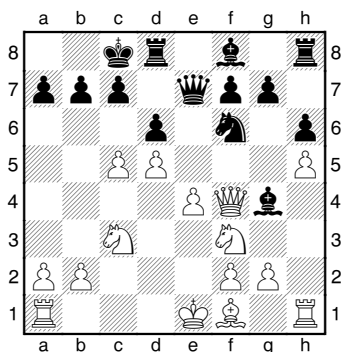
7.h5 Nf4 8.Bxf4 [White is better.]

8...exf4 9.Nc3 h6 10.Qc1 Nf6 11.Qxf4 [c5! would now be deadly.]

11...Qe7 [11...Be7±]

12.c5+- [Black must now prevent 0-0-0.]

12...0-0-0? [



Black is weak on the light squares]

[12...Bxh5 13.Bb5+ Kd8]

13.c6 b6 14.a4 Bxf3 [⊠14...a5 15.Nd2
Qe5]

15.gxf3 Kb8 16.Qe3 Re8 17.a5 Qe5
18.axb6 axb6 19.Ba6 1-0

**Philpin,Les - Cutler,Matthew [D02]
Wal v Eng ICCF, 12.12.2022**

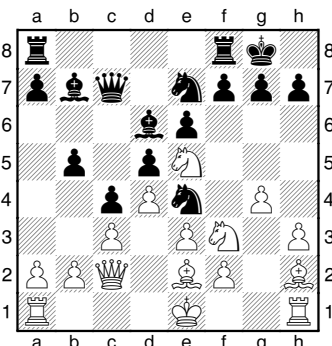
1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bf4 d5 4.e3 c5 5.c3
Bd6 6.Ne5 Nc6 7.Nd2 Qc7 8.Ndf3 c4 [Against Bd3. D02: 1 d4 d5 2 Nf3
sidelines, including 2...Nf6 3 g3 and 2...Nf6 3 Bf4.]

9.Be2 b5N [Predecessor: 9...0-0 10.Qc2
b5 11.Nxc6 Bxf4 12.exf4 Qxc6 13.0-0
Qc7 14.g3 Bd7 15.Ne5 Ne4 16.a4½-½
Ramonelli,R (2179)-Misericordia,A
(2314) RA-2016-0-00479 LSS email]

10.Qc2 Bb7 [The position is equal.]

11.h3 Ne4 12.Bh2 0-0 13.g4 [13.Nxc6#
Bxc6 14.Bxd6 Nxd6 15.0-0]

13...Ne7#



Hoping for ...f6. Black is more active.]

14.g5 f6 15.gxf6 gxf6 [Not 15...Rxf6
16.Ng4=]

16.Ng4 Bxh2 17.Nfxh2 [⊠17.Ngxh2
Kh8 18.Nd2]

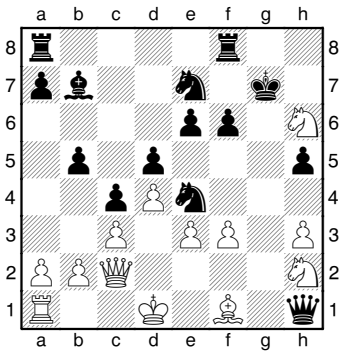
17...h5+- 18.f3 [⊠18.Rg1]

18...Qg3+ 19.Kd1 Qg2 20.Bf1 [White
is weak on the light squares]

[⊠20.Rf1 Ng3 21.Bxc4 Qxc2+
22.Kxc2]

20...Qxh1 [Black is clearly winning.]

21.Nh6+ Kg7 [



...Ng3 is the strong threat.]

22.Qe2 Ng3 23.Qf2 Nxf1 24.Nxf1
Kxh6 White got outplayed after the
opening. 0-1

**Ward,Bill (1547) - Thomas,Dennis
(1545) [C42]
Wal v Eng ICCF, 12.12.2022**

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nxf7
Kxf7 5.d4 Qe7 [5...Nxe4 6.Qh5+
(6.Qf3+? Nf6-+) 6...g6 7.Qd5+ Kg7
8.Qxe4±; 5...c5± aiming for ...cxd4.
6.dxc5 d5]

6.Bc4+ [C42: Petroff Defence: 3 Nxe5
and unusual White 3rd moves.]

[6.Nc3#]

6...Be6# [6...d5 7.Bxd5+ Nxd5 8.Qh5+
g6 9.Qxd5+ Qe6 10.Qxe6+ Bxe6
11.Be3#]

7.Bxe6+ Qxe6 8.0-0 [8.f3#]

8...g6 [8...Qxe4+ and Black stays
clearly on top. ...d5 is the strong threat.
9.Re1 Qf5]

9.Nc3 Nc6N [Don't take 9...Nxe4
10.Qf3+ Qf5 11.Nxe4 (11.Qxe4 Qxe4
12.Nxe4 h6±) 11...Qxf3 12.Ng5+ (12.
gxf3 h6±) 12...Kg8 13.Nxf3±; 9...Nbd7#
keeps the pressure on. 10.Qd3 c5;
Predecessor: 9...Bg7 10.Qd3 Re8
11.Re1 Kg8 12.Bg5 Nbd7 13.f4 c5
14.d5 Qf7 15.Nb5 Qf81-0 Chuprov,D
(2525)-Nepomniachtchi,I (2506)
Ilyumzhinov Cup Internet 2006]

10.d5+- Qe5 11.dxc6 Nxe4? [11...bxc6
is a better defense. 12.Qd3 d5]

12.cxb7 Rb8 13.Qd5+? [13.Re1 d5
14.Nxd5]

13...Qxd5 14.Nxd5 Rxb7 15.Re1 Nc5
16.b4 [16.b3+-]

England v Wales International Friendly

16...Ne6? [Black should try 16...c6!±]

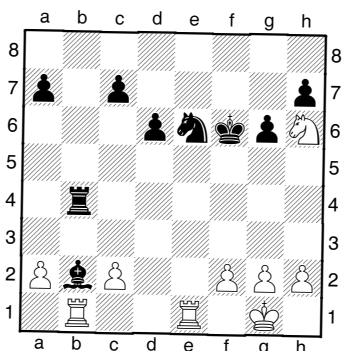
17.Bb2 Rg8 18.Nf6? [18.Re3+- Bg7 19.Rf3+ Ke8 20.Bxg7 Rxg7 21.Re1]

18...Bg7? [18...Rxb4!= 19.Ba3 Ra4]

19.Nxg8 Bxb2 20.Rab1 [⊔20.Nh6+ Ke7 21.Rab1 Rxb4 22.Re3]

20...Rxb4 [⊔20...Bg7]

21.Nh6+ Kf6



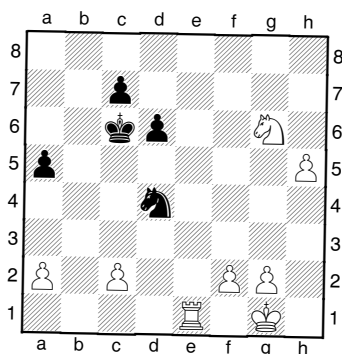
22.Ng4+! [Deflection]

22...Ke7 [22...Rxg4 23.Rxb2]

23.Ne3 [Black must now prevent Nd5+.]

23...Bc3 [⊔23...c6 24.a3 Bxa3]

24.Nd5+ Kd7 25.Nxb4 Bxe1 26.Rxe1 a5 27.Nd5 Nd4 28.Nf6+ Kc6 29.Nxh7 Nf5 30.Nf8 Nd4 31.Nxg6 Nb5 32.h4 Nd4 33.h5 [



And now h6 would win.]

33...Nf5 34.Ne7+ Nxe7 35.Rxe7 1-0

**Thomas,Dennis (1545) - Ward,Bill (1547) [A80]
Wal v Eng ICCF, 12.12.2022**

1.d4 f5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.e3 e6 4.Bd3 b6 5.0-0 Bb7 6.Re1 [A80: Dutch Defence: Unusual White second moves.]

6...Be7 7.Nbd2 0-0 [7...Ne4=]

8.c3 [8.e4±]

8...Qe8N [8...d5=; Predecessor: 8...Ne4 9.Qc2 d5 10.c4 c6 11.cxd5 cxd5 12.a3 Nd7 13.b4 Bd6 14.Bb2 Ndf6-1 Buckman,E-Yapp,C (1494) London Chess Classic op 10th 2018 (2)]

9.Qb3 [Better is 9.e4±]

9...Kh8 [9...Ne4±]

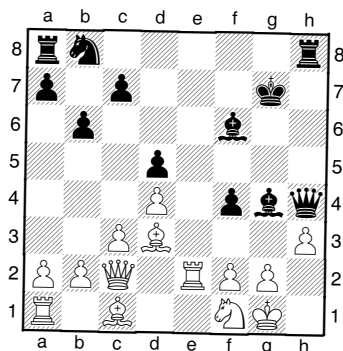
10.Qc2 d6? [10...c5= and Black has nothing to worry.]

11.e4+- f4 [⊔11...g6 12.exf5 exf5]

12.e5 d5? [12...dxe5 13.dxe5 (13.Rxe5 Bd6±; 13.Nxe5 Nbd7±) 13...Ng4]

13.exf6 Bxf6 14.Bxh7 Qh5 15.Bg6 Qh6 16.Bd3 g5 17.Nf1 Kg7 18.h3 Rh8 19.Rxe6 g4 20.N3h2 [20.hxg4? Qh1#]

20...Bc8 21.Re2 Qh4 22.Nxg4 Bxg4 [



23.Bf5! Bxe2 24.Qxe2 Nc6 25.Qg4+ [25.Qe6 Nxd4 26.cxd4 Bxd4+-; ⊔25. Bg4]

25...Qxg4 26.Bxg4 [This pair of bishops is nice.]

26...Bg5 27.g3 [27.Nh2+- has better winning chances.]

27...Rh8 [27...Raf8±]

28.Nh2 [28.h4?! Bh6±; 28.Bd7+- and White stays clearly on top. 28...Ne7 29.h4]

28...Bh6 [⊔28...fxg3 29.Bxg5 gxh2+ 30.Kg2 Na5]

29.Bf3 [aiming for Ng4.]
29...Ne7? [29...Rae8±]

30.Ng4 Nf5 31.Kg2 [Weaker is 31.Bxf4 Bxf4 32.gxf4 Rad8±; Not 31.gxf4 c6±; 31.Bxd5 Rae8 32.Bxf4 Bxf4±; Only move: 31.Nxh6+- Nxh6 32.Bxf4 (32.Bxd5 Rad8+-)]

31...fxg3= 32.fxg3 [Nxh6 would now be deadly.]

32...Rad8? [32...Bxc1= and Black stays safe. 33.Rxc1 Rae8]

33.Nxh6+- Nxh6 34.Bxh6+ [34.g4+-]

34...Kxh6 [Endgame. KRR-KRB]

35.Re1 [Black must now prevent g4.]

35...Rfe8 36.Rd1 c6 37.h4 Re3 38.Rd2 Rde8 39.Kf2 Re1? [39...b5=]

40.a3? [40.c4!+-]

40...Rb1 41.g4 Ree1? [41...Rbe1±]

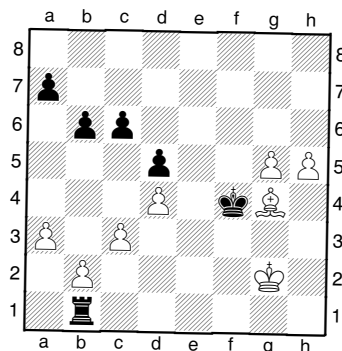
42.g5+ Kg6 43.Kg3! Kf5 [43...Re7 was called for. 44.Kg2 Ree1]

44.Bg4+ Ke4? [44...Kg6 is a better chance. 45.Bf3 Re6]

45.Rg2 Rg1? [45...Re3+ 46.Kh2 Ree1]

46.h5 Rxg2+ 47.Kxg2 [KR-KB]

47...Kf4 [

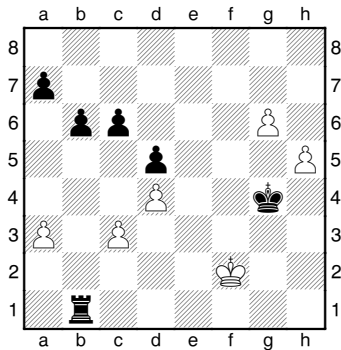


48.g6! Kxg4 49.Kf2?? [49.g7+- Rxb2+ 50.Kg1 Kxh5 51.g8Q (51.g8R? Rb3+-)]

England v Wales International Friendly

49...Rxb2+ 50.Kf1 Rb1+ [50...Kxh5? 51.g7 Rc2 52.g8Q+- (52.g8R? loses. 52...Rxc3 53.a4 Rc4+-)]

51.Kf2



51...Rb2+! [51...Kxh5? 52.g7+-]

52.Kf1 Rb1+? [52...Kxh5? 53.g7+-; 52...Kf3! mates 53.Ke1 Rg2 54.a4 Ke4 55.Kd1 Rg5 Deflection 56.h6 Rxc6 57.h7 Rh6 58.Ke2 Rxc7 59.Kf2 Rg7 60.Ke2 Rg2+ 61.Kd1 Ke3 62.c4 dxc4 63.d5 cxd5 64.a5 bxa5 65.Kc1 Kd3 66.Kb1 Kc3 67.Ka1 Kb3 68.Kb1 Rg1#]

53.Kf2 [53.Kg2!? Rb2+ 54.Kf1+-]

53...Rb2+! [What a fight! ½-½

Beeston,Darson - de Maillet, Anthony [B12]
Wal v Eng ICCF, 12.12.2022

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.h4 h5 5.Bd3 Bxd3 6.Qxd3 e6 7.Nf3 Qa5+ [B12: Caro-Kann: Advance Variation.]

8.Nbd2 Qa6 9.c4 Be7 [White is slightly better.]

10.0-0 Nh6 11.b3 Nf5 12.g3N 0-0 13.Qc2 Rd8 14.Bb2 Nd7 15.a3 Rac8 16.c5 b6 17.b4 Qb7 18.Ne1[1-0 Nyzhnyk,I (2665)-Prohaszka,P (2592) Chesterfield SPICE Cup op 2020 (7)]

0-1

Watson,Francis - Billington,Matthew [D31]
Wal v Eng ICCF, 12.12.2022

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6 4.Nf3 dxc4 5.a4 Bb4 6.e3 b5 7.axb5 cxb5 8.Bd2 [D31: Queen's Gambit Declined: Semi-

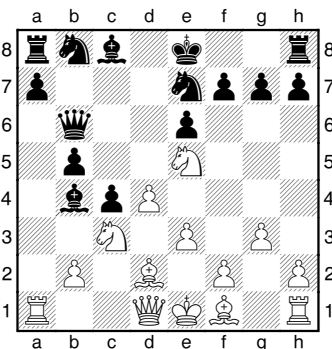
Slav without ...Nf6 (+ Marshall Gambit and Noteboom) and Exchange Variation lines without ...Nf6.]

8...Qb6 [White should prevent ...a5.]

9.Ne5 [White should try 9.Ne4= Na6 10.b3]

9...Ne7!± [Strongly threatening ...Nd7.]

10.g3N [



[10.Qf3± 0-0 11.Qxa8; Predecessor: 10.Qf3 0-0 11.Qxa8 Nec6 12.Nxc6 Nxc6 13.d5 Na5 14.Rxa5 Qxa5 15.Qc6 Qa1+ 16.Nd1 Bxd2+ 17.Kxd2½-½ Damaceanu,R (2025)-Robeille,J (2089) W-ch WS/H/763 email ICCF email 2020]

10...Bb7+- 11.Rg1 0-0 12.Bg2 Bxg2 13.Rxg2 f6 14.Nf3 a5 15.Ne2 Bxd2+ 16.Nxd2 a4 17.f4 Nd5 [Black is clearly winning.]

18.Nf1 Nc6 19.Nc3 Ncb4 20.Nxd5 Nxd5 [20...exd5? loses. 21.Kf2+-]

21.Qc1 Rfc8 [White is weak on the light squares]

22.Rc2 Nb4 [Black took control after the opening. 0-1

Billington,Matthew - Watson, Francis [B32]
Wal v Eng ICCF, 12.12.2022

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6 5.Nc3 Nxd4 6.Qxd4 Qf6 [Prevents Bf4. B32: Sicilian: Löwenthal and Kalashnikov Variations.]

[6...a6± was necessary.]

7.e5+- Qg6 [△7...Qd8 8.Bf4 Ne7]

8.Nb5N [Predecessor: 8.Bd2 a6 9.0-0-0

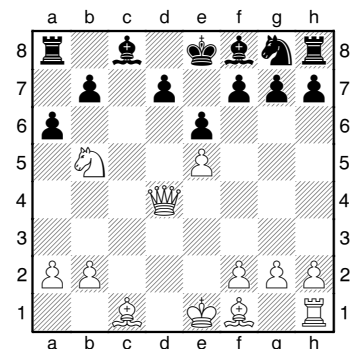
Ne7 10.g4 Nc6 11.Qf4 f6 12.exf6 Qxf6 13.Qg3 Be7 14.h41-0 Zahariyev,O-Katsarov,H (1495) EU-ch 13th Plovdiv 2012 (11)]

8...Qxc2 [White has a decisive advantage.]

9.Be3 [9.Nxa7? perishes. 9...Bc5 10.Qd2 Qe4+ 11.Qe2 Bb4+ 12.Kd1 Qd4+ 13.Kc2 Qxa7+-]

9...a6 [Black is weak on the dark squares]

10.Rc1 Qxc1+ 11.Bxc1 [



aiming for Nc7+.]

11...axb5 12.Bxb5 g6 [△12...Ne7 13.a3 Nc6]

13.0-0 [White is clearly winning.]

13...Bg7 14.Rd1 Kf8 15.Qd6+ Ne7 16.Bg5 [Black got outplayed after the opening.] 1-0

Nichol,John (1166) - Chugg,Malcolm (1175) [A21]
Wal v Eng ICCF, 12.12.2022

1.c4 e5 2.Nc3 Bb4 3.Ne4 d5 4.cxd5 Qxd5 5.f3N [Predecessor: 5.Nc3 Qa5 6.e4 Nf6 7.a3 Bd6 8.Nf3 0-0 9.Bc4 Nc6 10.d3 Nd4 11.Bd2 Qb6 12.h3 Be6 13.b3 Rad8 14.0-0 c6 15.Nxd4 Qxd4 16.Ne2 Qb6 17.Ng3½-½ Fernandez Ballon,A (2489)-Winiger,A (1881) Remote S7E Adv-120 email Remote email 2012]

5...h6 [5...f5± 6.Nc3 Qd6]

6.a3 [A21: English Opening: 1...e5 2 Nc3.]

6...Be5 [6...Be7±]

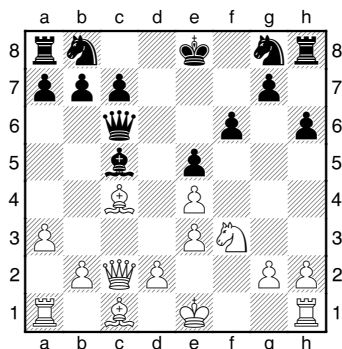
7.e3 Bf5 [7...Bb6=]

England v Wales International Friendly

8.Qc2 [White is slightly better.]

8...Bxe4 9.fxe4 Qc6 10.Nf3 f6 [Better is 10...Nd7±]

11.Bc4+- [



Threatens to win with Qb3.]

11...Ne7 12.b4 Bd6 13.d3? [13.b5+- Qd7 14.d4]

13...f5? [13...b5!= and Black stays safe. 14.Bb3 Qxc2 15.Bxc2 Nbc6]

14.exf5 [b5 would now be deadly.]

14...Nxf5? [14...b5 keeps fighting.]

15.Qb3 [Black must now prevent Be6.]

15...Rf8 16.a4 e4? [16...Qb6]

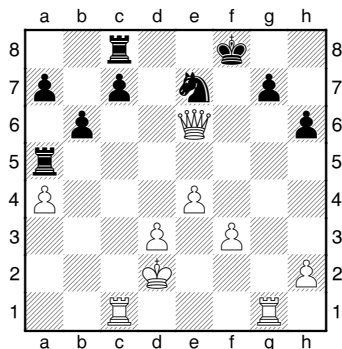
17.Bb5 [A strong pair of Bishops.]

17...exf3 18.Bxc6+ Nxc6 19.gxf3 Bxb4+ 20.Bd2 Bxd2+ 21.Kxd2 b6 [21..0-0-0 22.Rab1 b6]

22.Qe6+ Nfe7 23.Rac1 Nd8 [23...Rf6 was worth a try. 24.Qg4 g6]

24.Qe5 Rf5 25.Qe4 Rc8 26.Rhg1 Kf8 27.Qg4 Ne6 28.e4 Ra5 [Δ28...h5]

29.Qxe6 [



Threatening mate with Rxg7!]

29...Rxa4 30.Qg4 [Δ30.Rxg7 Ra2+ 31.Ke3 Re2+ 32.Kxe2 Kxg7 33.Qxe7+ Kh8 34.Rc6 Rd8 35.Rxc7 Rd7 36.Rc8+ Rd8 37.Rxd8#]

30...Ra2+ 31.Ke3 [White threatens Qf4+ and mate.]

31...Ke8 32.Qxg7 [Qf6 would kill now.]

32...Rxh2 33.Qe5 [White mates.]

33...c6 34.Rg7 Re2+ 35.Kxe2 a5 36.Qxe7# 1-0

**Chugg, Malcolm (1175) - Nichol, John (1166) [A00]
Wal v Eng ICCF, 12.12.2022**

1.e3 e5 2.d3 Nf6 3.e4 Nc6 4.Bd2N [Predecessor: 4.Bg5 d6 5.Nf3 Bg4 6.h3 Be6 7.Be2 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.a4 d5 10.Ra20-1 Lewkowicz,D (600)-Roessl, S (728) GER-chT U10 Magdeburg 2016 (3.2)]

4...Bc5 5.Nc3 d6 6.h3 [A00: Irregular Openings.]

6...Be6 7.Nf3 Qd7 [7...d5±]

8.Na4= [The position is equal.]

8...0-0 9.Nxc5 dxc5 10.Bg5 Nh5 [10..Ne8= keeps the balance.]

11.g3? [11.Nxe5?! Nxe5 12.Qxh5 f5=; 11.Be3±]

11...f6 [11...f5!±]

12.Be3± b6 13.Qe2 [13.c3±]

13...Nb4 [Black should try 13...a5±]

14.a3 Qa4 [14...Nc6=]

15.Rc1 [15.axb4? is the wrong capture. 15...Qxa1+ 16.Qd1 Qxb2 17.bxc5 a5+-; 15.b3± Qa5 16.c3]

15...Na2? [15...Nc6±]

16.Rd1 Qa5+ 17.c3 Qa4 [Δ17...Nxc3 18.bxc3 Qxc3+ 19.Qd2 Qxa3]

18.Bd2 Rad8 19.Be1? [19.Be3±]

19...Bb3 [Black has more active pieces. The white rooks are passive.]

[19...Nxc1!± 20.Rxc1 g6]

20.Rd2? [20.Be3!= and White is okay.]

20...Nxc1+- 21.Qe3 Be6 22.Rd1 Nb3 23.Be2 c4 24.d4 exd4 25.Nxd4 Nxd4 26.Rxd4 Qc2 27.Rd2?

[27.Bxh5 is more resistant. 27...Qxb2 28.0-0]

27...Qb1+ 28.Bd1 Bd7

[Δ28...Rxd2 29.Qxd2 Qxe4+ 30.Qe2 Qxh1+ 31.Kd2 Rd8+ 32.Kc2 Bf7]

29.0-0 Bxh3 30.Re1 Rd3?

[Inferior is 30...Rxd2 31.Qxd2 Qd3 32.Qxd3 cxd3 33.Bxh5±; 30...Nxc3+- has better winning chances. 31.Bb3 Qxe4 32.Qxe4 Nxe4 33.Bxc4+ Kh8 34.Rxd8 Rxd8 35.Rxe4 h6]

31.Qe2

[31.Rxd3± Qxd3 32.Bxh5]

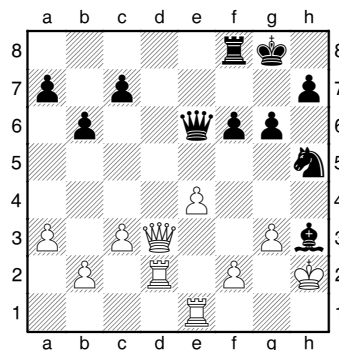
31...g6??

[31...Nxc3+- and all is fine. 32.fxg3 Rfd8 33.Rxd3 Qxd3]

32.Bc2??

[32.Bb3!+- Rxd2 33.Qxc4+ Kg7 34.Rxb1]

32...Qa2 33.Bxd3 cxd3 34.Qxd3 Qe6 35.Kh2 [



35...f5?? 36.Rde2?? [36.Kxh3+- is the narrow road to win. 36...fxe4+ 37.Kh2]

36...f4 37.Qd5 Nf6 [Δ37...fxg3+ 38.fxg3 Rf3]

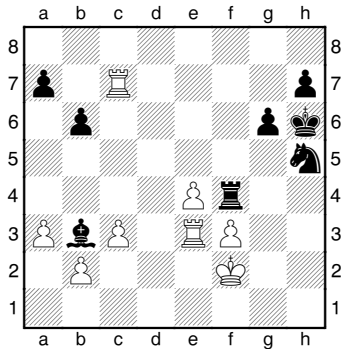
38.Qxe6+ Bxe6 39.gxf4 Ng4+ [Discovered Attack]

40.Kg3 Nf6 41.f3? [41.f5 keeps fighting. 41...gxf5 42.exf5 Bxf5 43.Kh4]

41...Nh5+ 42.Kf2 Rxf4 43.Re3 Bc4 44.Rd1 Kg7 45.Rd7+ Kh6? [45...Rf7+ 46.Rxf7+ Kxf7]

England v Wales International Friendly

46.Rxc7= Bb3 [



[46...b5=]

47.Rxa7

[White should play 47.c4!± Bc2 48.Rxa7]

47...Rh4

[White must now prevent ...Rh2+.]

48.Rb7 Rh2+ 49.Ke1?

[49.Kg1= Rxb2 50.Rxb6]

49...Ng3?

[Not 49...Rxb2 50.Re2 Rb1+ 51.Kf2=; Better is 49...Nf4+ 50.c4 Rxb2]

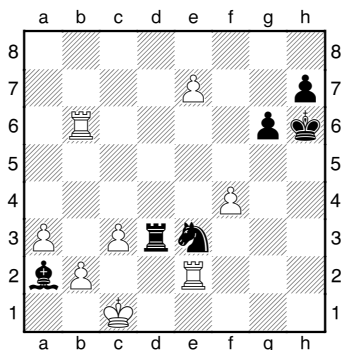
50.Rxb6 Bc2 [50...Bc4= and Black stays safe. 51.e5 Nf5]

51.e5

[e6 would now be deadly.]

51...Nf5 52.Re2 Rh1+ 53.Kd2 Bb1 [53...Bd1±]

54.e6+- Rh3 55.f4 Rd3+ 56.Kc1 Ba2 57.e7 Ne3 [



58.Re6?? Rd1#

[Never resign too early!] 0-1

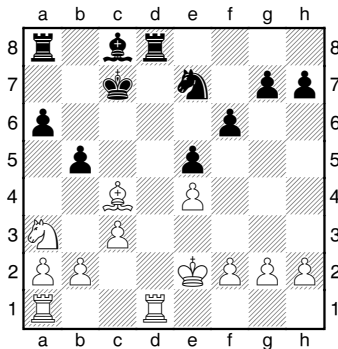
de Maillet,Anthony - Rose,Isaac
[A40]
Wal v Eng ICCF, 12.12.2022

1.d4 e5 2.dxe5 Nc6 3.Nf3 d6 4.Bg5 Be7
5.Bxe7 Ngxe7 6.exd6
[A40: Unusual replies to 1 d4.]

6...cxd6 7.c3N

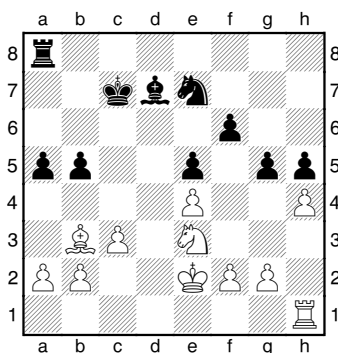
[Predecessor: 7.Nc3 Qb6 8.Rb1 d5 9.e3 Bg4 10.Nxd5 Qa5+ 11.Nc3 Rd8 12.Qe2 Qh5 13.h3 1-0 Arias,S (1811)-Krol,W (2041) SB-2014-0-00375 LSS email]

7...Ne5 8.Nxe5 dxe5 9.Qxd8+ Kxd8
10.e4 Kc7 11.Bc4 f6 12.Na3 Rd8
13.Ke2 a6 14.Rhd1 b5 [



And now ...Rxd1 would win.]

15.Rxd8 Kxd8 16.Bb3 Kc7 17.Nc2 a5
18.Rd1 Bd7 19.Ne3 h5 20.h4 g5
21.Rh1 [



Threatens to win with hxg5. White is more active.]

21...Rh8 22.g3 1-0

Rose,Isaac - de Maillet,Anthony
[B10]
Wal v Eng ICCF, 12.12.2022

1.e4 c6 2.e5 d6 3.f4 c5N

[Predecessor: 3...dxe5 4.fxe5 Bf5 5.Nf3 e6 6.d4 c5 7.Nc3 Nc6 8.Bb5 Nge7 9.dxc5 Qxd1+ 10.Nxd1 Bxc2 1/2-1/2 Gadimbayli,A (2461)-Daneshtar,B (2311) Baku Jafarov Memorial 2020 (4.2)]

4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Nc3 Bd7 6.g3

[B10: Caro-Kann: 2 d3 and 2 c4.]

6...g6 7.Bg2 Bg7 8.Ne4

[Black is slightly better.]

8...dxe5 9.fxe5 c4

[9...Nxe5 10.Nxe5 Bxe5 11.Nxc5±]

10.Qe2 Rc8 11.c3 Nxe5

[Reject 11...Bxe5 12.Nc5 Bf6 13.Nxd7 (13.Nxb7 Qc7±; 13.Qxc4 Na5±) 13..Qxd7 14.Qxc4±]

12.Nxe5 Bxe5 13.b3 Nf6

[...Qa5 is the strong threat.]

14.bxc4 0-0

[aiming for ...Qa5.]

15.0-0 Nxe4 16.Qxe4 Qa5

[Strongly threatening ...Be6.]

17.Qxb7 Be6 18.Qb5 Bc7 0-1

Play Chess From the Comfort of Your
Own Home!



National Correspondence Chess Club

Our philosophy: "To foster friendship
between members"

"Beginners to Grandmasters"

A wide variety of tournaments

FREE web server chess

FREE bi-monthly magazine

For application form and full details
visit our website: www.natcor.org.uk

or contact: Des Green

93 Elmdon Lane, Marston Green,
Birmingham B37 7DN
0121 246 2295

ICCF Ratings 2023

ICCF ratings are updated quarterly. The following tables show active players who have played a minimum of 30 rated games and completed a rated game within the previous two calendar years.

Players with less than 30 games are considered to have an unpublished rating whilst players with no result within 2 years are considered to be inactive.

New ICCF Titles Awarded in 2023

ICCF ID	TITLE	NAME	GAMES	GRADE
210507	CCM	Thurlow, Kevin J.	310	2333
210690	CCM	Marchant, Arnold	582	2320
211586	CCE	Nierobisz, Jim	446	2242
211621	CCM	Hamilton, David	218	2271
211994	CCM	Hollands, George	649	2273
212535	IM	Marks, Robert	239	2401
212686	CCM	Watkins, Kenneth	113	2316
213068	CCE	Hooker, Stephen	119	2332
213237	CCE	Curry-Machado, Jonathan	70	2394
213245	CCE	Toon, James	272	2310
735004	CCE	Kimlong, Ly	105	2229

Most Improved Players in 2023

ICCF ID	TITLE	NAME	INCREASE
211254		Pooley, Mark C.	2085 +208
421439	CCE	Róžański, Robert	2337 +171
212579		Roberts, Stephen	1519 +162
212505		Joslin, Kay	1890 +161
211095		Hughes, Gregory	1804 +147
212334		Woodhouse, Stephen	2215 +144
213182		Riddle, Bruce	1864 +132
212954		Carey, Graeme	2046 +108
213245	CCE	Toon, James	2310 +107
211809		Primrose, Jo	2090 +103
212991		Powell, Jonathan	1489 +103
210605	CCE	Craven, Valerie	2304 +97
212982		Tanner, Garry	1888 +95
213090		Shaw, Dene	2096 +92
210745	SIM	Rawlings, Alan J. C.	2424 +90
735004	CCE	Kimlong, Ly	2229 +89
219067		Spencer, Adam	1781 +88

New to the Rating List

ICCF ID	NAME	GAMES	GRADE
212271	Watson, Wilfred A .	35	1368
212625	Isaac, Oliver	36	1394
213068	CCE Hooker, Stephen	119	2332
213108	Stiles, Tony	37	1253
213224	Hardingham, David	50	1841
213237	CCE Curry-Machado, Jonathan	70	2394
213247	Watson, Francis	54	1381
213277	de Maillet, Anthony	51	2157
218021	Kraszewski, David	30	2149
212724	Theedom-Bridgeman, P. J.	30	1202

The '1000 Club' of Games Played

ICCF ID	TITLE	NAME	GAMES
210745	SIM	Rawlings, Alan J. C.	2835
210514	SIM	Pheby, Ian M.	2554
210454		Beckett, Phillip J.	2063
210201	IM	Harman, Kenneth B.	1817
210854	IM	Thompson, Brian	1666
210569	SIM	Kitson, Keith	1540
212334		Woodhouse, Stephen	1384
210847	CCM	Grobler, David J.	1379
210709	CCE	Sutton, Alan B.	1370
780026	CCE	Ward, Richard	1353
30100	CCM	Mason, Ian J.	1252
210218		Tibbert, Peter H.	1112
212273	CCE	Bruce, Robert	1056
211299	IM	Eldridge, Mark	1054
211510		Evans, Gordon R.	1010

Most Games Completed in 2023

ICCF ID	TITLE	NAME	+GAMES
213245	CCE	Toon, James	184
210854	IM	Thompson, Brian	138
210454		Beckett, Phillip J.	120
213068	CCE	Hooker, Stephen	119
212273	CCE	Bruce, Robert	113
210745	SIM	Rawlings, Alan J. C.	112
210514	SIM	Pheby, Ian M.	102
210447	CCE	Cole, Steve	102
211229	IM	Ellis, Les	102
210605	CCE	Craven, Valerie	94
213011	CCM	Bailey, Matthew W.	90
210690	CCM	Marchant, Arnold	86
210569	SIM	Kitson, Keith	79
211994	CCM	Hollands, George	79
213180		Swindells, Joshua E.B.	77
30100	CCM	Mason, Ian J.	75
210847	CCM	Grobler, David J.	74
421439	CCE	Róžański, Robert	74
780026	CCE	Ward, Richard	72
212397	CCM	McDermott, Frank J.	72
211643		Elwood, David	70
213237	CCE	Curry-Machado, Jonathan	70

The next pages lists the latest ICCF Ratings from January 2024 and the top 100 English players, space dictates that I am unable to list all players but please do write and tell me if you would like to see a particular set of data from the ICCF rating list. Your thoughts on an email to me please @ efccnews@icloud.com please.

ICCF Ratings 2024/1

ICCF ratings were amended in 2023 and now use a revised method of calculation. Also, a new measure called 'Rating Deviation' has been added for each player. Rating deviation is intended to show the reliability of a players rating, it is a measure of activity. An excellent summary of the changes has been published by the Welsh Correspondence Chess Federation at - <https://www.welshccf.org.uk/article/1199>

New ICCF Titles Awarded in 2024

ICCF ID	TITLE	NAME	GAMES	GRADE
212819	CCM	Cowan, Alastair	236	2321
211880	IM	Eastoe, Leslie K. G.556	2444	
212207	IM	Richardt, Mike	385	2380

Most Improved Players in 2024

ICCF ID	TITLE	NAME	GRADE	DIFF
735004	CCE	Kimlong, Ly	2340	111
213090		Shaw, Dene	2196	100
211254		Pooley, Mark C.	2177	92
211095		Hughes, Gregory	1892	88
219137	CCM	Mason, Ian J.	2404	86
213277		de Maillet, Anthony		2229
72				
210332	CCM	Wilkinson, James P.	2351	72
213237	CCE	Curry-Machado, Jonathan	2465	71
212982		Tanner, Garry	1957	69
211815		Picken, R. David	1748	67
212000		Zigmond, Andrew	1539	66
212505		Joslin, Kay	1954	64
211229	IM	Ellis, Les	2477	62
211794		Walsh, Hilary J.	1653	60
421439	CCE	Rózański, Robert	2396	59
211408		Wood, Ben A.	2060	58
212954		Carey, Graeme	2103	57
211586	CCE	Nierobisz, Jim	2298	56
210477		Morton, Peter S.	1543	53
212207	IM	Richardt, Mike	2380	53
213180		Swindells, Joshua Edwin B.	2282	52
210447	CCE	Cole, Steve	2282	49
212069		Kirk, Matthew	1818	48
212163		Dudeney, Peter	2188	45
211621	CCM	Hamilton, David	2316	45
212835	CCM	Shaw, John S.	2374	44
212819	CCM	Cowan, Alastair	2321	43
210218		Tibbert, Peter H.	1573	42
210195		Phillips, Peter Stephen	2097	41

New to the Rating List

ICCF ID	NAME	GAMES	GRADE
213221	Baxter, Harold	33	2188
213218	Cutler, Matthew	32	2186
213145	Egginton, Roy	30	1619

The '1000 Club' of Games Played

ICCF ID	TITLE	NAME	GAMES	GRADE
210745	SIM	Rawlings, Alan J. C.	2880	2420
210514	SIM	Pheby, Ian M.	2580	2407
210454		Beckett, Phillip J.	2086	1803
210201	IM	Harman, Kenneth B.	1817	1327
210854	IM	Thompson, Brian	1674	2388
210569	SIM	Kitson, Keith	1548	2380
210847	CCM	Grobler, David J.	1401	2351
210709	CCE	Sutton, Alan B.	1396	2115
212334		Woodhouse, Stephen	1389	2218
780026	CCE	Ward, Richard	1367	2264
219137	CCM	Mason, Ian J.	1268	2404
210218		Tibbert, Peter H.	1120	1573
211299	IM	Eldridge, Mark	1054	2435
210447	CCE	Cole, Steve	1040	2282
211510		Evans, Gordon R.	1010	2275

New Results in 2024

ICCF ID	TITLE	NAME	+GAMES
210447	CCE	Cole, Steve	49
210745	SIM	Rawlings, Alan J. C.	45
211586	CCE	Nierobisz, Jim	44
211994	CCM	Hollands, George	40
213245	CCE	Toon, James	38
213221		Baxter, Harold	33
210690	CCM	Marchant, Arnold	32
213218		Cutler, Matthew	32
421439	CCE	Rózański, Robert	31
213145		Egginton, Roy	30
213238		Ariss, John	27
210514	SIM	Pheby, Ian M.	26
210709	CCE	Sutton, Alan B.	26
211643		Elwood, David	25
213011	CCM	Bailey, Matthew W.	25
211118	CCM	Roberts, Anthony Arthur	24
210454		Beckett, Phillip J.	23
213068	CCE	Hooker, Stephen	23
210847	CCM	Grobler, David J.	22
212397	CCM	McDermott, Frank J.	22
210605	CCE	Craven, Valerie	20
212803	CCM	Webster, Richard	20
211254		Pooley, Mark C.	20
213237	CCE	Curry-Machado, Jonathan	20
211229	IM	Ellis, Les	18
212469	CCE	Broadway, Dennis	18
213184	CCM	Gittens, Mark	18
210823	CCM	Brotherton, Trevor S.	17
211163		Tymms, J. D. M.	17
213180		Swindells, Joshua Edwin B.	17
219137	CCM	Mason, Ian J.	16
211537		Ackley, Peter	16
211280	CCE	Perrin, Richard David	16
735004	CCE	Kimlong, Ly	15
213247		Watson, Francis	15

ICCF Ratings 2024/1

The Top 100

IICF Nr.	Title	Name	Games	Rating	IICF Nr.	Title	Name	Games	Rating
211305	GM	Robson, Nigel	234	2616	212835	CCM	Shaw, John S.	121	2374
210773	GM	Hall, Richard V. M.	404	2553	212013	CCM	Evans, David	485	2374
211655	SIM	Williamson, H. D.	605	2515	212381	CCM	Carr, Trevor	332	2368
210929	SIM	Frostick, Clive A.	135	2503	212314	LGM	Williamson, D. L.	975	2367
212933	IM	Le-Marechal, G.	138	2495	211019	CCM	Dixon, Danny	237	2367
211303	GM	Coleman, Peter L.	328	2493	211431	GM	Pugh, John	549	2366
212704	SIM	Rallabandi, .K.	510	2481	211987	CCM	Hughes, S.J.	202	2365
211229	IM	Ellis, Les	989	2477	210370	CCM	Owen, K. J.	247	2360
213237	CCE	Curry-Machado, J.	90	2465	211824	CCM	Graham, Oliver	823	2354
211501	SIM	Wharam, John	184	2460	210847	CCM	Grobler, David J.	1401	2351
211942	IM	Weldon, David J.	354	2457	210332	CCM	Wilkinson, J. P.	457	2351
211318	IM	Soh, Edmund	363	2455	210619	CCM	Norman, Nigel	741	2349
211880	IM	Eastoe, Leslie K. G.	556	2444	210866		Manley, J. P.	74	2345
212175	IM	Maguire, Gary	546	2442	211788		Ewan, Rod	175	2342
211765	IM	Brewer, Shaun	212	2439	212686	CCM	Watkins, Kenneth	116	2341
211299	IM	Eldridge, Mark	1054	2435	213068	CCE	Hooker, Stephen	142	2340
210787		McLaughlin, K. W.	232	2429	735004	CCE	Kimlong, Ly	120	2340
212902	IM	Wharam, George	72	2429	210845	CCE	Jefferson, N. W.	445	2337
210788	IM	Lumley, Bill F.	820	2425	210800		Deans, Mary Helen	235	2332
213011	CCM	Bailey, M. W.	456	2421	213245	CCE	Toon, James	310	2328
210745	SIM	Rawlings, A. J. C.	2880	2420	211541	CCM	Catt, Peter	525	2326
212008	CCM	Williams, Richard	440	2419	210967	CCE	Haupt, William D.	101	2326
210807	SIM	Tait, Jonathan A.	172	2417	212925	CCM	Brennan, S.J.	76	2324
210701	SIM	Rhodes, John D.	628	2415	212819	CCM	Cowan, Alastair	236	2321
211452	CCM	Grayland, Stan J.	768	2412	211375	CCM	Soszynski, M.J.	215	2319
212018	IM	Halliwell, Toni	991	2408	210507	CCM	Thurlow, Kevin J.	314	2318
212651	CCM	James, Angus	270	2408	210250	IM	Brockbank, H W.	108	2318
210514	SIM	Pheby, Ian M.	2580	2407	211621	CCM	Hamilton, David	226	2316
210425	GM	Brookes, John G.	253	2407	211552	CCE	Franks, Keith	261	2316
219137	CCM	Mason, Ian J.	1268	2404	211154	IM	Shaw, Sidney S.	590	2316
212544	CCM	Herman, Tom	266	2404	211009	CCE	Birkbeck, Brian	106	2312
212104	CCM	Copsey, Antony	381	2401	211382	CCM	Hart, Terry	144	2311
212535	IM	Marks, Robert	243	2400	211434	CCM	Sheppard, Barry S.	463	2309
421439	CCE	Róžański, Robert	707	2396	212397	CCM	McDermott, F. J.	999	2308
210265	SIM	Williams, c. C.	271	2395	210919	CCM	Girling, Clive F.	197	2307
212012	CCM	Maver, Ian	107	2393	213184	CCM	Gittens, Mark	251	2303
211887	CCM	Eastlake, Phil	210	2391	211280	CCE	Perrin, R.D.	674	2303
210108	IM	Wharrier, Jo A.	967	2390	211586	CCE	Nierobisz, Jim	490	2298
219076	CCM	Squires, M. B.	546	2390	210605	CCE	Craven, Valerie	549	2295
210717	CCM	Blake, Michael J.	963	2389	212494	CCE	Tillett, Richard	132	2295
210854	IM	Thompson, Brian	1674	2388	210690	CCM	Marchant, Arnold	614	2294
210324	SIM	Mukherjee, Ajoy K.	645	2388	212463		Witt, Daniel	39	2291
218010	CCM	Barber, Philip	332	2386	210641	CCE	Lyne, Colin J.	268	2289
212527	CCM	Holland, E. N.	195	2386	211384	CCE	Conterno, D.	456	2288
212443	CCM	Donovan, Terence	164	2381	210578		Williams, S.M.	131	2288
211062	SIM	Asquith, Jerry E. C.	435	2380	210823	CCM	Brotherton, T. S.	805	2287
212207	IM	Richardt, Mike	385	2380	211459		Tolhurst, Philip	126	2286
210569	SIM	Kutson, Keith	1548	2380	210447	CCE	Cole, Steve	1040	2282
211450	IM	Suto, Janos I.	612	2378	213180		Swindells, J.E.B.	150	2282
212803	CCM	Webster, Richard	493	2374	211906	IM	Rice, Peter	240	2279

International Correspondence Chess Federation



THE WORLD GOVERNING body for International Correspondence Chess and organiser of tournaments for individuals and teams. All members of EFCC and affiliated organisations may enter ICCF World and ICCF European tournaments.

Entry to ICCF tournaments may be made via the [EFCC website](#) or direct to [ICCF](#).

Individual Tournaments

Enter at any time. These are listed under [‘New Events’ at iccf.com](#).

Norm Tournaments

Grandmaster (GM), Senior International Master (SIM), International Master (IM), Correspondence Chess Master (CCM) and Correspondence Chess Expert (CCE) title qualification tournaments.

Promotion Tournaments

Postal and Server based sections in Open, Higher and Master sections to work your way through based on ICCF ratings.

Aspirer Tournaments

For players rated below 1600 or new to CC. Games will be rated and whilst there is no promotion or relegation, this is a good place to start with the aim to learn and improve in a tournament environment.

Free Tournaments

Free two unrated two game matches designed to introduce players to the ICCF and Chess-Server use

Chess 960 Tournaments

Rated Chess 960, 5 players, 8 games, 10 moves in 30 days, starts when filled.

Thematic Tournaments

Usually 5 players, 8 games, 10 moves in 50 days, starts when filled or by the date specified.

Thematic Tournaments

<https://www.iccf.com/EventsAnnouncements.aspx>

Events start on a regular basis with the current and upcoming list offering a good variety of tournaments.

WSTT/1/24 - Benoni Benko Gambit, A57

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.b6 starts 15/01/2024

WSTT/2/24 - Anti-Moscow Gambit, D43

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 * starts 01/03/2024

WSTT/3/24 - Ruy Lopez, Exchange Var., C68

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Bxc6 * starts 15/04/2024

WSTT/4/24 - Blackmar-Diemer Gambit, D00

1.d4 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 * starts 01/06/2024

WSTT/5/24 - Fegatello Variation, C57

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.Nxf7 Kxf7 7.Qf3+ Ke6 8.Nc3 * starts 15/09/2024

WSTT/6/24 - Dory Defence, E10

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 Ne4 * starts 01/11/2024

WSTT/7/24 - Sicilian, Morra gambit, B21

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 * starts 15/12/2024

Regional Tournaments

These have largely replaced the previous zonal tournaments.

European Server Championship 2023, Preliminary

Rated, 11 players, 10 games, 10 moves in 50 days, starts when filled, 7 out of 11 players registered

European Server Championship Open Round

Rated, 7 players, 6 games, 10 moves in 50 days, starts when filled, 1 out of 7 players registered

RoW Championship 2023, Preliminary

Rated, 11 players, 10 games, 10 moves in 50 days, starts when filled, 4 out of 11 players registered

RoW Championship Open Round

Rated, 7 players, 6 games, 10 moves in 50 days, starts when filled, 10 out of 7 players registered.

European Postal Championship 2023, Semi-Final

Postal Rated, 6 players, 10 games, 10 moves in 40 days, starts when filled, 6 out of 6 players registered.

European Postal Championship Open Round

Postal Rated, 4 players, 6 games, 10 moves in 40 days, starts when filled, 3 out of 4 players registered

More information at <https://www.iccf.com/EventsAnnouncements.aspx>

PLAYER PROFILE

Meet the Player: CCM Ian Mason



IAN HAS JOINED the Executive Committee of EFCC and has kindly sent us this article to introduce himself. We wish Ian much success and enjoyment on the EC.

"I was taught to play chess at the age of 8 by a next door neighbour. Unfortunately, he did not teach me Scholar's Mate and in my first ever game proudly representing my primary school, I lost in 4 moves and was in tears! I vowed that this would never happen again, and that I would improve. I played for a strong chess team, St Olaves Grammar School in secondary school which almost won the Sunday Times schools competition (a certain Daniel King was playing for his school against us), and also played for my county (at that time Kent, latterly Surrey), and in the first year Varsity match for Cambridge University against Oxford.

I have played for Metropolitan, Surbiton, Wimbledon and Kingston chess teams at various times.

I still play OTB when I can, but took up correspondence chess in the early 1990's, first by post, then email, and now exclusively on the ICCF server. I have played over 1400 games on the ICCF and obtained my CCM title in 2019.

Mason, Ian J. (2294) - Roberts, Anthony Arthur (2273) [A18] BCCA/Gold/2023 (ENG) ICCF, 10.03.2023

1.c4 Nf6 2.Nc3 e6 3.e4 d5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.e5 Ne4 6.Nf3 Bf5 [A18: English Opening: Flohr-Mikenas System (1 c4 Nf6 2 Nc3 e6 3 e4).]

7.d3 Nxc3 8.bxc3 c5 [White is slightly better.]

9.d4 c4 [Against Bd3]

10.a4 Nc6 11.Be2 Be7 12.0-0! 0-0 13.Ne1 f6 14.exf6 Bxf6 15.Nc2 15..Be4N [Predecessor: 15...Qd7 16.Ne3 Be6 17.Ba3 Rfe8 18.Ng4 Be7 19.Bxc7

Qxe7 20.Bf3 Bxg4 21.Bxg4 Qd61-0 Wojtaszek,R (2719)-Keymer,V (2558) Biel rapid 53rd 2020 (6)]

16.Re1 Qa5 17.Bd2 Rac8 18.Bg4 Rce8 19.Ne3 Qd8 20.Ra2 g6 21.Rb2 b6 22.Bc1 h5 23.Bh3 Bg7 24.Nf1 Bd3! 25.g3 Rxe1 26.Qxe1 Na5 27.Bg2 Nb3 28.Bf4 Qd7 29.Ra2 Re8 30.Ne3 [But not 30.Bxd5+? Kh7-+]

30...Be4 31.Bxe4 Rxe4 32.Qb1 Kh7 33.Nxc4! [Deflection]

33...Nxd4 34.cxd4 Rxf4 35.gxf4 dxc4± [Endgame. KQR-KQB]

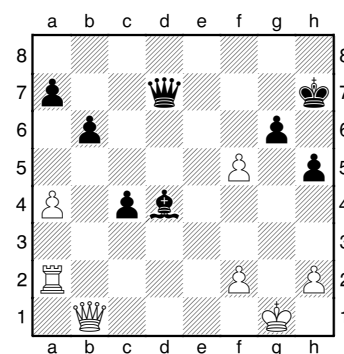
[35...Qg4+± 36.Kf1 dxc4]

36.f5+- Bxd4 [

I have a large collection of chess books, but also use online resources, such as chess.com, lichess, Killer Chess Academy, Chess Mood and Chess Goals.

I qualified as a solicitor, and have worked as a partner at various international law firms, advising on financial regulation and compliance. I was previously an Enforcement Head at the UK Financial Services Regulator, investigating firms and individuals for insider dealing and other financial breaches. I am now on the other side, keeping clients out of trouble!

I am currently based in the Cayman Islands in the Caribbean, working as a partner at an offshore international law firm, but will be returning to the UK in a couple of years time (probably!). Cayman has a good chess scene and I have played in tournaments there. I am married with a daughter aged 27, who is also a chess player. We have two cats Magnus and Menchik, who came with us from the UK. Previous cats have included Kasparov. Karpov, Petrosian and Kramnik. My favourite player is Petrosian, whose prophylactic style I admire."



37.Qb5! Qxf5 38.Qxf5 gxf5 39.Rd2 Be5 40.Rd5 Bg7 41.Kf1 c3 42.Rd7 1-0

GAMES

SIM Mike Read Annotates



MIKE READ REPRESENTED England from 1990 until his retirement from the game in 2000. The International Correspondence Chess Federation awarded Mike the International Master (IM) title in 1994 and the Senior International Master (SIM) title in 1999. Mike has never owned a computer!

Clarke,D - Read,M [E18]
British Junior Championship Preliminaries, 16.12.2023

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 b6 3.g3 Bb7 4.Bg2 e6 5.d4 [The game has transposed to a Queen's Indian Defence.]

5...Be7 6.0-0 0-0 7.Nc3 Ne4 8.Nxe4 Bxe4 9.Ne1 [Black is a much higher graded player than White, and it is probably for that reason that White chooses this variation which has a very drawish reputation]

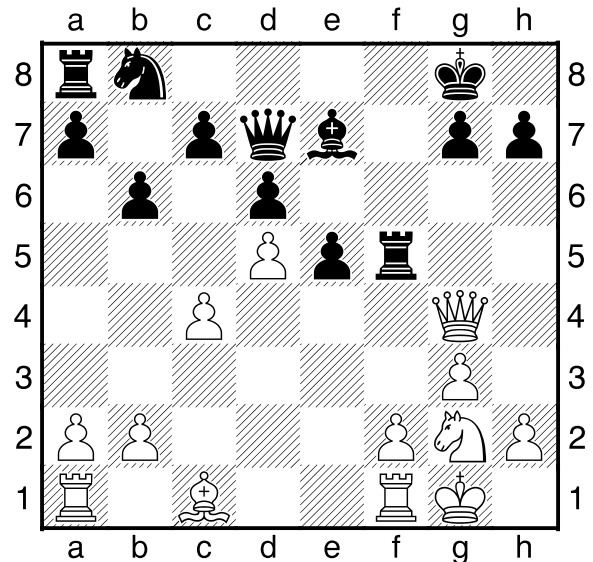
9...Bxg2 10.Nxg2 d6 [The main line at the time ran 10 ... d5 11 Qa4 Qd7 12 Qxd7 Nxd7 13 cxd5 exd5 and from here it is difficult for Black to play for a win (it is, of course, fairly easy for him to draw). He therefore chooses a rare sideline in order to keep some play in the position]



11.d5 [Against the normal 11 e4 Black was intending 11 ... c5 12 d5 Bf6 with counter play; a sideline mentioned by Geller in 'The Complete Queen's Indian']

11...e5 12.e4 f5 [Black needs to open up the game if he is to obtain any winning chances.]

13.exf5 Rxf5 14.Qg4 Qd7 [



So that 15 f4 can be met by 15 ... Rxf4! 16 Rxf4 exf4 17 Qxd7 Nxd7 18 Bxf4 Bf6 19 Rb1 Re8 with good play for Black]

15.Bh6? [This allows Black to seize the initiative. Better is 15 Ne3 Rf7 16 Bd2 and if 16 ... xg4 17 Nxg4 Rf3 then 18 Rael intending 19 Re3 with a completely even game.]

15...Rf7 16.Qxd7 Nxd7 17.Be3 Bf6! 18.Rab1?! [Black also has some play after 18 f3 e4! 19 fxe4 Re7 20 Rab1 Rxe4.]

18...Re8 [Completing his development. He avoids 18 ... e4 in

view of 19 Nf4! With the eternal square e6 as the next stop.]

19.f4?! [This is loosening and allows Black control of the central dark squares. Waiting with 19 b3 seems better as it would allow his queen's rook to enter the game]

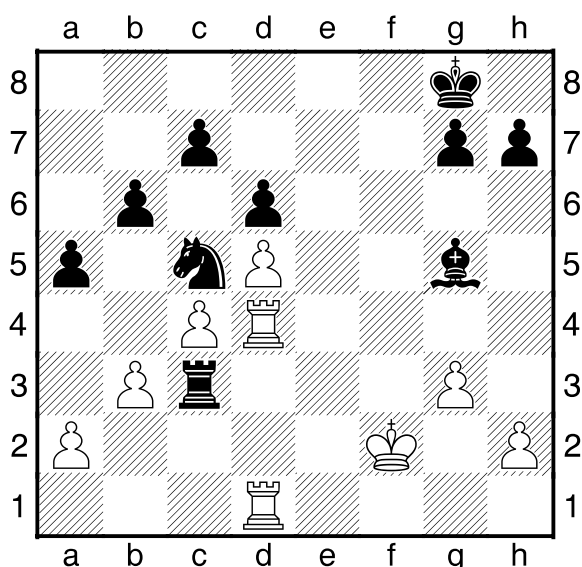
19...exf4 20.Rxf4 Ne5 21.b3 Nd3 22.Rff1 [This puts him in big trouble. Necessary was 22 Rf3 when either 22 ... Nb4 or 22 ... Rfe7 would keep the pressure on but no immediate win would be on the horizon.]

22...Rfe7! 23.Rbd1 [Others are just as bad :a) 23 Bf4 Bd4+ 24 Kh1 Nf2+ 25 Kg1 Re2 26 a4 Ra2 and White cannot play a rook to e1 in view of 27 ... Nd3+, so the decisive 27 ... Ree2 will follow) 23 Bf2 Nxf2 24 Kxf2 Re2+ and White's pawns will start to drop c) 23 Rf3 Rxe3! 24 Nxe3 (24 Rxe3? Bd4 is even worse) 24 ... Bd4 and Black will end up with two pieces for a Rook.]

23...Rxe3 24.Nxe3 Rxe3 25.Rd2 a5! [Limiting White's pawns]

26.Rfd1 Nc5 27.Kf2 Bg5 28.Rd4? [28 Re2? Loses to 28 ... Ne4+ 29 Ke1 Rxe2+ 30 Kxe2 Nc3+. Necessary, but passive, was 28 Rc2. The text move loses a pawn by force.]

28...Rc3! [

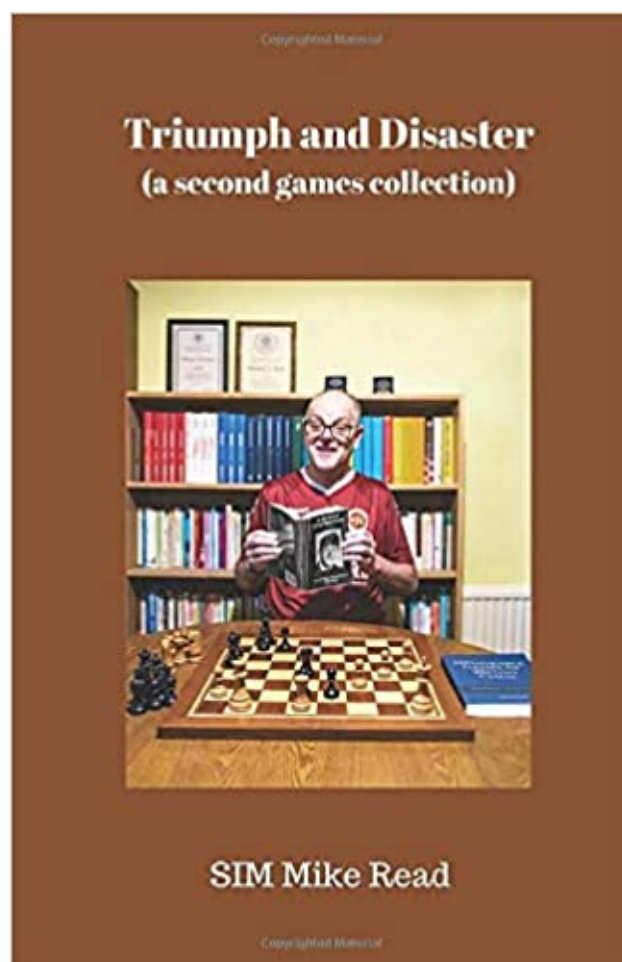


The black pieces completely dominate the white ones.]

29.Kf1 Rc2 30.b4 [Or 30 Ra1? Bf6.]

30...axb4 31.h4? Be3 32.Rg4 [White resigns without waiting for 32 ... h5 33 Rg6 Kf7 trapping the rook.]

0-1



In early 2018 Mike compiled a book entitled 'My 120 elected Correspondence Games' which contains all of the games given on his website with additional analysis over 534 pages. This is [available from Amazon](#) online priced at £10.13 from Amazon with free delivery.

A second book, 'Triumph And Disaster: (a second games collection)' was published in 2020 by Mike, it offers an excellent collection of annotated correspondence chess games. [Amazon £6.80.](#)

Mike has never owned a computer but a small website contains further information on his career as a correspondence chess player. <https://mikereadsim.weebly.com/>



FEATURE ARTICLE

Karl Ernst Adolf Anderssen

1818 - 1889



KARL ERNST ADOLF Anderssen was a German chess master. He won the great international tournaments of 1851 and 1862, but lost matches to Paul Morphy in 1858, and to Wilhelm Steinitz in 1866. Accordingly, he is generally regarded as having been the world's leading chess player from 1851 to 1858, and leading active player from 1862 to 1866. Source: Wikipedia

AUTHOR KEITH KITSON

Anderssen and his Tournaments

Karl Ernst Adolf Anderssen, looked upon by many as the most romantic combative player who has ever lived, still stands on his pedestal today, supported by those two famous pillars, the 'Immortal' and the 'Evergreen' games. Yet these are really magnificent ornaments rather than pillars, for it is on his three great tournament firsts (the great international tournaments 1851, 1862 and Baden-Baden, 1870) that his reputation is really based. First known as a composer, he published, 'Aufgaben für Schachspieler' (1842); his problems were popular because of their short and lively solutions. They compared well with those of his contemporaries, and he invented one kind of "Focal Play" (a problem term for play featuring a line-piece that cannot maintain its guard of two or more squares).

Despite his tournament successes he lost matches to Paul Morphy in 1858, and to Wilhelm Steinitz in 1866. Consequently, he is generally regarded as having been the world's leading chess player from 1851 to 1858, and leading active player from 1862 to 1866, although the title of World Chess Champion did not yet exist. Anderssen became the most successful tournament player in Europe, winning over half the events he entered. Most remarkably he achieved most of these successes when he was over the age of 50. (Hooper, pp 15,142)

Unlike such colourful predecessors as Deschapelles, St-Amant and Staunton, with their versatile and often precarious careers, Anderssen, outside chess, was the most humdrum of men. Born in Breslau on 6th July 1818, he spent almost the whole of his uneventful life 'within the walls of his native city'. A lifelong bachelor, he lived with and maintained his widowed mother and sister.

Educated at the Breslau public school, he passed through the University specialising in mathematics and philosophy. He then adopted teaching as his profession and held various educational appointments in Germany (notably in Frankfurt) until 1847 when he returned to Breslau as mathematics master at the Friedrich public school; in 1852 he was made Senior Teacher and in 1857 he received the title of Professor. His whole life was thus devoted to his scholastic profession and to chess; and, like the great British player H.E. Atkins when the holidays came round, he would enthusiastically rush from the former to enjoy the latter. (Winter, page 10)

In 1851 at the age of 33, then considered a talented amateur well outside the 'inner ring' of talented chess players, he unhorsed not only two great masters (Szén and Kieseritzky) but the reigning champion himself (Staunton). (Winter, page 10)

London 1851

In 1848 Anderssen, at the age of 30 drew a match with the professional player Daniel Harrwitz, after beating his opponent in a blindfold game before the match started. Three years later, on the basis of this match and his general chess reputation, he was chosen as one of two German representatives in the first international tournament, London 1851. (Sunnocks, page 26)

The tournament was conceived and organised by Howard Staunton (1810-1874). It marked the first time that the best players in Europe would meet in a single event. The tournament was planned to coincide in time with the staging of the Great Exhibition. Staunton had proposed an international chess tournament to start on the same day as the opening of the Great Exhibition because passports would be more freely given abroad, leave of absence would be more freely obtained, and travel expenses would be considerably reduced.

Staunton's Great International Tournament invitation to Anderssen was initially declined on the grounds of expense. However, Staunton left no stone unturned to get him to London and actually undertook, at his own cost, to reimburse Anderssen should he fail to obtain an adequate prize. Staunton's offer was considered quixotic considering Lionel Kieseritzky, József Szén, Johann Jacob Löwenthal and Bernhard Horwitz in the field as well as the great English champion himself, Anderssen's prospects were not rated highly. (Winter, page 11)

Anderssen's preparations for the 1851 London Tournament produced a surge in his playing strength: he played over 100 games in early 1851 against strong opponents including Carl Mayet, Ernst Falkbeer, Max Lange and Jean Dufresne.

The games were played from May 27th to July 15th at the St. George's Chess Club at 5 Cavendish Square in London. A Committee of Management was created under the leadership of George Spencer Churchill, the Duke of Marlborough (1793-1857). He was the great-grandfather of Sir Winston Churchill. Howard Staunton was its Secretary and most of the members of the committee were members of Staunton's chess club, St. George's. Staunton raised £551 (over £65,700 pounds in today's money).

The tournament was played on the old knockout system – best of three, draws not counting, in the first round, and best of seven thereafter. The eight losers of the first round were dropped from the tournament. Subsequent rounds were the best-of -seven, and losers played consolation matches. The pairings were made by chance using white and yellow tickets. There were no chess clocks and no time limits.

Anderssen began by knocking out Kieseritzky (+2 -0 =1). The Livonian master, notorious for his 'miserable want of nerve' on big occasions, actually lost the first game in 20 minutes by a bad blunder hardly ever seen equalled even amongst beginners of the game. The second round against Anderssen's old chess acquaintance Szén produced much better chess, and a minor scare for Anderssen who was trailing 1-2 at one point but then won the last three games one after the other. The draw now pitted Anderssen against Staunton himself and the semi-final that ensued must have been regarded as virtually the final by all who witnessed it.

The numerically crushing result (4-1 to Anderssen) is well known. Staunton's later exasperated annotations of the games almost belied the fact the match was a lot closer than the figures suggest. In the first games Staunton mismanaged his favourite Sicilian Defence and was brilliantly overwhelmed. But in the second, and third, he had Anderssen in dire straights, only to overlook a fatal counter-punch at the moment of victory. This seeming tragedy was counter-balanced in the fourth game when Anderssen, with a well-deserved win, suddenly turned aside and walked into a mating trap on the move. However, this solitary piece of English luck came too late to change the course of the match. In the fifth game Staunton at the outset took a poisoned pawn and stayed on the back foot throughout the game., Anderssen

winning in impeccable style. Anderssen then went on to defeat Wyvill (+4 -2 =1) in the final. His prize was two-thirds of the total prize fund of £551, approx. £370, equivalent to £43,800 (\$56,890) in today's money

Unsatisfactory as the knockout conditions were, Anderssen fully deserved his triumph. As H.J.R. Murray says, 'the luck of the draw pitted him throughout against the most redoubtable opponents' – all established masters except Wyvill, and even here there was no walkover for the stalwart Wyvill was on the very top of his form, and in both his two wins gave the conqueror a thoroughly bad time. (Winter, page 11)

Although most Chess books regard Wilhelm Steinitz as the first true world champion, one of the organisers of the 1851 London International Tournament has said the contest was for 'the baton of the World's Chess Champion'. In fact Anderssen was not described as the "the world champion", but the tournament established Anderssen as the world's leading chess player, at the time it had the same meaning. The London Chess Club, which had fallen out with Staunton and his colleagues, organised a tournament that was played a month later and included several players who had competed in the 1851 tournament. The result was the same, Anderssen won.

Shortly after the 1851 London International Tournament, Anderssen played his two most famous games, both casual encounters which he won by combinations that involved several sacrifices. In the first, as White against Lionel Kieseritzky in London just after the 1851 tournament and now called the "Immortal Game", he sacrificed a bishop, both rooks and finally his Queen. In the second, played in Berlin in 1852 as White against Claude Dufresne and now called the "Evergreen Game", the total sacrifice was more modest, but still exceeded a queen and a minor piece.

London 1862

1862 saw Anderssen's second great tournament triumph, first with 11 points, followed by Paulsen with 9, and the two fighting clergy Owen and MacDonnell with 7 each. Anderssen lost only to Owen and even here he had a winning advantage. For the first time in chess tournament history a time limit was introduced – 20 moves in 2 hours. The ages of the main combatants are of some interest; only Dubois (45) was older than Anderssen (44), then came Barnes (37), Owen (35), Macdonnell (31), Paulsen (29), Steinitz (26) and Blackburne (20). Anderssen remarked, after the tournament, some of the opposition (notably Steinitz and Blackburne) showed more promise than experience whilst the tailenders were simply outclassed. R.N. Coles reiterated, 'those who already regarded Paulsen and Kolisch as the premier players in Europe were sharply reminded that they had forgotten the greatness of Anderssen. (Winter, page 14)

Steinitz in 1866

In 1866 Anderssen, like the great sportsman that he was, agreed to travel to London during his summer holiday to play a match of eight games with the ambitious Steinitz, 18 years his junior, and still not regarded as top rank, but desperately anxious to prove that he was. The time limit was 20 moves in 2 hours, all games to be played out in one

sitting except for an interval of 15 minutes 'for rest and refreshment' after 4 hours' play. The vicissitudes of this match were remarkable, the older master as well as his challenger showing extraordinary resilience in the face of successive defeats. Anderssen's score (when the match stood at 6 all) was 1 0 0 0 1 1 1 1 0 0 1 – not a single drawn game (a far cry from the current correspondence chess scene, for obvious reasons). Only at that point did the older statesman show signs of cracking; playing irresolutely he came to grief in the 13th game and then Steinitz finally passed the winning post after a dour struggle of 81 moves.

The critics, who still had not realised what Steinitz was made of, and had predicted a comfortable win for his senior, now turned round and declared that Anderssen's day was over. But Anderssen was not done yet. Four years later, he attended the great tournament at Baden Baden. (Winter, page 14)

Baden Baden 1870

It was a double-round event, organised by Kolisch, himself now prematurely retired from the lists and a wealthy patron of chess. The combatants were Anderssen, Blackburne, de Vere, Paulsen, Minckwitz, Neumann, Rosenthal, Steinitz, Stern and Winawer. In spite of the outbreak of the Franco-Prussian War, practically all the games were completed except in the case of Stern, and the four prize winners were: 1st Anderssen 13, 2nd Steinitz 12 ½, 3rd Blackburne and Neumann 12. Anderssen had beaten Steinitz, Paulsen and Minckwitz twice, scored 1 ½ against Blackburne and de Vere, and made even games with Rosenthal and Winawer. His sole setback consisted of two losses against Neumann, and Neumann at his best was considered a very fine player. It was suggested that the fast time limit (20 moves an hour) favoured Anderssen, who was considered a more quick sighted player than Steinitz or Paulsen but, nothing could really detract from such a victory as this. (Winter, page 15)

Anderssen's last major tournament

An encounter against Steinitz in 1873 gave Steinitz the satisfaction of reversing the result when at the Vienna tournament he defeated Anderssen twice. This was Anderssen's last big tournament for some years, but then came one in 1877 in which, though equal second with Zukertort behind Paulsen, he was the real 'lion of the day'. For this was the Jubilee Tournament held in his honour at Leipzig to commemorate his 50 years of chess playing. No player, except Morphy on his return to America in 1859, has ever received such a universal recognition. Congratulatory telegrams which poured in from all over Europe testified to his immense popularity and he was formally presented with a marble trophy engraved on one side with the venues and dates of his three great tournament firsts, and on the other with a position in his final game against Staunton in 1851. (Winter, page 15)

Anderssen was now nearly 60 and perhaps he should have bowed out at this point, but he played in one more big tournament (Paris, 1878) and though somewhat on the wane he won 6th prize behind Winawer, Zukertort, Blackburne, Bird and Mackenzie. His death at his home town on 14th March 1879 took the chess world by surprise,

although the Huddersfield College Magazine in its obituary alludes to 'several months of suffering. Though he missed been included in Fischer's 'ten great masters', Anderssen was clearly an extraordinary genius. Except for Steinitz and Lasker who came after him, he 'maintained his chess force against his contemporaries for a longer time than any other player who ever entered the arena'. Moreover, these contemporaries were in continuous practice, whereas Anderssen, as he once said, had to keep 'putting his chess in a glass case' and taking it out again, sometimes at intervals of years. (Winter, page 15)

Bibliography:

Hooper D. and Whyld K., The Oxford Companion to Chess New Edition, OUP, 1992

Sunnocks, A., The Encyclopaedia of Chess 2nd edition, St. Martins Press, 1976

Winter, E. G., World Chess Champions, Pergamon Press, 1981

SOCIAL CORRESPONDENCE CHESS ASSOCIATION

Free
Membership

Free
Tournaments

CONTACT

Mr. Gavin Ross
21, Connaught Road,
Harpenden, Herts, AL5 4TW
Tel: 01582 715399
Email:
gavros.ross@btopenworld.com

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
<https://bit.ly/SocialCCA>

A LARGE MAJORITY of Chess Books cover the Opening Phase of the Game. Do we place too much reliance on these, are they overated or a necessity in the chess players preperation?

I will admit that the opening phase of the game is of great importance to obtain favourable results in our games. Obtaining an advantage from solid opening play, it will lead to going into the middle game and endgame with a higher ratio of success. Having a disadvantage out of the opening, is no fun to have to fight for equality. Over the years, opening theory has made great advances in our knowledge of proper opening play.

Then in the 1970's we get "Encyclopedia of Chess Openings" ECO, quite a number of books on openings and over the years has only got larger output. Today a very large number each month of the books published, are on openings. Some authors, put

[illegible]

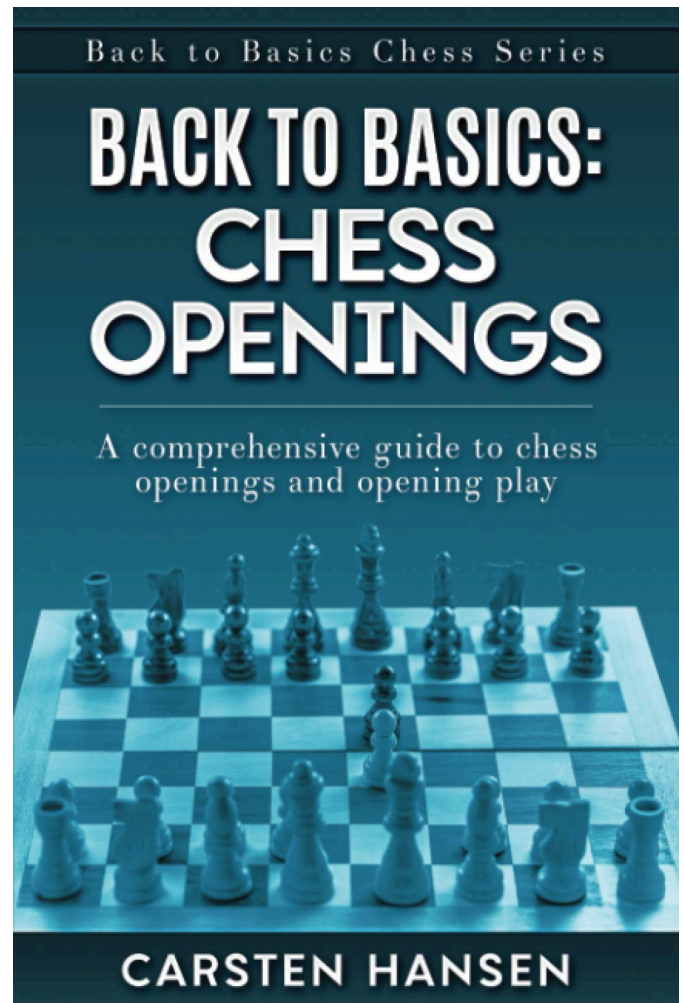
If you look at the players today, they play the opening phase of the game very well. They are the ones who buy most of the opening books, and a very large part of their library consists of opening books. They mostly devote all their study time to openings, and neglect the other areas of the game. You can see this effect in their games. Once they reach the middle game, their play is weaker, here it is skill and knowledge that determine the outcome. If an endgame is reached, their play suffers too.

Of course later the player, has MCO or ECO that will give them an overview of the current theory on the openings. Then it is time for them to get into more detailed material. There is one book that I think every player should read, no matter their level of skill. It is "How to Open a Chess Game" Seven GM's offer their thoughts on opening play. There are many books on openings. A popular group are the opening repertoire books. Here the author will either cover what openings a top player plays or they offer how to play with either colour, against all the replies against that opening move. These are good starting points, but in some cases where most of the repertoire is fine, often an opening not suited for your style of play. Two profound statements I have found to try and keep in mind. Portish said that you want to come out of the opening with a playable middle game. Berliner said the opening books are like road maps, they point out the way to go, but not if a bridge is washed out.

There are a lot of good books, but also lots of trash ones. You should keep in

mind that not all masters are great authors and not all great authors are great players. There are some that are good in both. The four volumes of "Mastering the Chess Openings" - Watson is a very good book, as it covers lots of material and has lots of text. Today we are overwhelmed with books. Even the size of books, The Sicilian Defense can have 400 or more pages, the Najdorf variation 200 or more and the Poisoned Pawn 100 or more. We see a book on an opening and in a short time one or more come out of the same opening. Do we really need that many books on the same subject? In many cases the latter books will have very little new data, there are better ways to keep current. Now we have databases and coverage on the internet. In early times, events were held few and far between. A master can come up with a new move or even an opening and score many points before the rest of the chess world knew about it. Today, if in some event in Timbuktu something new was played, the chess world knows about it very soon.

What are things we should look for in an opening book. Is the author a top player, think about it. Is he going to reveal all his secrets? Is the author not real active as a player, so perhaps he is willing to share his knowledge. Does the author play that opening? I think a book should have some history with a few of the games where that opening was used. We should have both the principles and fundamentals explained, what each side is trying to obtain in the opening. Some middle game themes that are associated with that opening. Model games that show how the opening flows into the rest of the game. It is ok to have partial games also. The main moves should be highlighted to easy follow the analysis. Transpositions should be noted. We should have both the analysis in variation form, but also provide written text, as this makes it easier to learn from.



FEATURE ARTICLE

BBC The Master Game



A CHESS EXTRAVAGANZA Through a Modern Lens. The Master Game Was produced by the BBC and ran for seven series on BBC2 from 1976 to 1983. It was presented by Jeremy James with expert analysis from Leonard Barden and, later, Bill Hartston. The Master Game was noted for its innovative style, in which a display board with animated figurines and move notation, shown centre-left of screen, was accompanied by footage of the players cogitating, their thoughts during the game heard in voice-over.

Author: Matthew Kirk

In the realm of televised chess, few programs have left as indelible a mark as the BBC's "The Master Game." I'm sure many of you will be aware of it (or even remember it when it was aired in the 1970s and 80s... 'chess boom' time in the UK). Running for several seasons from 1975 to 1982, this series brought chess into the living rooms of millions of viewers across the UK and beyond. Series 6, which aired in 1980, stands out as a memorable chapter in the show's history. Series 6 is the only series that I have seen in its entirety, as it appears that Series 1-5 were somehow destroyed in the BBC archives (correct me if I'm wrong). Series 7 is available (although I haven't seen it fully yet, but I believe it is on YouTube) and Series 8 was never aired by the BBC due to industrial action (although it was apparently shown on German TV). My understanding is that some of these series also have accompanying books – does anybody have them?

Let's delve into the intricacies and highlights of BBC The Master Game Series 6, comparing it to modern chess, sharing some cherished memories and exploring its connection to another fascinating dimension of the game: our beloved correspondence chess.

A Brief Overview

"The Master Game" was a groundbreaking concept in its time, and it still holds up as a fascinating chess

spectacle in the modern era. The show featured some of the world's best chess players competing in a knockout-style tournament, which was a stark contrast to today's rapid and blitz formats. Each episode showcased a single game, with expert commentary providing insights into the players' strategies and thought processes.

Series 6 boasted an impressive lineup of chess luminaries and was won by Nigel Short (at the time only 15 years old), beating the legend GM Tony Miles in the final. These legends of the past set the stage for the evolution of chess into the modern era.

In comparing Series 6 to modern chess, it's striking to see how much the game has evolved.

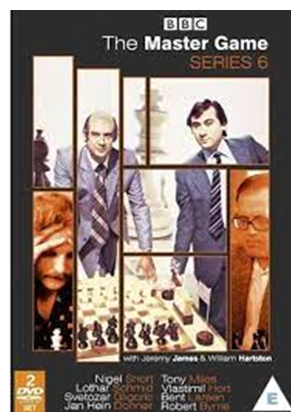
Today, chess enthusiasts are treated to online broadcasts with computer-generated analysis, real-time clock ticking and even the occasional player webcams and online databases – a vital part of our armoury as Correspondence Chess players in the 21st century. These technological advancements have enhanced the accessibility and excitement of watching chess, but there's a certain nostalgic charm to revisiting the old-school presentation of "The Master

Game." It reminds us of the simplicity and purity of the game itself. The analytical insights provided by the GMs during the game narration is, quite simply, fantastic.

Correspondence Chess: A Timeless Pursuit

While "The Master Game" brought chess into the living rooms of viewers, there's another fascinating aspect of

the game that thrived outside the spotlight: correspondence chess. In the era of Series 6, correspondence chess was a vibrant and intellectually stimulating pursuit. Players from around the world engaged in postal matches, carefully crafting their moves over weeks and months, making it a precursor to today's online chess platforms.



Correspondence chess, at the time played mainly by post, demands deep analysis and foresight over time (days!), as we know. Players rely on their chess understanding, as well as extensive opening preparation (and databases) and reference material during the game. It is, of course, a more contemplative and patient form of chess, contrasting with the fast-paced games seen in televised tournaments like "The Master Game."

FEATURE ARTICLE

World Champion Jon Edwards



AN EXCELLENT INTERVIEW with Jon Edwards (USA) who won the 32nd Correspondence Chess World Championship held on the ICCF server. This interview has won a well deserved prestigious award for the author.

Author: Maurice Carter

I am pleased to be able to conduct an interview with Jon. He is only the third American to win the Championship, the other two were Hans Berliner 5th, and Vytas Palciuskas 10th. I want to thank Jon for giving us some insights into what it took to win the Championship.

MC: Can you please provide us with a little on your background?

JE: Raised in West Hempstead, NY and then Acton MA. Started playing tournament chess around New England. Princeton University (AB 1975) where I was President of the Chess Club for three years...then off to Michigan State University (MA,PHD 1988) in African Economic History, left academia to work at BYTE Magazine in New Hampshire, where I started playing chess again.

Then back to Princeton University where I was AVP for Computing and Information Technology for 14 years, and then Coordinator of Institutional Communication for 10 more years.

Along the way, I ran for local office and won two terms on our Township Committee, and even served as Mayor of Hopewell NJ, for a year. Those six years represented another break in my chess.

I retired in 2010 to teach chess and to play correspondence chess full time.

MC: How did you first become acquainted with chess?

JE: I was taught first by my father but with key lessons from my great Uncle Joseph Platz, who was taught by Lasker. I got mono in 4th grade, and to cheer me up, my Dad bought me my first chess book, Great Moments in Modern Chess by Reuben Fine.

A week later, he asked how I was doing with the book, and was impressed when I responded that I had finished it. He didn't believe me at first until I stated telling him about all the games in the book. After that, he bought me another chess book every week.

MC: Most people start with over the board chess (OTB). Were you an active OTB player?

JE: As a teenager, I lived for the next tournament, and I had decent early results, reaching expert by my college days. I didn't play for 10 years in Grad School and in fact, my wife Cheryl and I got married without her knowing that I played!

MC: How were your results playing OTB chess?

JE: Decent, but I was no prodigy. I just loved the game. After I won the US Correspondence Championship in 1997, I bragged to a fellow Princeton grad that I must have been the first Princeton grad to win a US Championship. To my chagrin, I learned that Edgar McCormick 37 had won the US Amateur Title.

So I played in the US Amateur and tied for first, making me, I think, the only player to win a US Championship both OTB and in Correspondence. I started playing correspondence chess in American Postal Chess Tournaments (APCT) purely to help improve my OTB play.

It did that, but correspondence chess soon became a passion unto itself. When Cheryl and I started a family, I wanted to be a good Dad, so I started playing correspondence chess in order to play and stay home at the same time.


















MC: Do you still play OTB chess, or now it is only CC?

JE: The pandemic interrupted my occasional OTB play. I was a regular at the yearly US Amateur Team East. The same team for more than 20 years. Our team will be playing again in February and they are threatening to name our team "World Champion on Board 2" During the World Final, I would not have played OTB even had there been no pandemic. The Final and lead up to it was totally consuming. 12 hour days for years.

MC: With devoting so much time, did you have a system to follow to get the most efficient use of your time?

JE: Very interesting question! In many middlegames and endgames, I use Chessbase to find similar positions. Playing through these would crystalize the main ideas. The process is itself amazingly efficient. In the old days, I

WC32/final, World Championship 32 Final

				TD Pheby, Ian M. (IA)																											
Category 11				1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	GM	SIM	Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place				
1		510692	SIM	Edwards, Jon	2525		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	½	½	½	1	9½		9	2	68.25	0	1		
2		180109	GM	Lecroq, Michel	2568	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	1	9½		9	2	68	0				
3		141625	SIM	Osipov, Sergey Adolfovich	2499	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	½	1	9½		9	2	68	0	2			
4		390086	GM	Neto, Horácio	2567	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	9½		9	2	68	0	2			
5		81224	SIM	Zajontz, Rainer	2500	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	9½		8.5	1	64.5	0	5			
6		490165	GM	Akdag, Murat	2574	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	9½		8.5	1	64.5	0	5		
7		300204	GM	Jónsson, Daði Örn	2559	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	9½		8.5	1	64.5	0	5		
8		19094	SIM	Mendl, Manuel	2537	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	9½		8.5	1	64.5	0	5		
9		89356	IM	Ulbig, Stefan	2416	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	9½	8	8.5	1	64.5	0	5		
10		750087	SIM	Blitsko, Boris Mikhailovich	2509	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	9½		8.5	1	64.5	0	5		
11		141530	SIM	Nekhaev, Andrey Ivanovich	2455	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	9½		8.5	1	64.5	0	5		
12		130766	SIM	Michálek, Miroslav	2480	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	1	9½		8	1	60.25	0	12		
13		81204	GM	Moll, Reinhard	2554	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	½	9½		8	0	64	0	13		
14		141537	GM	Kochemasov, Andrey Leonidovich	2554	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	½	½	9½		8	0	64	0	13		
15		82299	SIM	Schwetlick, Thomas	2470	½	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	1	9½		7.5	1	56	0	15			
16		390491	GM	Pessoa, Francisco Azevedo	2524	½	½	½	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½		½	9½		7.5	0	59.75	0	16			
17		84833	SIM	Bock, Steffen	2562	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	½	0	½		9½		1.5	0	11.75	0	17			

would take informants off the shelf, serially hunting for relevant material. Electronic searches take just seconds.

I maintain a database of all the articles that have ever appeared in the *New in Chess* Yearbooks, so I can find relevant articles instantly. My Informant database is always up-to-date.

The inefficient part these days is hunting through my library for annotations of key games, but I must confess, I enjoy that inefficient part of the process very much.

MC: How did you learn about CC and what organizations have you played in?

JE: In high school, and early on in college, I subscribed to Chess Review and I played in their Golden Knights. I still have the amazing records I kept of each game. After Graduate School, I participated in a chess auction at a tournament in Boston, and two APCT championship sections came up for bid. I won them both and I was off and running. I won the APCT title four times before I finally made the transition to the ICCF.

MC: You won the 10th United States CC Championship, besides winning the 32rd World CC Championship, have you had any good results in other top events?

JE: You bet! I won the 8th North American Invitational with a huge score, but I missed out on norms because there were only 5 non-US players in the event.

Still, that got me into my first 3/4 final, where sadly I finished in the middle of the field. My opening choices still reflected my OTB perspectives.

When retired from Princeton, I entered a World semi-final section and by finishing second, I qualified for the Candidates. My second place result there got me into the final.

Along the way, I played in the prestigious Spanish masters and came in first, including a neat win over Evgeny Lobanov, then the reigning Russian correspondence champion.

And I have played in two Correspondence Chess Olympiad Finals. Our team this year has clinched a medal,

which apart from all the pride, seeds us into the next Final Round!

MC: As the current World Champion, do you get a slot in the next World Championship that comes available, or only a slot in the 3/4 stage?

JE: I received my invitation to the WF-33 just two days after winning the WF32, I decided rather quickly to postpone my defense to WF34, but happily, the US will be well represented by two of my Olympiad team members, Jon Ostriker and Dan Fleetwood.

MC: In the past, how high did you reach in the qualifying stages of earlier World Championships?

JE: The WF32 was my first trip to the Final, my second attempt in the cycle. The first 3/4 Final came in the aftermath of my North American triumph.

MC: When you qualified for the 32rd World Championship, what did you do to prepare for this event? Did you have some overall plan of action to follow?

JE: I played over every game that my opponents had ever played in correspondence and OTB. I charted out where games were likely to go and I prepared new ideas for all.

These were all great players, with no warts in their opening repertoires. Generally, with black, I sought to find the quickest and cleanest path to a draw. In that I succeeded, with eight uneventful draws.

With white, I sought variations that preserved material within a fixed structure, much like the Ruy but avoiding drawing variations like the Berlin Defense and the Marshall Gambit. I settled on the Vienna Glek (1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3. g3) and took my Russian opponent Osipov through a 119 move odyssey.

MC: Now that you have reached the top in CC, what are your future plans?

JE: I will keep playing correspondence chess. I have 11

games in motion in the strong Kurt Stein Memorial. In two years, my health willing, I will try to defend my World Title, and along the way, I expect to enter the next Candidates tournament, to see if I can keep qualifying for the Final round.

One of the nice perks of becoming World Champion are the invitations that I know I will receive. That's just cool!

MC: You started playing CC with the postcard, now the mode is server play, much has changed. Server play is all the rage, along with chess engines, databases etc. Overall how do you feel about this, has it hurt CC or not?

JE: I still have all my postcards and, as an active philatelist, I adore how postal rates changed during play. I have a cool collection of correspondence chess used on nearly every postal card type dating back to the 1880's.

The servers save on postage and eliminate any possible dishonesty regarding when people receive their moves.

As for engines and databases, the result is amazingly clean play and a huge challenge. Wins are much harder to find but bring on much euphoria.

My game against Osipov is a nice demonstration of how humans are far better than machines at long term planning within fixed structures.

I believe that it's still possible to win precisely because the computers remain miserable planners. In those positions, the databases are the key, reviewing games in similar structures has become very important.

MC: You are a serious book collector and chess author. Earlier days, books played a very useful resource for the CC player. Do you still think that books are a useful tool?

JE: Absolutely. When I identify important games, it sure is important to turn to the library to find the players original notes. When I turned to Glek variation of the Vienna, the databases were not enough. The line is both old and new and it was a delight to track down original annotations.

MC: What books do you feel had the most impact on your development into a strong player?

JE: What a cool question! When I was 10 years old, I came down with mono and had to stay in bed for 6 months.

My Dad asked what he could get me to make the time less boring.

"Chess books, please" I answered.

He bought me my first chess book, Reuben Fine's "Great Moments in Modern Chess", and he came back a week later and found, to his amazement, that I had read the whole thing. So he kept buying me chess books, and he seemed to have the good sense to buy me game collections.

The next book was 1000 Best Short Games of Chess, and then a book by Reinfeld on the Transition to the Endgame.

The key was not so much what books he bought... but the fact that I read them!

Those early books formed a solid foundation. Later... Larsen's Selected Games was really important.

And then Fischer's 60 Memorable Games.

I discovered Capablanca's Games through Golombek... and then everything I could find about Petrosian.

MC: How large of a chess library do you have?

JE: Well more than 5,000 chess books, but I stopped counting ages ago. My chess stamp collection is also huge, very likely the largest in the world. I am President of COSSU, the Chess-on-Stamp Study Unit and Editor of it's quarterly publication, the Chesstamp Review. I organized my WF32 vacation time around my need to get each issue to the printer. Your readers are all entitled to a free issue if they request it. Jedwards. chess@gmail.com

MC: What are your main areas of interest in collecting?

JE: Tournament books, endgames including studies, correspondence literature, biographies, and periodicals. The chesstamp collection is virtually complete, with all issues, covers, autographs, proofs, printing errors etc. My oldest chesstamp items date

back to the Civil War. Both of these collections are more than 50 years in the making.

MC: Who are your favorite chess authors?

JE: Cecil Purdy, Harry Golombek, Bent Larsen, Andy Soltis, Alexey Shirov, Jan Timman.

MC: What are your favorite chess magazines?

JE: Chess World was awesome! Today, of course, New in Chess, the American Chess Magazine, and Chess Life is improving. The Informants capture my full attention when they arrive, and I really miss the New in Chess Yearbooks.

MC: Do you have any correspondence chess books that you think are well written and can recommend?

JE: The most inspiring correspondence chess book for me was Grigory Sanakoev's World Champion at the Third Attempt. Talk about great play and perseverance! Apart from that everything by Cecil Purdy and Tim Harding.

MC: A question I like to ask players, what would be the 10 chess books you would want if marooned on a desert Island?

JE: Python Strategy - Petrosian, Fire on Board - Shirov, My 60 Memorable Games - Fischer, Black is Ok - Adorjan, A Knat may Drink - Hinton, The Games of Petrosian - Shekhtman, Grandmaster Preparation - Polugaevsky, The Joy of Chess - Hesse, Larsen's Selected Games - Larsen, Capablanca's 100 Best Games - Golombek, Soviet Chess - Soltis. Oops that's 11. **MC:** No its 13! Shirov and Shekhtman have two volumes each.

MC: As a chess author, how many books have you written? Do you write for different magazines too?

JE: 44 books if you include my dalliance with the kindle. The Chess Analyst and Sacking the Citadel are my best. I write Chess Tech, a regular column for the American Chess Magazine. Used to write an instructional column for Chess Life for Kids.

MC: I have your book: The Chess Analyst, it has many of your early postal games, any plans for a follow up book?

JE: Good idea. No time for that now, but on my to do list.

MC: Who are your chess idols?

JE: Used to be Capablanca. Now its Petrosian. Every aspiring player should review the end of Joppen - Petrosian Belgrade 1954

MC: Can you offer some advice to players that can help them improve their play and perhaps get better results in their events?

JE: Petrosian is the key. Play over his games. He effortlessly defeated so many fine players, who had no idea what they did wrong. His main contribution: Thinking not about what move to play, but rather about where all pieces need to be, in what order, with what exchanges, often within relatively fixed pawn structures. It's marvelous to watch.

MC: There are some areas that perhaps you could offer your thoughts on. -

1. Game load, how many games do you feel is a good number to be playing at one time?

2. With server play, moves come at a faster tempo. We see many opponents that like to play Fast Food CC. Within a short time after you send your move, they reply. Any thoughts on how to handle this issue?

JE: Game load? Keep it low! A maximum of 20 games at the same time... 12 is better! It is really hard to sustain the right load because there is obvious pressure to play more.

The World Final and the Olympiad were going on at the same time, and frankly, that was just too much for me...I wanted to write more but I did not have the time.

The pandemic, of course, reduced the stress, because there was quite literally nothing else for us to do! Almost none of my opponents play quickly, and the ones who do run a high risk of making input errors.

Two of my opponents played quickly in the Final. One of those games ended quickly, but I never permitted their pace to affect mine. The key game against Osipov was case in point. He did make almost all of his moves within a day. I was ready for most of his responses. and more importantly, by the end at least, I was devoting one of my two machines just to that game. whether he moved or not. I simply took 5 days a move, on average, and I repeated the position twice to gain time on my clock. Apart from that, one key tip for all correspondence players: Turn off the TV!

MC: Can you provide us with a game and why it was selected?

JE: I select Edwards - Osipov, a 119 move marathon, because it showed off most clearly that the decisions in a game with a fixed structure cannot be made by an engine. the planning is way too deep and the engine evaluations were off-the-mark on most moves. I am still sad I did not find a win there, but I am still looking for it.

Edwards, Jon (2529) - Osipov, Sergey Adolfovich (2499) [C26] ICCF World Final, 2020

Annotated by Jon Edwards

Before play started, I estimated that the winner would need a +2 or +3 score. I selected solid openings with Black to aim for draws in those games. I played two Queen's Indians and two Nimzo Indians against d4, and the Sveshnikov against 1.e4. All eight games ended quickly, peacefully, and without my having to confront any meaningful new ideas.

To have a chance to win the tournament, I would therefore need to win two or three games with white. At first, I prepared to open with 1.d4, but I could not find anything playable against the semi-Slav, a popular defense used by many of my players in this tournament.

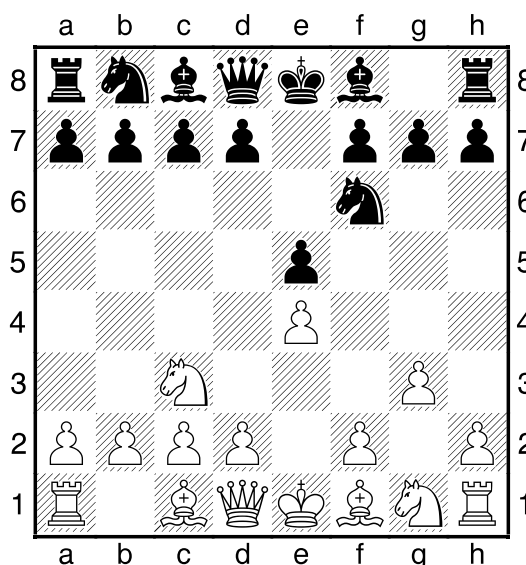
I spent days reviewing everything I could find there, but Black's defensive resources consistently held up. I instead opened with 1.e4 in every game with white. Two of the games involved the super solid ...h5 line against my Be3 Najdorf Sicilian. You'll achieve considerable chess fame if you find a compelling line there for white. I continue to hunt for it! I faced 1...e5 in the other 6 games. Three were Petrov's. One was a Berlin Ruy. In the other two, to avoid these solid systems, I tried a line in the Vienna Opening, the Glek variation, which has the merit of keeping all the pieces on the board.

This is one of those two games.

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 [A move that was very well prepared. I am trying to reach positions akin to the King's Gambit Declined. The Bishop's Opening has one variation that provides Black with full equality and so, here we are in Vienna.]

2...Nf6 [There are other moves, but they all leave white with a playable advantage.]

3.g3 [



Bc4 leads, of course, to the famous Frankenstein-Dracula variation in which Black, outfitted with a strong machine, is fully fine. g3 is the Glek Variation, which has the merit of permitting me to play chess with all of my pieces. A number of strong players have tried this line from time to time. There's an old Spassky win that provides the main idea. White will complete the fianchetto, castle kingside, play h3 and tuck the king on h2, and then charge forward with f4–f5. The idea is riskless, well matched to the needs of correspondence play, and frankly, quite appealing.]

3...Bc5

[The main alternative is ...d5 which I am now testing in the Kurt Stein Memorial.

Theory is not well developed and there are plenty of interesting ideas for White in that line thanks in part to that lovely, very active light-squared bishop.]

4.Bg2 0–0 5.Nge2

[The main attraction of the Vienna is to avoid Nf3 so that f4 can be more quickly played.]

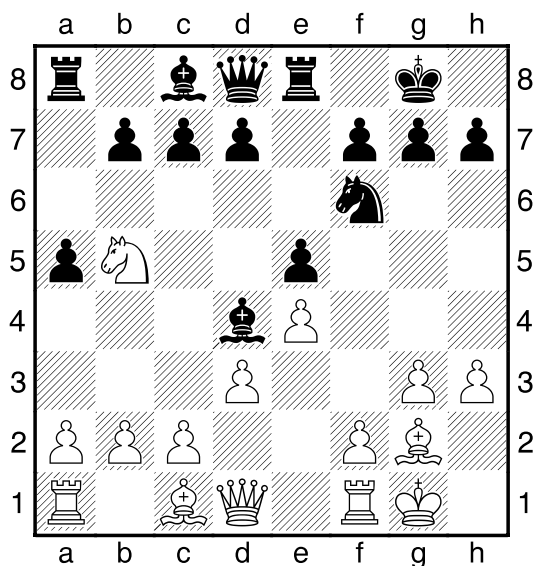
5...Nc6 6.0–0 a5!?

[Unexpected. He wants to preserve the bishop and stake a claim on the queenside, but this may be slightly inaccurate. It's certainly not critical. ...a6, ...d6, and ...Re8 are more commonly played here.]

7.h3 Re8 8.d3 Nd4 9.Nxd4

[OK, the first exchange. To succeed here, White wants to preserve as much material as possible, but I can stomach one trade.]

9...Bxd4 10.Nb5 [



Creative on my part. Let's get a pawn to c4 to discourage Black's counterplay on the queenside and in the center.

Computers are not thrilled with this idea, but in my view, winning in correspondence chess with any consistency requires a stable structure and the ability to maneuver accurately with many pieces on the board.]

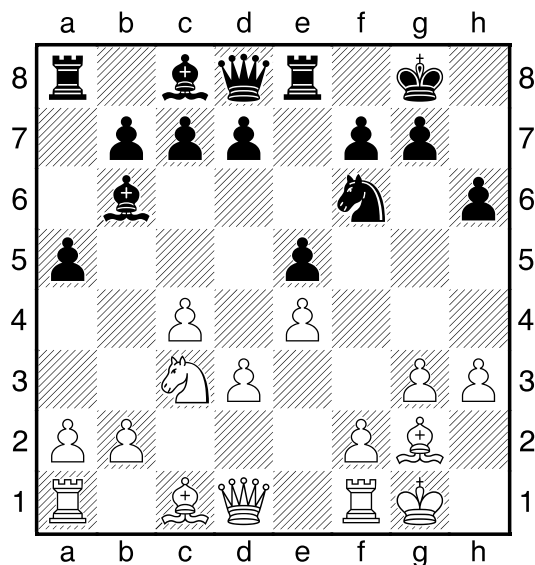
10...Bb6 11.c4

[He can always kick the knight back to c3, where it wants to be anyway, but a c6–pawn creates additional long-term weaknesses in the structure.]

11...h6

[He is trying hard to limit the scope of what can become a very powerful, dark-squared bishop. Of course, with most of the material left on the board, this push is committal. One of White's main ideas, after all, is to press forward on the kingside with a pawn rush.]

12.Nc3 [



Black's potential counterplay with ...d5 or even b5 is now unlikely. We can buckle our belts. This will be a long struggle, exactly what I wanted.]

12...d6 13.Kh2

[These moves are part of the usual plan in the Glex and don't need computer confirmation, but it's the World Final so the runs were long. When the engines disagree with the plan, as happens often enough, the humans should step in and reevaluate the plan or proceed. The idea here is straight forward. I want to play f4–f5 and a pawn rush against his castled king. Black has no apparent counterplay.]

13...Bd4 14.f4 Bd7

[This is supposed to be Black's good bishop, but it has nowhere useful to post. At least without a pawn on c6, the bishop gains some scope on the queenside.]

15.Ne2 Bc5

[After this tempo loss, I concluded that this game was my best shot for a win in the Final. I wound up devoting thousands of hours to the game, a great many 12 hour days, trying to find the most accurate path forward.]

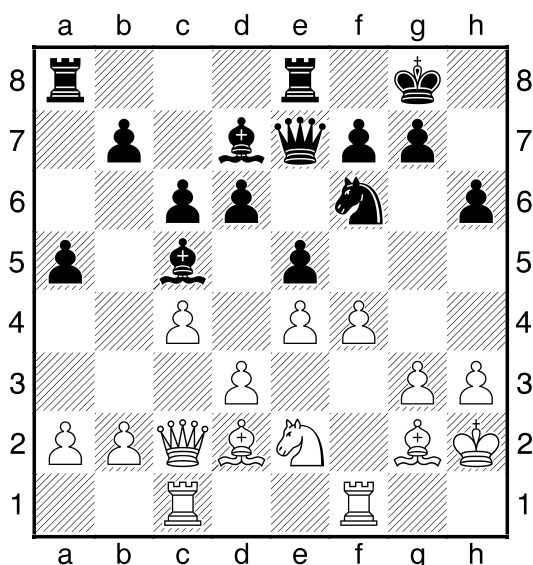
16.Qc2

[Simple development, aiming to activate the queen's rook.]

16...c6

[He plays it anyway. As a young player, I devoured Larsen's Best Games. He talked about similar positions, albeit with an open d-file, in which Black has to worry about the long-term weakness of the d6 pawn.]

My progress depends in part on making sure that he cannot break with either ...b5 or ...d5. Let's start by turning him into a bystander of the plan.]

17.Bd2 Qe7 18.Rac1!?

Activating the queen's rook on the c-file in order to firmly prevent a ...d5 break. But this may be the my only error in the entire game.

If instead a3 or Rad1, white will retain the dark-squared bishop to aid the kingside attack. I did agonize over the decision, and I was persuaded by the plan that I outline below.

But I cannot help but note that the following plans, as impressive as they are, would have been substantially aided by the addition of white's dark-squared bishop.

On Rad1!?, which the computers reject at high depth, White can retain the dark-squared bishop after ...Bb4 with Bc1.]

18...Bb4

[Black succeeds in getting the dark-squared bishops off the board, his second minor piece exchange.]

19.Be3 Bc5 20.Bxc5 dxc5 21.f5

[I had seen all this coming, and I had the following complex plan in mind.]

I was sure that I could still win this even without the dark-squared bishop. Black has no counterplay, and now the kingside can begin its advance.]

21...Kf8

[His saving grace. White can indeed press forward with the usual pawn-led advance on the kingside, but Black's king won't be there.]

22.Ng1

[The actual details within this plan are annoyingly niggling.]

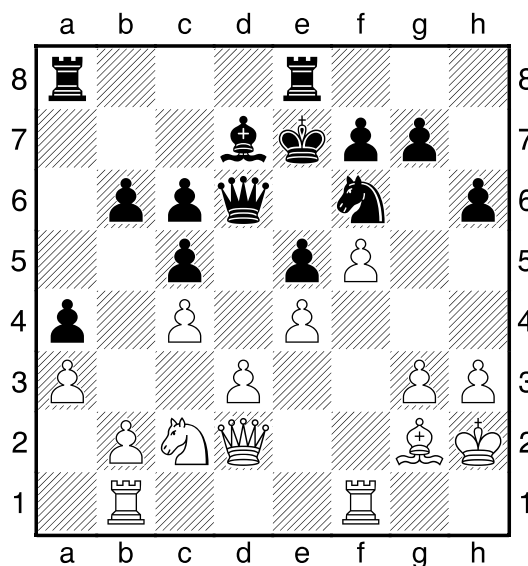
The knight will eventually head towards c3, but first, it needs to reach c2 in order to threaten b4.]

22...Qd6 23.Nf3 Nh7 24.Rcd1 Ng5 25.Ne1 Nh7

[Effectively offering a draw by repetition, in which I have no interest.]

26.Qd2 Ke7 27.Nc2 b6 28.a3 Nf6 29.Rb1

[Initializing the b4-break.]

29...a4 [

Black prevents the pawn break, but the pawn on a4 is now the target. I began to implement an idea that few over-the-board players and no computers would consider or attempt.

Without permitting any counterplay anywhere on the board, I need to reposition my pieces within this structure so as to force black to defend the a4-pawn with b6-b5.

Too simply put, to accomplish this task, I will need the white knight on c3, the bishop on c2, and the queen on d1.

The obvious constraint: I must carry out this redeployment within 50 moves or face a draw, and I must make sure that when he advances the b-pawn, he cannot trap my Bc2 with b5-b4-b3.

Osipov is fully aware of what I am trying to do here and tries throughout the next very long sequence to present small problems that I must confront along the way.

If he can delay long enough, he avoids any possibility of a successful white initiative.]

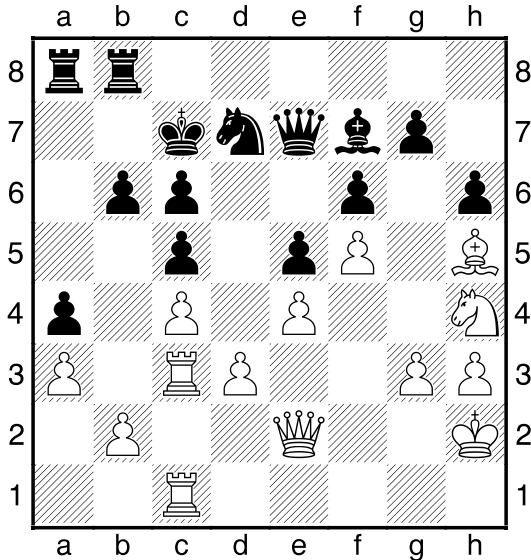
30.Ne1 Reb8 [Throughout the next long sequence, most of Black's moves threaten nothing.]

The engines rate the position as 0.30 or thereabouts, and every candidate move, white and black, has the same evaluation.]

31.Rf2 Be8 32.Bf1 Nd7 33.Nf3 f6

[And the 50 move rule is now in motion. I kept careful track of the number on a white board in my chess study, the war room.]

34.Qe1 Kd8 35.Rc2 Kc7 36.Be2 Bf7 37.Qf2 Qe7 38.Qe3 Rh8 39.Rbc1 Kb7 40.Nh4 Nf8 41.Rc3 Kc7 42.Bf3 Nd7 43.Qe2 Rhb8 44.Bh5



A cool step along the way. I invite the trade of my bad, light-squared bishop for his good one.]

44...Bg8

[He declines the trade, partly perhaps to keep the 50 move rule clock running, but his "good bishop" is now deprived of any meaningful scope or the ability to transfer to the queenside.]

45.R3c2 Nf8 46.Ng2 Nd7 47.Ne3 Kd8 48.Rd2 Kc7 49.Qe1 Qd6 50.Ng2 Rd8 51.Nh4 Nf8 52.Nf3

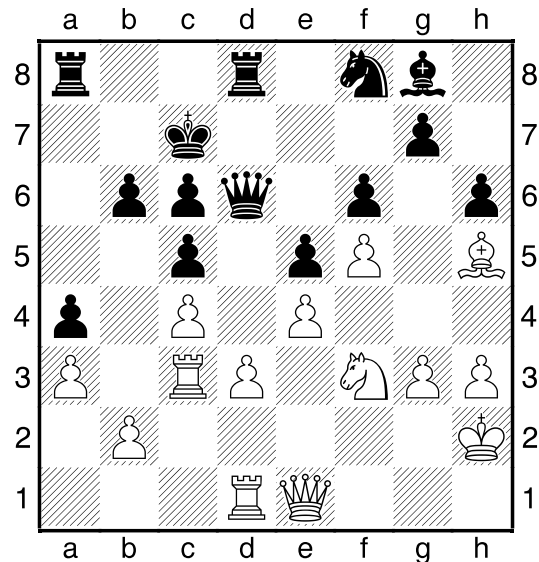
[In the midst of all this glacial maneuvering, the first shock of the tournament occurred. One of the players inputted the wrong move, instantly hanging a piece and the game.

In all of my experiences, such things happen to others. In this case, I was the beneficiary.

A free point in the World Final changed everything! I was suddenly half way to my +2 goal, and a win here would surely lock in the championship.

There would be no letup in my approach to this game!]

52...Kb7 53.Rdd1 Kc7 54.Rc3 [



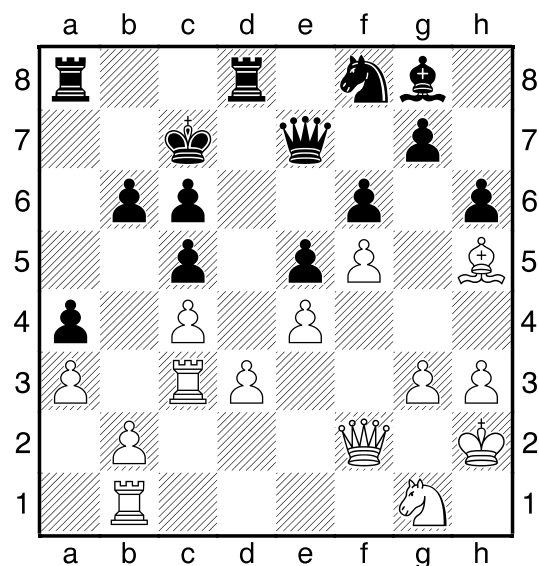
Osipov posted a win against one of the German competitors. Osipov had played well, and the game achieved notoriety, but his opponent had played a dubious line in the Benoni. Sadly, I had been paired with Black against this same person and had already banked my draw, an extremely easy game because my opponent appeared to be unaware that I had played the same defense twice before.

All this meant that Osipov and I were both +1, and this game took on even more importance. A win here and my tie-breaks would be awesome, defeating someone who had a win!]

54...Kb7 55.Qf2 Kc7 56.Rcc1 Kb7 57.Kg2 Qc7 58.Rc3 Qd6 59.Rb1 Kc7 60.Ng1

[The knight finally commences its journey towards c3.]

60...Qe7 61.Kh2 [



I was getting very excited about my chances in this game. I had minimized his play against my d-pawn. He dare not open the kingside. My pieces now have a path to their desired squares in

this first phase, and I knew that I could carry out my plan within the constraints of 50 day rule.]

61...Nd7 62.Qe3 Qd6 63.Rd1 Ra7 64.Kg2 Raa8 65.Rcc1 Qe7 66.Rd2 Qd6 67.Ne2 Rdb8 68.Qf2 Kb7 69.Nc3

[The knight finally reaches c3, beginning the pressure on the a4-pawn.]

69...Kc8 70.Qe1 Ra7 71.Bd1

[Now the bishop joins the party. We have now made 38 moves without a pawn move or a capture.]

71...b5

[Finally, the first pawn advance since move 33.]

72.Bh5

[The bishop resumes its most active perch immediately so as to keep Black's bishop bottled up. The next step in the has multiple possibilities, but the main idea involves threatening an exchange on b5 in order to pressure the c-file.

I want to force or encourage black to play b5-b4 and then to b3, when White has a winning plan with a king walk to a1 or b1, doubling the rooks on the g-file, and then pushing the g-pawn forward.

The computers still do not see such plans, but humans can do so quite quickly. The computer is useful indeed in confirming that the ideal position is winning for white.

I repeatedly used the computer to evaluate different piece placements iteratively within the structure.]

72...Kc7

[There's a kind of helplessness to Black's moves. He has no meaningful way to make progress and so, he is left to parry every threat and possibility while I progress with my glacially slow plan.]

73.Qd1 Kc8 74.Qe1 Kd8 75.h4 Rab7 76.Kh3 Ke7 77.Ne2 Qc7 78.Qf2 Ra8

[Amidst my building efforts to impel him to advance the b5-pawn, a very tempting tactic emerged.]

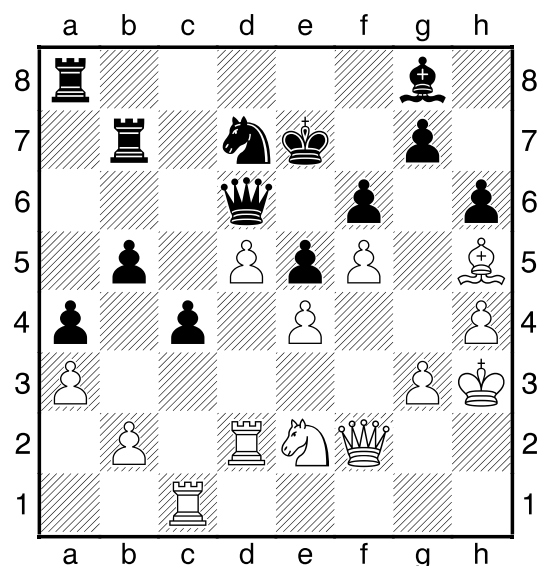
79.cxb5 cxb5

[79...Rxb5? 80.Nc3±]

80.d4 Qd6

[80...exd4? 81.Rxd4±]

81.d5 c4 [



Black's "good bishop" is now permanently buried, white has a protected passer in the center, and there are all sorts of promising possibilities for the posting of white's pieces. Imagine, for example, maneuvering the knight to b4 and c6, securing the king on the queenside, and blasting open the kingside with support from white's major pieces. Even white's light-squared bishop will gain a role in that scenario.]

82.Rc3 Nc5 83.Qf3 Qd7

[A huge think now. He now threatens to break on the kingside with g5 and attempt to seal the structure. I can avoid the pawn advance by retreating my king, but even after ...g5, I can still reorient my pieces for an eventual h4 break. The computer evaluations are simply worthless through here.]

84.Nc1

[The knight prevents any incursion with Nb3 or Nd3, and steers the knight towards the b4-hole.

Another win is posted, this time by LeCroq of France over Schwetich, who had also lost to Osipov. Schwetick has strangely hung a mate in an otherwise even position.

Clearly the chess gods were with me because, while LeCroq also now had two wins, both he and Osipov now had tie breakers hurt by the fact that both had defeated the same person! With the outcome of this game still uncertain, I suddenly had the best tie breaker.

If all 40 remaining games were to end in a draw, I would now win the tournament outright even without a win in this game... but I never felt comfortable, knowing that anyone's additional win would crunch my chances.]

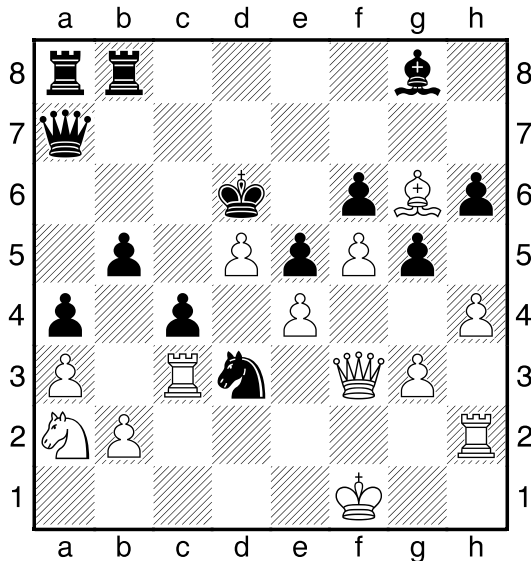
84...g5 85.Na2 Bh7 86.Kh2 Bg8 87.Kg1

[There are lines where white's king belongs on the queenside as prelude to the rooks relocating to the h-file. Meanwhile, white's king can cut off black's queen from any entry squares on the kingside.]

87...Kd6 88.Bg6 Rbb8 89.Rh2 Qa7 90.Kf1 Nd3 91.Nc1 Nc5 92.Na2

[Russia attacked the Ukraine around this time, and the ICCF soon thereafter required all Russians to play under a neutral flag. I forwarded my move with a message of peace. Osipov, a former Cosmonaut, did not respond.]

92...Nd3 [



The repetition will puzzle readers. It's a correspondence game, after all. But I was relatively low on time, and this gains time on the clock. And psychologically, we both now know that I am playing to win and that he is happy to draw.]

93.Nc1

[Sadly, the lines with Nb4 Nxb4 axb4 offer no winning chances.]

93...Nc5 94.Qe3 Nb3 95.Qe1 Qd4 96.Bh5 Rc8 97.Nxb3 axb3 98.Rd2 Qa7 99.Rd1 Bf7 100.Be2

[Finally reaching move 100, and avoiding the bishop exchange. There are still plenty of ideas, but they now depend upon an aggressive role on the queenside for white's bishop.]

100...Be8 101.g4

[Played so very reluctantly. There were so many lines in which white's king or queen could infiltrate via g4 and h5. My hopes are dwindling, relying now on infiltration down the h-file and a well timed a4.]

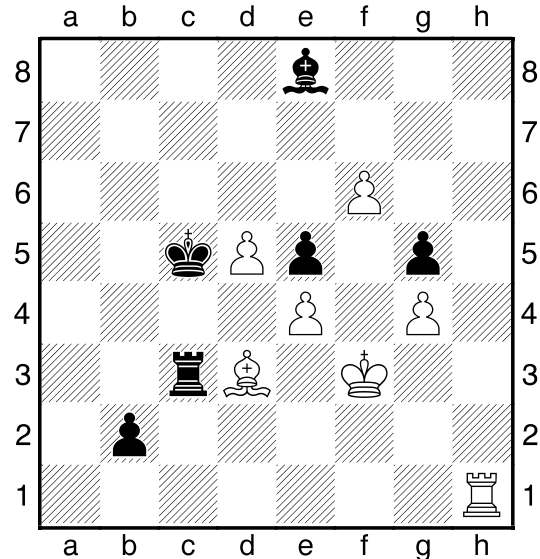
101...Bd7 102.Kg2 Qc5 103.Rh3 Ra4 104.hxg5 hxg5 105.Rh6 Rf8 106.Qc3 b4

[Necessary, but good enough to draw.]

107.axb4 Qxb4 108.Qxb4+ Rxb4 109.Kf3 Ra4 110.Rc1 Ra2 111.Rxc4 Rxb2 112.Rb4 Rc8 113.Rb6+ Kc5 114.Rhxf6 Rh8 115.Rh6 Rxh6 116.Rxh6

[A pawn ahead, which looks great on the board but sadly not on the scoresheet.]

116...Rc2 117.Rh1 b2 118.f6 Be8 119.Bd3 Rc3 [



Offering a draw. Over-the-board, play would go on. The position remains complex and the lines quite fun. Readers should test their own meddle here.

One of the lines even involves two promotions followed by a quick perpetual check. But we faced a clear path to a draw, and by now, there were only two games left in motion.

The tournament did indeed end with 47 consecutive draws, leaving me in first place with the best tie breaker!

Surely, I missed a win here somewhere. That will continue to haunt me, the desire for an extra dose of legitimacy, but ultimately it does not matter! Happily, the collusion in mid-tournament did not determine the winner.

Finally after more than two years of 12 hour chess days, I can put my feet up, enjoy the engraved silver platter, and buy a lottery ticket!]

[The simplest finish is 119...Rc3 120.Ke2 Rc1 121.Rd1 Kd4 122.Bb1+ Kc3 123.Rd3+ Kb4 124.Rd1] ½-½

FEATURE ARTICLE

Setting Up A Chess Computer System Pt 2

CONTEMPORARY SYSTEM CHOICES, the second part of a series of ideas for setting up a chess computer system.

Author: Keith Kitson

The first part of this series covered Anti Computer Diehards, Existing without a Computer, Non-ownership computer use, Legacy systems, RAM and Resources, Mass Storage, Defragmentations and Dedicated Chess Machines. You can read Part One in Issue 2 of 'Correspondent' which may be [downloaded from the EFCC Website](#).

Hardware Choice

Cost can be a major consideration when dipping a toe into the computer hardware market. Once the total spend has been budgeted for, we need to decide whether to go for a desktop or a laptop or keep costs down by opting for a tablet or smartphone. They each have their advantages and disadvantages:

Desktop

- More affordable cost of ownership when comparing with a similarly specified laptop.

- A main consideration is placement and airflow around the unit. Desktops often run faster/hotter CPUs and therefore require superior ventilation methods.

- Ultimately the fastest machines are desktops due to the more efficient cooling systems built into the main CPU casing which allows faster CPUs to operate at lower operating temperatures, sometimes even offering water cooling.

As laptops are portable there is the temptation to sit them on your lap, but in so doing it is easy to block the cooling vents, leading to overheating and eventual forced shut-



down by the system. This problem is less likely on an Apple laptop as the main heat disperser is often the extruded aluminium casing which wicks the heat away.

Desktops and laptops should, on a periodic basis, have their vents cleared of dust to ensure efficient airflow or they will overheat and in a forced shut down when a critical temperature is detected by the sensors; risking corrupted files and sometimes an operating system repair or restore in worst case scenarios, especially if an update is in progress.

- Will take up more space in the house than a laptop when catering for CPU box, Screen, keyboard and mouse.

If using a wireless mouse periodic battery replacement will be required although batteries usually last a year and sometimes two years

in the case of some models.

- Once setup they are not easily portable and are best left on their own computer table.

If the dedicated table has wheels, then some portability can be afforded. However, for obvious reasons transport outside of the house is not very practical on a regular basis.

- It is my experience that the majority of desktop users do not consider reserve or backup power supplies, so when the power is discontinued or the CPU reaches a critical operating temperature the desktop system immediately powers down, potentially losing unsaved data and corrupting open files that had no time to close down safely.

Corrupted files of several giga-

bytes or terabytes could be an expensive loss especially if the owner did not undertake a periodic secure backup routine to allow for a file or system restore following system corruption due to power supply outage.

- Ultimately desktops allow hardware upgradeability. This enables the owner to keep up to date with current hardware trends (usually to increase speed of processing), although there is a limit at which it may well be cheaper to buy a replacement CPU unit.

As CPU units are highly dependent on the ancillary support circuitry to function effectively, often near complete systems can be purchased on one circuit board called a motherboard, contemporary designs of chip now integrate graphics within the CPU.

Upgradeability is particularly important as graphics cards have become of major importance to leading edge chess software and extra advantages can be gained by using the most up to date graphics cards (although as of September 2021 the chess software development market appears to be moving away from the requirement for expensive graphic cards to run the top chess software).

The existing screen, keyboard and mouse may still work with the new base unit, but interfaces between accessories and computer should be checked as older interfaces have now been superseded. This is far superior to the equivalent laptop that has very little scope for hardware upgrade.

It is worth noting here that Desktops can be built, and home assembled for those with that interest and capability but purchasing components individually is not a cost-effective approach to obtaining a computer and usually the cost of ownership will increase for a bespoke home assembled unit. It is always worth comparing costs with an advertised model bought, 'off the shelf'.

Considerable savings can be made in this way and it is feasible to secure a higher specification desktop than could be purchased for home assembly, plus of course you have the manufacturers guarantee on the whole assembled unit rather than individual guarantees on each purchased component.

- Desktops usually will run any of the three main operating systems: Microsoft's Windows, Apple's MacOS and Linux. Windows being the preferred option here if the widest choice of chess software is desired.

- Desktops allow convenient upgrade of graphics systems. Graphics cards tend to be upgraded on a reasonably prolific basis, though the need to do so for chess software is becoming less necessary nowadays.

- Both the keyboard and mouse can either be connected via a separate cable to the CPU unit or more conveniently connected wirelessly to the base unit with a Bluetooth connection.

- Most desktops come with an internal network adaptor

card which means it can connect wirelessly to the internet, or alternatively for a more secure connection a network cable will plug into the network card usually at the back of the CPU case. The alternative is to attach a wireless dongle to a usb port to achieve the same where a network card is not installed.

- Screens or monitors come in various sizes 17" or larger is better to fit more windows on the screen at once without the text in each window being too small to read. LED screens are the most popular and widely available, Liquid Crystal Display (LCD) and Cathode Ray Tubes (CRT) are from past generations and inferior to current Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs). Resolution minimum should be 1366 x 768 which is HD ready resolution.

Full HD resolution of 1920 x 1080 is much sharper but still old technology. Nowadays 4k ultra-HD monitors

are readily available at very reasonable prices. Gaming monitors are better as their refresh rates are higher which helps avoid eyestrain for extended viewing (at lower screen refresh rates of less than 80 Hertz screen flicker can be detected which can lead to eyestrain).

Connections on modern systems can

be either HDMI, DisplayPort, USB-C or Thunderbolt. HDMI is the most popular, but DisplayPort is the higher performer. Any new purchasers should ensure connections match between CPU unit and monitor. If you buy your desktop from one supplier as a system everything should match.

- Memory requirements for a desktop running chess software should be a minimum of 8Gb. 4Gb leaves inadequate remaining memory to run applications as the system grabs the majority of the first 4Gb of memory. 16Gb is ideal for a games machine and 32Gb and 64Gb machines are available on the market. With greater ram capacity comes the flexibility to run several chess applications at the same time. With a fast CPU good response would still be possible from each application, but a larger monitor would probably be necessary.

There are utilities now where the complete desktop can be spread over two screens which enables two independent chess programs to run on two separate monitors from the one computer system (notably Apple's sidcar facility can easily achieve this by wirelessly linking an iPad for the second screen). Windows can also achieve this but will require cabled access to two different video ports.

- Mass storage has undergone a significant change over the last decade. A hard drive has traditionally been built into most desktops and laptops except Chromebooks which rely on cloud mass storage, see Wikipedia for details.

The nature of hard drives has changed, and solid-state non-volatile memory is now becoming common place though still expensive when compared with tradi-



tional hard disk drives.

The advantages of solid-state drives include ultimate reliability and IO (input/output) speeds have significantly improved, over the traditional hard drive technology. They also utilise less physical space and are therefore better suited to use in laptops.

Capacities have crept up over the years and 1 or 2 Terabytes (one Tb is approximately 1000 Gb) are quite common on gaming machines. 500Gb being a regular minimum for the cost conscious purchaser.

Laptop

- Screen requirements

The four main screen sizes for laptops are 11", 13", 15" and 17". 17" screens often give you a wider keyboard (the screens are wider therefore the keyboard is also wider) with a separate numeric keypad and more readable on-screen text. 11" and 13" are a little small for most users when multiple windows are opened. A 15" monitor is practical for everyday use and keeps the laptop workspace compact.

Overall the bigger the screen then the more windows can be opened simultaneously on screen, with readable text, or you can switch between windows with larger text in each window.

- Battery advantages

One of the big advantages of a laptop is the capability to take it with you when you leave home and wish to utilise whilst on the move, without needing an external power supply.

It is also convenient to use on battery power within the home, away from an external power source. The battery backup gives extra security in a mains power cut situation. Many users may setup their laptop in one place in the home and leave it connected to the mains supply permanently.

The software in some systems is sophisticated enough to adjust charging levels to extend battery life. Start-up times can be speeded up by placing the laptop in sleep mode rather than a complete close down after each session. On restart the system switches on the screen and the last used window layout is displayed.

Users can invoke a sleep session by just closing the screen. Sleep mode switches the screen off and stops most processes from running to preserve battery charge. (note: battery power will slowly reduce on sleep mode if not connected to a mains power supply).

Where battery levels are low and on battery power, at a determined critical remaining power level, the laptop will perform an orderly shutdown so as not to lose any data due to unclosed files.

- Memory considerations

Random Access Memory (RAM) is critical for a chess computer system. 4Gb is inadequate for current systems and current applications. 8Gb is the minimum and better is 16Gb or 32Gb.

The more sophisticated operating systems now running on modern computers leave little RAM remaining for applications on a 4Gb machine. 8Gb eases this memory bottleneck but with a few web pages open on a browser, mail or Outlook open and other apps running 8Gb is soon swallowed up.



Therefore, 16Gb or 32Gb is a better RAM size to leave sufficient memory for one or maybe two chess systems to run on the one machine. This higher-level memory is only addressable in 64bit operating systems (16 bit machines could only address 16 kilobytes of memory, 32bit machines could access a minimum of 4 gigabytes, hence the 4Gb still offered at the budget end of the market).

There were techniques to address more memory, at a cost. Current 64 bit systems can access up to 16 Exabytes (one exabyte being approximately 1 million gigabytes). The greater the amount of ram installed the better the capability to store essential data such as tablebases in ram speeding up data access and thereby allowing greater search depths to be achieved.

Regardless of your machines RAM capacity it is still possible to utilise all available ram if you have several memory dependent apps. Running at once.

At this point the machine becomes unresponsive to mouse or keyboard commands. The only way to overcome this is to force a system shutdown by holding down the on/off button for at least 5 seconds.

Open files may be corrupted, even the operating system may become corrupted if an update was underway. It is therefore good practice to always know the quantity of RAM utilisation at any time.

This can easily be achieved by using CTRL-SHIFT-ESC to start the Task Manager where all pertinent info. can be assessed, and compensated for, before disaster strikes. This caters for a windows laptop. Other operating systems will have different access to monitoring software.

- Laptop accessories

Most accessories can be connected by USB to the laptop, external to the laptop casing itself and starting to extend the workspace that the laptop now takes up. However, the more accessories connected then the more items to trail around when transporting the laptop.

- Laptop ergonomics

Laptops rely on a touch pad, usually situated at the bottom centre of the keyboard area to enable control of the on-screen pointer. An external mouse and/or a larger area touchpad can be attached to the laptop via USB cable or

wireless to assist/enhance control of pointer direction and to better allow gestures like expanding a window with the use of two fingers, the same as is normal practice on a tablet or smartphone. Touchpads in current generation machines are bigger in area than previous generations.

- Case design

Solid state memory is quite prolific in laptops which tends to reduce the thickness of the casing.

However, reducing casing thickness also reduces the effectiveness of airflow for cooling purposes so there are diminishing returns on thin cased laptops.

Apple have managed to build a reasonably high-performance chip (Intel 9900 series with 8 cores) into a slim casing.

The aluminium casing is very effective at helping to keep the processor at reasonable operating temperatures and an efficient fan starts up if the cpu temperature exceeds the threshold for case only cooling.

The processor rarely runs at its maximum theoretical clock speed and naturally overclocking (where frequency of chip operation is boosted) is not incorporated to help control operating temperatures.

Although there are one of two larger cased laptops on the market that allow overclocking as a feature of the system. Heavier duty fans are installed to counter the extra heat generated and these fans can tend to encroach on a room's quietness, and are therefore not everybody's choice.

- DVD drive redundancy

Many laptops do not come with a DVD reader or writer. Download speeds are quite adequate for the majority of software and an external DVD or Blue-ray drive can be added via a USB socket.

Tablet and Smart Phone

- For greater portability an Android tablet or Apple tablet (iPad) can be used to run chess software.

In the case of the higher performing iPads cost will be over £1000 per iPad usually incorporating 512Gb or 1Tb of memory and incorporating a reasonably fast multi-core processor, which will compare favourably with some laptops.

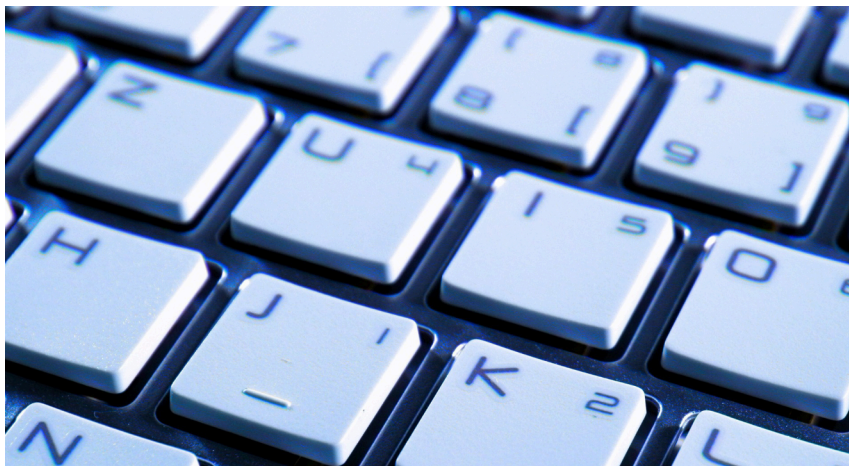
In general tablet software is not as flexible as that running on a desktop or laptop. Chess software is reasonably plentiful with a lot of free

software available but there is little leading edge chess software available for use on a Tablet. Tablet chess software costs range from free to a few pounds at most.

One of the better exceptions to purchased software is an app from the Apple App Store called Bank-siaGUI which is a reasonably polished piece of software.

The app includes a very capable Chess GUI and integrates 6 strong engines over 3200 elo including a NNUE version of Stockfish (Stockfish 14 which is a third generation NNUE version) and LCO v0.27.0, the current latest version (although LCO v0.28.0 is currently in beta). These are two of the leading-edge chess programs on the market at the present time.

The app can play, analyse and also paste games or positions into the GUI. Game navigation forward and back and to start or end of games are



easily achieved. The number of cores can be set in options.

There is also the option to select between classic, Hybrid and NNUE for the evaluation function of the engine. This is probably one of the best applications for strength and versatile chess playing actions that any chess player can utilise for an iPad.

Other sound and reliable applications are implementations of Hiarcs and Shredder. Often, free chess software comes with in-app advertising, the oblique price to be paid for 'free' software.

Stockfish is available in its own user interface, is very fast and utilizes Stockfish version 14. It will allow a pgn file to be 'pasted' in and then analyse the position. Setup is very straightforward and the latest Neural Net processing is incorporated.

- the cost conscious where they are using a smartphone for their everyday use free chess programs can be downloaded to play chess and analyse positions., thereby incurring no additional costs except that of download charges.

However, speed of CPU will not compare with better laptop or desktop systems. A range of increasing CPU speeds persists in Tablets and Smart phones from budget through to the high-end models; higher costs of ownership usually determine the faster units with greater onboard memory.

In general tablets are often faster than smart phones and this determines the depth of search for any given time.

But it is worth taking into account that the fastest smartphones execute faster than Deep Blue's hardware did in February 1996, when it

beat Kasparov in a match, and the available software is significantly more capable than that available in 1996.

The faster smartphones are able to reach a greater depth of search which potentially can give a wider range of analysis results with greater accuracy before the horizon effect kicks in.

The maximum depth that a machine analyses to is its horizon beyond which it has no assessment and is effectively blind beyond that point. It should be noted that the deeper the search reaches away from the candidate move the less accurate the line becomes.

Programs adopting the Monte Carlo search technique avoid the horizon limitation, as they analyse each line to game end.

Knights Tour


GM Jonathan Penrose – a tribute

By Awani Kumar, Lucknow, India

GM Jonathan Penrose OBE (1933 – 2021) was the leading British OTB player in the 1960s and early 1970s and crushed the reigning world champion Tal at 1960 Leipzig Olympiad with a sacrifice that became known as "Penrose Sacrifice". He was among few elite players who held the titles of Grandmaster as well as International Correspondence Chess Grandmaster. He won the British Championship a record 10 times, played in 9 Olympiads but always considered himself an amateur player. Penrose switched to CC in the 1970s and led his country to victory in the 9th CC Olympiad (1982–87). The author wishes to pay tribute by composing and dedicating interesting knight tours. Knight is a very curious piece whose look and move has not changed since the inception of chess around 5th century AD in India. Tour of knight is a millennium old puzzle – the oldest record dates back to 840 AD. The task is to move a knight on an empty board so that it visits all the cells in successive jumps only once. There are zillions of knight's tours on 7x10 board and their exact number is unknown but composing knight tour with magic properties is more challenging and fascinating. Magic knight tour has all the rows and all the columns adding up to magic constant. A semi-magic tour has either all the rows or all the columns, but not both, adding up to magic constant. Penrose was born on 7 October, which correlates to 7-10 and Figure 1 is a semi-magic tour of knight on 7x10 board. Sum of each row is 355. It is six-fold semi-magic tour, that is, it remains semi-magic when the tour starts from either of the cell 8, 29, 36, 43 or 64. Such tours are very rare, thus entertaining, fascinating, mesmerising, amusing, bemusing and may be a bit confusing.

65	6	41	30	9	62	51	20	11	60	355
40	31	64	7	50	19	10	61	52	21	355
5	66	29	42	63	8	49	22	59	12	355
32	39	4	67	28	43	18	53	48	23	355
1	68	35	38	17	54	47	24	13	58	355
36	33	70	3	44	27	56	15	46	25	355
69	2	37	34	55	16	45	26	57	14	355

Fig.1. Six-fold cyclic semi-magic tour on 7x10 board

Penrose died at the age of 88 and Figure 2 is a semi-magic tour of knight on 8x11 (= 88) board. Here sum of each row is 356. Although tour of knight is over a millennium old puzzle, but 'Figured Tour of knight' is a recent, albeit less explored, field of research. T. R. Dawson (1889-1951), the indefatigable English chess author, editor, columnist and the 'father of Fairy Chess' coined and popularized the term 'Figured Tour' in 1940's. The name 'Figured Tour' is appropriate for any numbered tour in which certain arithmetically-related numbers are arranged in a geometrical pattern. Figured tours as a piece of art have always been fascinating. For example, Figure 3 is a 'figured tour of knight' on 8x11 board. Here all the square numbers $1^2, 2^2, 3^2 \dots 9^2$, that is, 1, 4, 9 ... 81 are also on the knight's path and when joined make a beautiful  shape, the universal symbol of love. Monogram tours, that is,

knight tours delineating letter shapes, have an aesthetic appeal. Figure 4 and Figure 5 are monogram tours – square numbers delineating letters ‘J’ and ‘P’, the first letters of his name.

35	10	53	80	33	12	75	58	356
52	81	34	11	76	57	32	13	356
9	36	79	54	31	14	59	74	356
82	51	8	37	56	77	30	15	356
7	38	55	78	29	16	73	60	356
50	83	6	39	72	69	20	17	356
1	44	49	84	19	28	61	70	356
48	85	40	5	68	71	18	21	356
43	2	45	88	27	24	65	62	356
86	47	4	41	64	67	22	25	356
3	42	87	46	23	26	63	66	356

Fig.2. Semi-magic tour on 8x11 board

3	12	5	84	61	68	73	70
6	59	2	11	74	71	62	67
13	4	83	60	85	64	69	72
58	7	10	1	82	75	66	63
9	14	45	54	65	86	81	76
46	57	8	15	44	23	52	87
39	16	55	48	53	88	77	80
56	47	38	43	24	79	22	51
17	40	25	28	49	30	33	78
26	37	42	19	32	35	50	21
41	18	27	36	29	20	31	34

Fig.3

19	86	71	84	21	2	13	6
72	83	20	3	70	7	22	11
87	18	85	8	1	12	5	14
82	73	88	69	4	77	10	23
65	68	17	76	9	26	15	78
74	81	66	63	16	79	24	27
67	64	75	80	25	50	61	58
34	43	36	49	62	59	28	51
37	40	33	44	53	46	57	60
42	35	38	31	48	55	52	29
39	32	41	54	45	30	47	56

Fig.4

41	2	39	58	43	62	71	60
38	5	42	63	70	59	44	47
3	40	1	36	57	46	61	72
6	37	4	69	64	35	48	45
17	26	9	56	49	82	73	66
10	7	16	81	68	65	34	83
27	18	25	8	55	50	67	74
24	11	88	15	80	75	84	33
19	28	21	54	87	78	51	76
12	23	30	79	14	53	32	85
29	20	13	22	31	86	77	52

Fig.5

Penrose passed away on November 30, 2021 which correlates to 11-30 and Figure 6 is a semi-magic tour on 11x30 board. Sum of each column is 4965. It is an open tour and readers are urged to look for more challenging closed (or reentrant) tour.

21	320	1	316	11	330	17	314	9	328	15
2	317	20	323	18	315	10	329	16	313	8
321	22	319	4	309	12	325	6	311	14	327
318	3	322	19	324	5	310	13	326	7	312
289	42	23	308	39	292	29	294	33	300	35
24	307	290	41	28	303	38	301	36	297	32
43	288	305	26	291	40	293	30	295	34	299
306	25	44	287	304	27	302	37	298	31	296
45	286	267	64	269	50	279	54	271	58	275
266	65	284	47	282	53	270	51	274	55	272
285	46	63	268	49	278	61	280	57	276	59
66	265	48	283	62	281	52	277	60	273	56
245	86	67	264	247	84	259	74	251	78	255
68	263	246	85	260	71	248	81	254	75	252
87	244	261	70	83	258	73	250	77	256	79
262	69	88	243	72	249	82	257	80	253	76
89	242	223	108	239	94	227	96	229	100	233
222	109	240	91	224	105	236	103	232	97	230
241	90	107	238	93	226	95	228	99	234	101
110	221	92	225	106	237	104	235	102	231	98
201	130	111	220	127	214	117	206	121	212	123
112	219	202	129	116	205	126	213	124	209	120
131	200	217	114	203	128	215	118	207	122	211
218	113	132	199	216	115	204	125	210	119	208
137	196	191	140	187	198	155	158	185	150	153
192	133	138	197	190	141	186	151	154	157	184
195	136	193	142	139	188	159	156	183	152	149
166	169	134	189	162	143	176	173	148	179	182
135	194	167	164	171	160	145	180	177	174	147
168	165	170	161	144	163	172	175	146	181	178
4965	4965	4965	4965	4965	4965	4965	4965	4965	4965	4965

Fig.6. Semi-magic tour of knight on 11x30 board

Jonathan Penrose is no more with us physically but will always remain in our heart and memory.

Awani Kumar works for Indian Forest Service as profession and works on knight tour puzzles as hobby. He has published over a dozen articles in various magazines and has appeared in Limca Book of Records.

CHESS & BRIDGE

The London Chess Centre

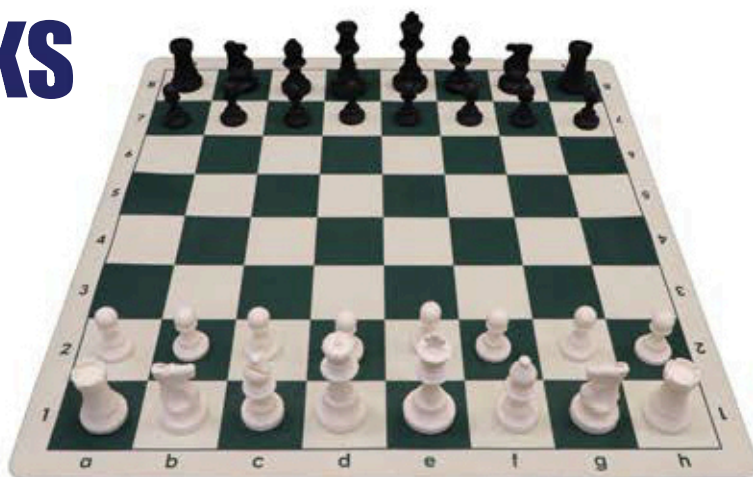
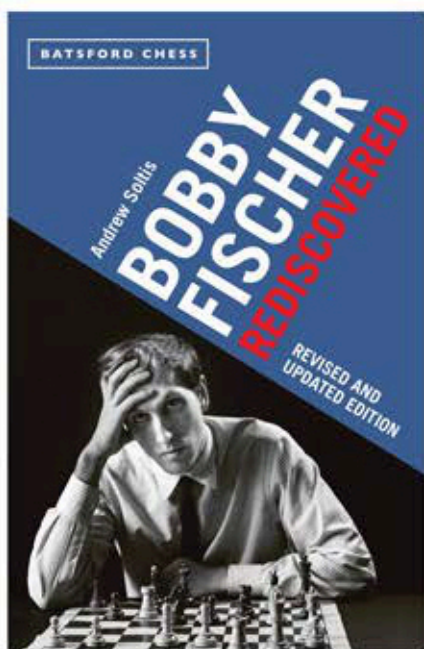


Visit our retail store at:

44 Baker Street, London, W1U 7RT

www.chess.co.uk | info@chess.co.uk | 0207 486 7015

BOOKS



CLOCKS & EQUIPMENT



CHESS SETS



And plenty more!

SOFTWARE