

# CORRESPONDENT

EFCC Quarterly • Issue 6 Spring 2025

**Gary Kasparov**

Keith Kitson unveils the story behind Kasparov

**C42 Petroff  
Defence**

**Natcor**

Introduction to this longstanding club

**English  
Titles &  
Medals**

**Engine  
Shed**

A LOOK AT CURRENT ENGINES.

**ICCF  
Ratings  
2025/2**



# EFCC Information



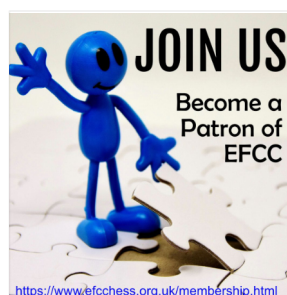
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President: SIM Keith Kitson. Deputy President: Ian Mason, General Secretary: Peter Rice, International Secretary: Phillip J Beckett, Treasurer: Ian M Pheby, Tournament Coordinator: Keith Kitson

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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 £15 or you can become a Life Patron for £130.00. To join ,**

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**EFCC Correspondent**

## 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://efccchess.org.uk/eccc.html>

### 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>

### EFCC MEDALS TOURNAMENTS

Gold, Silver and Bronze tournaments are available and qualify for EFCC Master Points. <https://efccchess.org.uk/EFCCMedalsRules.html>

### WILLIAM MASON TOURNAMENT

This annual tournament offers three sections, a Championship Final, Candidates and Reserves. <https://efccchess.org.uk/EFCCWMasonRules.html>

### INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES

<https://efccchess.org.uk/intFriendlies.html>

### ENGLISH MASTER POINTS

<https://efccchess.org.uk/EMPAvailability.html>

### TOURNAMENT ENTRY FEES

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### EFCC CONSTITUTION

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**Editor's Notes**

# Welcome!



*Welcome to the 6<sup>th</sup> Issue of the EFCC Magazine. The recent EFCC AGM and EC meetings saw changes to the leadership of EFCC and management of our tournaments. We warmly thank both Ian Pheby and John Rhodes*

*for their strong support and welcome Ian Mason and Peter Rice to their new roles as they replace Keith and John as Deputy President and General Secretary.*

*This issue starts a new series on current favourites ChessBase and Hiarcs Chess Explorer. In addition we cover the current status of a few chess engines, there are so many and the majority of which I have never heard of but which are apparently popular.*

*We cover the latest ICCF Rating list, our International Friendly matches, Memorial Tournaments and the England v Japan friendly match. The rating list for England is headed by GM Nigel Robson, currently the 5<sup>th</sup> strongest player active in correspondence chess. Well done Nigel!*

*The 5<sup>th</sup> English Championship has started, the reduced list of entries is a concern that we may need to address. The EFCC Continuous tournament started well but entries dropped off and the tournament is no longer viable. Please support English tournaments where you can.*

*Finally, I am still looking for help with the magazine, if you feel that you could help and would like to do so, please get in [touch by email](#).*

**Mickey**

EFCC Correspondent

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# Your Comments



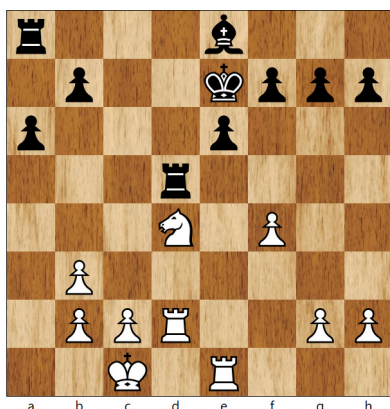
WE WELCOME CORRESPONDENCE from anyone, please get in touch with your views, thoughts and wishes for the future of correspondence chess. You can contact the magazine at [efccnews@icloud.com](mailto:efccnews@icloud.com)

## Awani Kumar (India)

Thank you for the new issue of EFCC Correspondent. It is colourful, well composed with varied articles.

I liked the article on Judit Polgar the most. Judit -- along with parents and sisters -- visited India in December 1990. All the three sisters, along with nine others including V. Anand, participated in the Triveni Super GM Tournament held at New Delhi. Luckily, I was there to witness it. Judit being the youngest participant -- just 14 years old -- was the centre of attraction for the spectators as well as local media. She came third; her sisters Zusuza and Sophia came fourth and ninth respectively. Her only loss was to the top seed GM Gata Kamasky who came second. Judit defeated Anand, the winner of the tournament, when the latter blundered (see diagram) with 19 ...Rd5? The game continued 20 Ne6! Rd2 21 Nd4 Kf6 22 Kd2 Rd8 23 c3 Bc6

and the rest was a matter of technique for her. Judit also came during the 44th Chess Olympiad held at Chennai in 2022 and her commentaries, intermingled with deep insight as well as wit, were much appreciated. India won double bronze and she spotted the potential of Indian chess players. Judit held a two week training camp for seven talented Indian women in January 2024. Her effort bore fruit and the women's team won their first ever gold in the 45th Chess Olympiad! She was also in India for the torch relay as part of the FIDE centenary celebration.



Regarding the printing schedule of the magazine, I believe that 10 (or 12) issues a year may be better provided you have sufficient material for it. Else, the quarterly schedule is better with its timely publication. A monthly magazine is much better than a monthly blog because it is easy to refer to a magazine, is taken more seriously than a blog and has lasting value. It is more convenient to save and share a magazine than a blog.

Regards,  
Awani Kumar

**Editor:** Thank you Awani, great feedback and a fantastic memory that you have given us. We warmly appreciate your kind comments.

Please send your comments, questions or other correspondence to the editor at [efccnews@icloud.com](mailto:efccnews@icloud.com). These may be subject to slight editing to fit available space.

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<http://www.natcor.org.uk/>

# 1<sup>st</sup> England Triple Block Open Tournament

Tournament Announcement & Information

Closing Date for Entries:  
20th May 2025

**Players from England  
Opportunities for  
International Norms!**

Tournament Start Date:  
20<sup>th</sup> June 2025



<https://efcchess.org.uk/>



## NEWS

# Peter Rice the new EFCC General Secretary

Peter's chess career started with Horsham Chess Club in Sussex back in 1972, though he was living across the border in Surrey at the time (a little village called Capel). Then off to Liverpool University to study Biochemistry, and captain the chess team. County chess started with a match for Sussex (against Surrey!) and his first correspondence game was around the same time - a quick win with Black in an Alekhine that started a lifelong love of CC. In his final year he was Lancashire CC champion. Then off to London (UCL), captaining London University in the London League, and UCL in the "Pugh Cup" against the other colleges, also finding time for two Middlesex CC titles.

He learned a little Russian from a Bernard Cafferty cassette, to take advantage of the Russian Bookshop in Charing Cross Road, and was asked in his first job inter-

thing they had never seen before and was greeting with actual laughter by the watching kibitzers. Learning German proved invaluable when finding annotations are not in English. It also provided another source of chess books in a foreign language.

Returning, this time to Cambridge to join the Human Genome project, he resumed CC for Hertfordshire, while also captaining the Herts OTB team for a few years. Joining ICCF, he worked up through CCE, CCM and then IM in 2021. The 2022 Glasgow ICCF Congress was the ideal location to pick up the medal and for a family post-covid holiday, resulting in a rare family photo of a CC player. (inset)

Peter joined the EFCC Executive Committee in 2023 and took on the post of Secretary in March 2025.



view "so, what books have you read in Russian?" Luckily, he could name two by Efim Geller and started a career in computing. After moving to Reading, he was part of the Berkshire team that surprisingly won the Ward-Higgs in the 80s.

A 7-year spell in Heidelberg, Germany followed, at the European Molecular Biology Laboratory. CC resumed with the wonderful development of play by email. No postage costs! But with the downside of replies coming too soon - sometimes dated the day before. The first online events were very informal. Joining an international team event, there was no team for England, nor for Germany, so he joined a team called "Netherlands/Brazil" with other oddballs. A highlight of chess in Germany was winning the club championship final playing 1.e4 a6 as Black - Some-

Over the board, Peter's play has always tended to be unadventurous. In contrast, CC offers the freedom, and the thinking time, to explore the more creative side of the game. These days it also provides the challenge for a lifelong programmer of finding mistakes in computer analysis, though that is getting ever harder. One of Peter's wilder games appeared in David Miedema's recent book on the French Winawer. In his analysis of a new variation from a CC game (where the computer did get it wrong and lost), he suggests a better move with 4 full pages of his own detailed analysis - up to move 40. Then comes the comment "Just a few days before this book went to the printers, I found out that one CC game had reached this position!" We need more CC games like that.

## NEWS

# Ian Pheby Retires



IAN M. Pheby, announced his retirement as EFCC President at the EFCC AGM held in March 2025. He will be succeeded by the previous Deputy President, Keith Kitson. We The EFCC EC wish Ian a long and happy retirement.

Ian has served remarkably, almost 56 years in chess administration. In recognition of Ian's entirely volunteered devotion to the role, the EFCC awarded Ian the first EFCC Life Time Award and an engraved Silver Salver to mark the occasion.

The following text details what Ian did during his 56 years of chess administration. This is followed by a list of the awards Ian has accrued over this period of time.

Ian's earlier chess administration tasks revolved around the Civil Service Chess Association and the London Civil Service Chess League:

1. In August of 1969 Ian took on the role of Vice-Captain in the Civil Service, later holding the Captain's role.
2. He became a Tournament Organiser (TO) for the London Civil Service League in 1973.
3. Ian became responsible for organising the whole Civil Service League in 1982 which he faithfully continued to organise for some 30 years, until 2012.
4. Ian became Vice-President of the London Civil Service League and the Civil Service Chess Association in 1987.
5. He finally adopted the ultimate role, in 1989, of President of the London Civil Service League and the Civil Service Chess Association, which he held for 23 years until 2012, when he retired from Civil Service Chess.

## EFCC Posts

Although not his first choice Ian took on the role of EFCC Treasurer when no applications were received following an advertising campaign for the role. Failure to fill this role would have meant the EFCC could not continue without a Treasurer.

Ian has also taken on the role, diligently of EFCC Master Points and Titles Co-ordinator. This is considered a crucial role to ensure all English flagged players receive awards when they have earned them by accruing sufficient master points.

The maintenance of historical records is another role Ian has adopted.

Ian has also acted as Tournament Organiser for the Medals and Mason Events. He will continue to manage the Medals event for another year but is looking to pass on the Mason

TO role for 2025.

Ian has also designed the first England International Triple Block Open Tournament. Early registrations suggest this is going to be a very successful and lucrative event for the EFCC, well done Ian.

Ian has sat on many EFCC sub-committees, which he plans to step down from except the Selection committee and the Disciplinary committee.

## ICCF Posts

1. Ian has been Tournament Director (TD) for many tournaments run by the ICCF, including the prestigious World Correspondence Chess Championship.
2. He has also diligently and successfully taken on the role of Mentor for new TDs.

## Other Posts

1. Chairman and TO of Grays Chess Club.
2. County Grader for ESSEX
3. Captain of ESSEX
4. Captain of Government Chemists, Grays, Redhill and UNATS

## Awards

The significant awards that Ian has accrued over time are listed below:

1. ICCF International Master title in 2002
2. ICCF Senior International Master title in 2003
3. ECF President's award for services to chess in 2009
4. ICCF International Arbiter in 2009
5. ICCF Bertl Von Massow Silver award in 2015
6. ICCF Bertl Von Massow Gold award in 2021

## Future Plans

Ian plans to continue as a member of the EFCC Executive Committee (EC) and will continue as Treasurer. His vast experience will be very useful to those assuming new roles in the EC.



## NEWS

# John Rhodes Retires



JOHN RHODES HAS regrettably stood down as EFCC General Secretary. We wish John a long and happy retirement, perhaps one day he will have time to once again work with us and he would be warmly welcomed should that be the case.



At the EFCC AGM in March 2025, our Secretary, John Rhodes retired. John was a highly valued member of the Executive Committee. He has held the post of EFCC Secretary for several years and has also been a member of various EFCC sub-committees.

John has also been a Tournament Director for the EFCC and for the ICCF, and is the Captain of Hertfordshire where the team has enjoyed some success in the Counties & Districts events.

John has been an excellent Secretary and has provided me with support over the years for which I will always be extremely grateful.

Of course we must not forget that the EFCC has benefited by John and Anne hosting our meetings in their home. I would therefore like to take this opportunity to thank both John and Anne for hosting the meetings and for providing members of the Executive Committee with

excellent lunches over the years. They have certainly been appreciated by those of us who have attended the meetings in person.

I am sure the members of the EFCC EC will join me in thanking John for his past service to the EFCC. We all wish John a long, happy, and healthy retirement. However, I very much hope that John will be able to rejoin the Executive Committee in some capacity in the future should he be able. The door will always be open to you, John!

At the EFCC AGM I presented John with an engraved salver in appreciation of his service to the EFCC.

In my last act as EFCC President, I submitted a proposal to award a Celebration event to honour John, and the proposal was accepted by the AGM.

Ian M Pheby  
EFCC Treasurer

## NEWS

# National News

A SUMMARY OF THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE ENGLISH CORRESPONDENCE CHESS FEDERATION. THE LATEST NEWS IS UPDATED REGULARLY AT [HTTPS://EFCCCHESS.ORG.UK/](https://efccchess.org.uk/)



## ▼ Ninth Place Finish in Francois Riva Memorial Team Tournament SF 3.

The England B team achieved a commendable ninth-place finish. The team demonstrated strong competitive spirit, securing victories against formidable opponents including the Netherlands, France, and Portugal. They also managed draws against Wales, Lithuania, Spain, and Brazil, showcasing resilience and strategic prowess. The team all performed creditably; Steve Cole scoring 6.5, John Vivante-Sowter scoring 6, Brian Herriot 4.5, Robert Rozinski An excellent 8/12, Peter Cunningham 4.5 and Alan Sutton 5.5

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=102407>

## ▼ Upcoming International Friendly: England vs. Czech Republic.

The EFCC announced an upcoming friendly match against the Czech Republic (Czechia), noted for its strong lineup, including a Grandmaster (GM) on board 11. Despite a slight delay in scheduling, the match promises to be a challenging encounter.

## ▼ Francois Riva Memorial Team Tournament Qualification

England A qualified for the final of the Francois Riva Memorial Team Tournament, a significant achievement in the ICCF calendar. The team, comprising Ian Mason, Tim Spanton, Arnold Marchant, James Toon, Steve Hooker, and Valerie Craven, performed admirably, with all members scoring at least 50%. Notably, James Toon and Valerie Craven each scored an outstanding 8/12, matching the top individual performance of Robert Rozinski in the England B section.

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=102405>

## ▼ New International Titles

The EFCC celebrated several players who earned prestigious ICCF titles, reflecting their excellence in correspondence chess. These awards, confirmed by the ICCF Qualifications Commissioner, highlight the depth of talent within the English correspondence chess community:

**James Toon** (ICCF ID 213245) was awarded the ICCF International Master (IM) title. Toon's consistent performance, including his 8/12 score in the Francois Riva Memorial, underscores his status as one of England's top players.

**Jim Nierobisz** (ICCF ID 211586) also earned the ICCF International Master (IM) title, further strengthening England's roster of titled players.

**Richard Ward** (ICCF ID 780026) received the ICCF Correspondence Chess Master (CCM) title

**Stephen Woodhouse** (ICCF ID 212334) was awarded the ICCF Correspondence Chess Expert (CCE) title.

**Les Ellis** (ICCF ID 211229) has been awarded the Senior International Master title.

**Dominique Coterno** (ICCF ID 211384) has been awarded the Correspondence Chess master title.

EFCC wish to congratulate all players on their excellent achievements and we wish you all success in the future.

## ▼ First England International Triple Block Open

<https://www.iccf.com/EventAnnouncement.aspx?id=107606>

The EFCC announced the First England International Triple Block Open, a new tournament designed to

engage English-flagged players and international participants.

Players can enter via Direct Entry on the ICCF website (under "New events" for England) or through their National Federation. Email entries are not permitted. Each player may enter up to two groups, with second entries placed in the subsequent group where possible.

The closing date for entries is May 20, 2025, with pairings issued shortly thereafter. The official start date is June 20, 2025.

**Entry Fee:** The fee is 9.00 Euros per entry via Direct Entry, with National Federations setting their own fees.

This tournament represents a significant initiative by the EFCC to expand its tournament portfolio and attract a diverse field of players. The Triple Block format, which typically involves multiple groups playing simultaneously, ensures a robust and engaging competition.

## Leadership Transition: Ian M. Pheby and Jihn Rhodes Retirement

At the EFCC Annual General Meeting (AGM) in March 2025, Ian M. Pheby and John Rhodes announced their retirements as EFCC President and General Secretary. Ian has been a pivotal figure in English correspondence chess and will be succeeded by Keith Kitson, the former Deputy President. John will be replaced as Gen. Sec. By Peter Rice.

The EFCC marked the occasion by awarding Ian the inaugural EFCC Life Time Award and an engraved Silver Salver, recognising his unparalleled dedication, John was also presented with a Commemorative Silver Salver in thanks for his work for EFCC.

Ian continues as EFCC Treasurer.



## TOURNAMENTS

# 5th English Championship

## Previous English Champions

4<sup>th</sup> Championship: Danny Dixon  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Championship: Praveen Kumar  
 Rallabandi & Brian Thomson  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Championship: David Evans  
 1<sup>st</sup> Championship: Mark Eldridge

THE 5TH ENGLISH Championship started on the 5th March 2025 with 25 entrants placed into three sections. The Final is contested by 13 players, the Semi-Final by 6 and the Preliminary Section also with 6 players.

### 5th English CCC Final

The final is being contested by 13 players,

1. Arnold Marchant,
2. Jim Nierobisz
3. Valerie Craven
4. Keith Kitson
5. Alan J. C. Rawlings
6. Graeme Carey
7. Ian J. Mason
8. Daniel Broomfield
9. Tom Herman
10. Richaerd Webster
11. Kevin D. Plant
12. Trevor S. Brotherton
13. Matthew Cutler

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=108286>

### 5<sup>th</sup> English CCC Semi-Final Section

1. Alan B. Sutton
2. Peter Ackley
3. Allan Gardner
4. Peter Vachtfeidl
5. Anthony Arthur Roberts
6. Sean Clark

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=108287>

### 5<sup>th</sup> English Preliminary Section

1. Phillip J. Beckett
2. Matthew Kirk
3. Stephen Roberts
4. Kay Joslin
5. Peter S. Morton
6. Martin E. Hardwick

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=108288>

### Eng/chp5/Final, 5th English Championship Final

						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	+	210690	CCM	Marchant, Arnold	2360 (57)		½	½	½	½	½	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2.5	0	5	7	1
2	+	211586	CCM	Nierobisz, Jim	2356 (53)	½		½	.	½	½	.	½	.	.	.	.	.	2.5	0	4.25	7	2
3	+	210605	CCM	Craven, Valerie	2361 (60)	½	½		½	½	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	0	4.5	8	3
4	+	210569	SIM	Kitson, Keith	2383 (67)	½	.	½		½	½	½	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	0	4	8	4
5	+	210745	SIM	Rawlings, Alan J. C.	2380 (53)	½	½	½	½		.	0	.	.	.	.	.	.	2	0	4.5	7	5
6	+	212954		Carey, Graeme	2273 (84)	½	½	.	½	.		.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1.5	0	3.5	9	6
7	+	219137	CCM	Mason, Ian J.	2438 (61)	.	.	.	.	1	.		.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	2	11	7
8	+	213376		Broomfield, Daniel	2243 (99)	.	½	.	.	.	.	.		.	.	.	.	.	0.5	0	1.25	11	8
9	+	212544	CCM	Herman, Tom	2420 (81)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.		.	.	.	.	0	0	0	12	9
10	+	212803	CCM	Webster, Richard	2402 (68)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.		.	.	.	0	0	0	12	9
11	+	211509	CCM	Plant, Kevin D.	2336 (93)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.		.	.	0	0	0	12	9
12	+	210823	CCM	Brotherton, Trevor S.	2327 (73)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.		.	0	0	0	12	9
13	+	213218		Cutler, Matthew	2327 (92)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.		0	0	0	12	9

Latest results from 17/04/2025 are displayed in red.

Not yet started: 0, Ongoing: 64, Adjudication pending: 0, Finished: 14

Sorted by place. Click to sort by start list order.

## MEMORIAL TOURNAMENTS

# Memorial Tournaments



WE ARE PROUD to remember and honour our friends through the Memorial Tournaments that we regularly organise.

## Keith L. Escott Memorial (1948-2024)

Available to follow at <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=106546> A 17-player memorial tournament, hosted by the EFCC, began on December 8, 2024, to honour Keith Escott's remarkable contributions to chess.



Keith (1948-2024) was a cornerstone of the chess community, both locally and nationally, with a legacy too vast to fully encapsulate. His commitment to the game shone through his editorship of Chess magazine and his presidency of the British/English Federation for Correspondence Chess (2000–2010).

At Sutton Coldfield Chess Club, Keith served as Chairman and was its leading player for many years. His extraordinary leadership guided the club to Birmingham League Division 1 Championships in 1979 and again in 2016—a record unlikely to be matched.

A steadfast supporter of the Warwickshire Chess Association, Keith competed in over-the-board events but excelled as Secretary for Correspondence Chess. For decades, he managed county teams in national competitions and organised the annual Warwickshire Correspondence Championship. Records are unclear on when he began, but he held the role for at least half a century, stepping down only when interest declined.

Known for his deep sense of duty and delightful quirks, Keith devoted his life to chess. His passing leaves an enduring void at Sutton Coldfield Chess Club and beyond.

## Phill J. Beckett Celebration

The PJB Celebration, a 37-player, 143-game all-English tournament, honours the remarkable contributions of Phill Beckett to correspondence chess. Follow the event at <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=107314>.



Phill Beckett has been a tireless advocate for correspondence chess, with an extraordinary record of over

2,000 games on the ICCF server. A highly active player, he competes in numerous international and national tournaments, including the ASIGC 55th Anniversary 5, British Candidates 2024/2026, 1st German Open G (Elo 1000-1899), 35 Aniversario FECAP C 8, William Mason 2024-25 Reserves, and the England vs. Netherlands International Friendly Match.

Phill's passion and commitment have left an indelible mark on the correspondence chess community, making this celebration a fitting tribute to his enduring legacy.

Keith Kitson currently leads this tournament with a remarkable 4 wins from 8 games.

## P.C. Gibbs Memorial (1934-2023)

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=105494>

Peter Campbell Gibbs (1934-2023) was a distinguished English chess player, administrator, and promoter whose contributions left a lasting impact on the chess community. Born in Bradford, Gibbs studied at Bradford Grammar School and trained as a solicitor, balancing a demanding career with an active chess life. His chess journey began early, sharing first place in the 1952 British Under-18 Championship alongside Bernard Cafferty and Peter Sanderson. In 1954, he secured second place in the British Under-21 Championship and later claimed the British Universities Championship title in 1956. Gibbs represented England in the World Student Team Chess Championships from 1954 to 1960, facing elite players, including a notable game against Boris Spassky in 1960.

Beyond over-the-board play, Gibbs was an accomplished correspondence chess player, clinching the 1999-2000 British Veterans Correspondence Championship. His commitment to chess extended to organisational roles. He served as a British Chess Federation arbiter, an English Chess Federation accredited coach, and a chess correspondent for the Birmingham Post starting in 1967. Gibbs was deeply involved in the English Federation for Correspondence Chess, contributing to committees from 1965 to 2007 and organising tournaments from 2000 to 2011. He also donated a trophy for the MCCU Individual Correspondence Chess Championship.



## EFCC TOURNAMENTS

# English CC Medals Tournament



EFCC HAVE INTRODUCED the Medals Tournaments that annually offer an opportunity to win Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals. The tournament Director is SIM Ian M. Pheby.

The 2024 medals tournaments proved a success with many fine games and awards issued to players. The **2024 Bronze Medal** tournament was won by Sean Clark with a fantastic 11/12 pts, this is a remarkable achievement in modern correspondence chess.

Anthony Arthur Roberts scored 9 1/2 /11 to win the **2024 Silver Medal** tournament whilst Keith Kitson currently leads the **2024 Gold Medal** tournament which has a small number of games ongoing.

The **2025 Medal** tournaments have been started with a Gold section comprising 7 players and a Silver section of 5 players. The 12 entries is a significantly large fall on the 27 entries received in 2024. EFCC will be reviewing these

events but hope for continues support in the future.

Medal tournament winners receive an engraved medal provided by the EFCC and a cash prize.

These tournaments can count towards the new English Master Titles which are covered elsewhere in this issue of the magazine. A number of players have been awarded retrospectively the medals for which they are qualifies. Further information on the EFCC website at:

<https://efcchess.org.uk/ECCTCriteria.html>

- <https://efcchess.org.uk/CurrentESM.html>
- <https://efcchess.org.uk/CurrentEM.html>
- <https://efcchess.org.uk/CurrentECM.html>

## ENG/2025/Gold, England 2025 Gold Medal Tournament

						TD Wood, Ben A. (IA)														Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
Rated						1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5	6	6	7	7					
1	+	211403	CCE	Gardner, Allan	2226 (75)			.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0	0	0	12	1
2	+	212314	LGM	Williamson, Dawn L.	2416 (87)	.	.			.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0	0	0	12	1
3	+	210447	CCM	Cole, Steve	2334 (56)	.	.	.	.			.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0	0	0	12	1
4	+	211742		Clark, Sean	2179 (78)	.	.	.	.	.	.			.	.	.	.	.	.	0	0	0	12	1
5	+	210569	SIM	Kitson, Keith	2384 (68)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.			.	.	.	.	0	0	0	12	1
6	+	211586	IM	Nierobisz, Jim	2356 (50)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.			.	.	0	0	0	12	1
7	+	213376		Broomfield, Daniel	2349 (76)	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.			0	0	0	12	1

## ENG/2025/Silver, England 2025 Silver Medal Tournament

						TD Blake, Michael J.										Score	Wins	SB	RG	Place
Rated						1	1	2	2	3	3	4	4	5	5					
1	+	211643		Elwood, David	1911 (56)			.	.	.	.	.	.	1	1	2	2	0	6	1
2	+	210454		Beckett, Phillip J.	1714 (47)	.	.			.	.	.	.	.	.	0	0	0	8	2
3	+	210477		Morton, Peter S.	1443 (81)	.	.	.	.			.	.	.	.	0	0	0	8	2
4	+	213297		Low, Mark	1319 (102)	.	.	.	.	.	.			.	.	0	0	0	8	2
5	+	212579		Roberts, Stephen	1427 (69)	0	0	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	0	0	0	6	5

# International News



NEWS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE CHESS FEDERATION INCLUDING A ROUND UP OF THE IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR TOURNAMENT DIRECTORS AND FEDERATIONS.

The International world of Correspondence Chess has been rocked by allegations against a senior ICCF Official and his family.

## ICCF Response to Recent Editorial Allegations

The ICCF Executive Board has been made aware of a speculative editorial published by a well known chess magazine, which contains unfounded insinuations concerning the integrity of four players.

We wish to clarify the following points:

**Prior Investigation:** The allegations referenced in the article were already known to the ICCF and were subjected to a thorough investigation. This included an independent professional consultant's forensic analysis of server logs and a comprehensive review of financial records and transactions. No evidence of impropriety was discovered during these investigations. ICCF will, of course, investigate the validity of any new evidence discovered.

**Unsubstantiated Connections:** The article suggests a link between the alleged incident and an ICCF official without providing any supporting evidence.

**Lack of Due Diligence:** The magazine did not contact any of the four individuals mentioned for their comments, nor did it reach out to the ICCF to inquire about the details of the investigations conducted. **Overlooked Evidence:** Information provided by the Welsh Correspondence Chess Federation clearly refuted

the narrative presented in the article and was disregarded by the editor. **Irrelevant and Derogatory Statements:** The article includes several derogatory and unsubstantiated statements about the individuals concerned, which bear no relevance to the incident in question.

The Executive Board considers this to be irresponsible journalism and has formally requested a retraction from the publication.

Furthermore, we have observed that the unfounded allegations from the editorial have been propagated and amplified on social media platforms.

We would like to remind all players of the ICCF Code of Conduct. Incidents involving harassment, the dissemination of unfounded allegations in public forums, attacks on a player's family, and smear campaigns are unacceptable. Such actions will be investigated by the ICCF Disciplinary Committee, and the most severe sanctions will be imposed on individuals found to be engaging in these malicious and vexatious activities.

The ICCF remains committed to upholding the highest standards of integrity and sportsmanship within the correspondence chess community.

## ICCF Finance Director Steps Down Amid Malicious Online Campaign

The International Correspondence Chess Federation (ICCF) regrets announcing that Russell Sherwood has stepped down as ICCF Finance Director.

This difficult decision follows a sustained and malicious campaign targeting Mr. Sherwood and his family, involving unfounded allegations spread via social media and a published magazine article. In the face of this unacceptable behaviour, Mr. Sherwood has understandably chosen to prioritise the well-being and privacy of his family.

Mr. Sherwood has been an invaluable contributor to the ICCF, serving with distinction in a variety of roles including Delegate for Wales, Non-Title Tournament Commissioner, Marketing Director, and most recently as Finance Director. He has also played a vital role in the organisation of numerous ICCF tournaments. The ICCF extends its heartfelt thanks for his many years of dedicated service and expresses deep regret that such circumstances have led to his resignation.

## 10th WebChess Open

ICCF is delighted to announce the start of the 10th WebChess Open tournament on the server. The WebChess Open Tournament is a tournament open to all correspondence chess players worldwide, with or without any previous ICCF experience.

The preliminaries will start on 15th June 2025. Time control will be Triple Block. The entry fee is 9 euros.

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



## ICCF TOURNAMENTS

# 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](https://www.efcc.com) or direct to [ICCF](https://www.iccf.com).

## Individual Tournaments

Enter at any time. These are listed under '[New Events](https://www.iccf.com)' at [iccf.com](https://www.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>

### WSTT/4/25 - Philidor Defence, C41

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 \*  
starts 01/06/2025

### WSTT/5/25 - Semislay, Shabalov's Defence, D45

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Qc2 Bd6 7.g4 \*  
Starts 15/09/2025

### WSTT/6/25 - Marshall Attack, C89

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6 5.O-O Be7 6.Re1 b5 7.Bb3 O-O 8.c3 d5\*  
starts 01/11/2025

### WSTT/7/25 - Sicilian, Portsmouth Gambit, B30

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.b4 \*  
starts 15/12/2025

There are several other thematic tournaments with planned starting dates or to be started when filled. For a full list, please visit <https://www.iccf.com/EventsAnnouncements.aspx>

### TT/3/25 - Winawer Gambit, D10 Postal Thematic, 6 players, 10 games, 10 moves in 40 days, starts 01/10/2025

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 e5

### TT/4/25 - Muzio Opening Postal Thematic, 6 players, 10 games, 10 moves in 40 days, starts 01/12/2025

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 g5 4.Bc4 g4 5.O-O

## Super Regional Tournaments

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

These have largely replaced the previous zonal tournaments.

### European Server Championship 2025, Preliminary

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

### European Server Championship Open Round

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

### RoW Championship 2025, Preliminary

Rated, 11 players, 10 games, 10 moves in 50 days, starts when filled, 13 out of 11 players registered

### RoW Championship Open Round

Rated, 7 players, 6 games, 10 moves in 50 days, starts when filled, 0 out of 7 players registered.

### European Postal Championship 2025, Semi-Final

### European Postal Championship Open Round

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

## 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.



## ONGOING MATCHES

**England v Sweden 2025 (3½ - 2½)**

A 25 board match started on 01/03/2025.

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=108144>

**England v Ukraine 2025 (7½ - 9½)**

A 23 board match started on 17/02/2025.

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=108144>

**England v Netherlands 2024 (52 - 64)**

A 64 board match started on the 21/09/2024.

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=106667>

**England v Germany 2024 (61½ - 91½)**

A 78 board match started on the 31<sup>st</sup> March.

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=105375>

**England v USA 2024 (80½ - 84½)**

A 83 board match started on 08/02/2024

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=104708>

**England v Wales 2023 (39½-42½)**

A 42 board match started 23/12/2023.

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=104276>

## ENGLAND V JAPAN INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY MATCH

## ENG v JPN, England v Japan Friendly 2023

		TD Lockwood, Austin (IA)					
England Beckett, Phillip J.		White	Black	White	Black	Japan Hayashi, Koji	
Board 1	🇬🇧 SIM Rhodes, John D. 2415 (95)	1	½	½	0	🇯🇵 IM Schmidt, Loren R. 2442 (92)	
Board 2	🇬🇧 Primrose, Jo 2090 (93)	½	0	1	½	🇯🇵 CCE Saitou, Atsushi 2055 (90)	
Board 3	🇬🇧 Ackley, Peter 2017 (81)	½	½	½	½	🇯🇵 CCE Saitou, Atsushi 2055 (90)	
Board 4	🇬🇧 Suffield, Mel 1985 (99)	½	1	0	½	🇯🇵 Tanabe, Koumei 1941 (84)	
Board 5	🇬🇧 Elwood, David 1936 (83)	0	0	1	1	🇯🇵 Tanabe, Koumei 1941 (84)	
Board 6	🇬🇧 Smyth, Sandy 1916 (92)	0	0	1	1	🇯🇵 Tanabe, Koumei 1941 (84)	
Board 7	🇬🇧 Ruffle, Alan 1460 (87)	0	0	1	1	🇯🇵 Takahashi, Yoshihiro 1404 (86)	
Board 8	🇬🇧 Herbert, Andrew 1380 (222)	_C	_C	_C	_C	🇯🇵 Takahashi, Yoshihiro 1404 (86)	
Board 9	🇬🇧 Ward, Bill 1360 (91)	1	1	0	0	🇯🇵 Tago, Shunnichi 1342 (89)	
Board 10	🇬🇧 Nichol, John 1181 (99)	1	0	1	0	🇯🇵 Tago, Shunnichi 1342 (89)	
Total:		7.5		10.5			



## INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES

# England v Japan

## Games from the match



**Ward,Bill (1360) - Tago,Shunnichi (1342) [A03]**  
ENG v JPN ICCF, 18.12.2023

1.f4 d5 2.e3 g6 3.Nf3 Bg4 4.Be2 Bg7 5.0-0 Nf6 6.Qe1 c5 7.d3 0-0 8.Nbd2 Nc6 9.h3 Bf5 10.Qh4 Nh5 11.g4 Bf6 12.Qf2 Qd7 13.gxf5 Qxf5 14.Qh2 a6 15.Ne1 b5 16.Bxh5 Qxh5 17.Nef3 d4 18.e4 Nb4 19.Ne1 Rac8 20.a3 Nc6 21.e5 Nxe5 22.fxe5 Bxe5 23.Qg2 f6 24.Nef3 Bd6 25.Ne4 Bb8 26.Ng3 Bxg3 27.Qxg3 Qd5 28.Qg4 f5 29.Qh4 Qf7 30.Bh6 Rfe8 31.Rae1 e6 32.Ne5 1-0

**Tago,Shunnichi (1342) - Ward,Bill (1360) [B01]**  
ENG v JPN ICCF, 18.12.2023

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Nf6 3.d4 c6 4.dxc6 e5 5.cxb7 Bxb7 6.Be3 Nc6 7.Bb5 Qa5+ 8.Nc3 0-0-0 9.Bxc6 Bxc6 10.Nf3 exd4 11.Bxd4 Re8+ 12.Be3 Bb5 13.Nd2 Ba6 14.Nb3 Qc7 15.Qf3 Bb7 16.Qh3+ Kb8 17.0-0-0 Rc8 18.Bxa7+ Ka8 19.Nb5 Qxc2#

0-1

**Nichol,John (1181) - Tago,Shunnichi (1342) [E60]**  
ENG v JPN ICCF, 18.12.2023

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Bf4 d5 4.e3 Bg7 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Bd3 b6 7.h3 c5 8.0-0 Bb7 9.Nbd2 Nbd7 10.Nh4 cxd4 11.exd4 Nh5 12.Be3 Rc8 13.b3 e6 14.Ndf3 Re8 15.Bg5 Bf6 16.Qd2 Bxg5 17.Nxg5 Ndf6 18.g4 dxc4 19.bxc4 Ng7 20.Ng3 Ne4 21.Bxe4 Bxe4 22.Ne5 Qxh4 23.Qe3 f5 24.Qg3 Qe7 25.Rfe1 Rf8 26.f3 f4 27.Qg2 Bb7 28.Qh2 Qg5 29.h4 Qd8 30.Rad1 Ba6 31.Re2 Bxc4 32.Rg2 Bd5 33.h5 Rc3 34.hxg6 hxg6 35.Nxg6 Bxf3 36.Qh8+ Kf7 37.Ne5+

1-0

**Tago,Shunnichi (1342) - Nichol,John (1181) [C60]**  
ENG v JPN ICCF, 18.12.2023

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Na5 4.0-0 c6 5.Be2 Nf6 6.d3 Be5 7.Bd2 h6 8.Nxe5 Qe7 9.Nf3 b6 10.d4 Bb4 11.Re1 Nxe4 12.c3 Bd6 13.b4 Nb7 14.Bd3 Nxd2 15.Rxe7+ Bxe7 16.Nbxd2 0-0 17.a3 d5 18.c4 Be6 19.c5 bxc5 20.bxc5 Nd8 21.Rb1 Bg4 22.h3 Bxf3 23.Nxf3 Ne6 24.Ne5 Nxd4 25.Bh7+ Kxh7 26.Qxd4 Bf6 27.Qd3+ Kg8 28.Nxc6 Rfc8 29.Qxd5 g5 30.Qf3 Kg7 31.a4 Re8 32.Nb4 Rad8 33.Nd5 Be5 34.a5 Rc8 35.Rc1 Bb2 36.Rb1 Bd4 37.Rb7 Re1+ 38.Kh2 Rf8 39.c6 Be5+ 40.g3 Kg6 41.Rxa7 Bd4 42.Qd3+ f5 43.Qxd4 f4 44.Qg7+ Kf5 45.Qxf8+ Kg6 46.Qf6+ Kh5 47.g4+ Kh4 48.Qxh6# 1-0

**Rhodes,John D. (2415) - Schmidt,Loren R. (2442) [B03]**  
ENG v JPN ICCF, 18.12.2023

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.c4 Nb6 4.d4 d6 5.f4 dxe5 6.fxe5 Bf5 7.Nf3 e6 8.Nc3 Be7 9.Be3 0-0 10.Bd3 Bg4 11.0-0 Nc6 12.h3 Bxf3 13.Qxf3 Nb4 14.Be2 Nc2 15.Rad1 Nxe3 16.Qxe3 Bg5 17.Qf3 Rb8 18.Kh1 Qe7 19.c5 Nd7 20.Be4 Kh8 21.b4 Bh6 22.Qh5 Rbc8 23.a4 f6 24.a5 a6 25.Qh4 Bg5 26.exf6 Rxf6 27.Qg4 Rxf1+ 28.Rxf1 Re8 29.Qg3 Nf8 30.b5 Bf6 31.bxa6 bxa6 32.Ne4 Bxd4 33.Bxa6 Rb8 34.Be2 Bxc5 35.Nxc5 Qxc5 36.a6 Ng6 37.Qg4 Qe3 38.Qf3 Qb6 39.Bd3 Re8 40.Rb1 Qd4 41.Qe4 Qd6 42.Bb5

1-0

**Schmidt,Loren R. (2442) - Rhodes,John D. (2415) [D39]**  
ENG v JPN ICCF, 18.12.2023

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Bg5 dxc4 6.e4 c5 7.Bxc4 h6 8.Bxf6 Qxf6 9.0-0 cxd4 10.e5 Qd8 11.Ne4 0-0 12.Qe2 Be7 13.Rfd1 Nc6 14.Bd3 a5 15.Rac1 a4 16.h4 Bxh4 17.Nd6 Be7 18.Qe4 g6 19.Nxd4 Bxd6 20.Nxc6 bxc6 21.Be2 Qb6 22.Rxd6 Qxb2 23.Rb1 Qxa2 24.Rd2 Ba6 25.Qf4 Qc4 26.Qxh6 Qg4 27.Rd4 Qh5 28.Qxh5 gxh5 29.Rxa4 c5 30.Ra5 Kg7 31.Rxc5 Rac8 32.Rxc8 Rxc8 33.Be4 Rc5 34.f4 Be2 35.Kf2 Bg4 36.Re1 Ra5 37.Re1 Ra4 38.Ke3

½-½

**Primrose,Jo (2090) - Saitou,Atsushi (2055) [E56]**  
ENG v JPN ICCF, 18.12.2023

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 d5 6.Nf3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 c5 8.0-0 Nc6 9.a3 Ba5 10.dxc5 Bxc3 11.bxc3 Qa5 12.Qe2 Qxc5 13.a4 Na5 14.Bd3 Qc7 15.Ba3 Rd8 16.Nd4 a6 17.f4 e5 18.fxe5 Qxe5 19.Rae1 Bg4 20.Qd2 Bh5 21.Rf5 Qc7 22.Rc5 Nc6 23.Qf2 Bg6 24.Bxg6 hxg6 25.e4 Nd7 26.Rd5 Nb6 27.Rc5 Nxa4 28.Rc4 Nb6 29.Nxc6 bxc6 30.Rd4 Rxd4 31.cxd4 Re8 32.h3 a5 33.e5 Qd7 34.Rc1 Ra8 35.Kh2 Nd5 36.Qc2 Ra6 37.Rb1 Kh7 38.Qc4 Ra8 39.Rc1 Re8 40.Qc2 Ne3 41.Qd2 Nf5 42.Bc5 Ra8 43.Ra1 Rd8 44.Rxa5 Rb8 45.g4 Rb3 46.Ra7 Qd8 47.Qf2 Nh6 48.Ra3 Rb1 49.Rg3 Qb8 50.Rg2 Rb3 51.Qh4 f6 52.g5 fxg5 53.Qxg5 Qe8 54.Qh4 Qf7 55.Qe4 Qe6 56.Rg3 Rb2+ 57.Rg2 Rb8 58.Qh4 Rb3 59.Rg3 Rb1 60.Qe4 Rb8 61.Qe2 Nf5 62.Rg2 Rb3 63.Qg4 Qe8 64.Qg5 Qf7 65.Qf4 Rc3 66.Qg5 Re3 67.Qg4 Nh6 68.Qg5 Re1 69.Qg3 Rb1 70.Rf2 Qd5 71.Rg2 Qe4 72.Rg1 Rb7 73.Qg2 Qf4+ 74.Qg3 Qf5 75.Rg2

½-½

## INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES

# England v Japan

## Games from the match

Saitou,Atsushi (2055) - Primrose,Jo (2090)

[C18]

ENG v JPN ICCF, 18.12.2023

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Qg4 0-0 8.Bd3 f5 9.exf6 Rxf6 10.Bg5 Rf7 11.Qh5 g6 12.Qd1 Qa5 13.Bd2 c4 14.Be2 Nbc6 15.Nf3 Bd7 16.0-0 Nf5 17.Re1 Re8 18.a4 Rfe7 19.Rb1 b6 20.Bf1 Nd6 21.h4 Rf8 22.Bh6 Rf5 23.g4 Rff7 24.Re3 Ne4 25.Qe1 Qxa4 26.Ng5 Nxe5 27.Bxe5 Re8 28.Ra1 Qb5 29.f4 Ne7 30.h5 a5 31.Bg2 a4 32.hxg6 Nxg6 33.f5 exf5 34.Rxe8+ Bxe8 35.gxf5 Rxf5 36.Qe6+ Rf7 37.Rf1 Nf8 38.Qxd5 Qd7 39.Re1 h6 40.Bxh6 Kh7 41.Qg5 Ng6 42.Qh5 Rf5 43.Qh2 Bf7 44.Bc1+ Kg7 45.Bh3 Qb5 46.Bxf5 Qxf5 47.Qh6+ Kg8 48.Re2 Bd5 49.Qg5 Qxg5+ 50.Bxg5 Kg7 51.Kf2 Kf7 52.Re1 b5 53.Ke3 Ke6 54.Rb1 Bc6 55.Rf1 Ne7 56.Bxe7 Kxe7 57.Kf4 Kd6 58.Rg1 Be8 59.Rg5 Bc6 60.Rg6+ Kd5 61.Ke3 Be8 62.Rg5+ Kd6 63.Ke4 a3 64.Rg1 Ke6 65.d5+ Kd6 66.Rf1 Bg6+ 67.Kd4 Bxc2 68.Ra1 Bg6 69.Rxa3 Bh5 70.Ra6+

1-0

Ackley,Peter (2017) - Saitou,Atsushi (2055)

[D11]

ENG v JPN ICCF, 18.12.2023

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 d5 3.g3 Bf5 4.Bg2 e6 5.c4 c6 6.Nc3 h6 7.Qb3 Qb6 8.c5 Qxb3 9.axb3 Be7 10.h3 Nbd7 11.g4 Be4 12.b4 a6 13.Nxe4 Nxe4 14.h4 Nef6 15.Bh3 Ne4 16.Bg2 0-0-0 17.Ne5 Nxe5 18.dxe5 g5 19.h5 f5 20.f3 Ng3 21.Rh3 f4 22.e3 Rhf8 23.Kd2 d4 24.exf4 gxf4 25.Kd3 Bg5 26.Bd2 Rd7 27.Re1 Kd8 28.b3 Ke7 29.Rh2 Rd5 30.Bh3 Kd7 31.Bc1 Bd8 32.Bb2 Be7 33.Bxd4 Ke7 34.Rd2 Rfd8 35.Kc3 Kf7 36.Bg2 Bb8 37.Bh3 R8d7 38.Bg2 Bc7 39.Bh3 Rd8 40.Bg2 Ke8 41.Bh3

½-½

(12) Saitou,Atsushi (2055) - Ackley,Peter (2017)

[C67]

ENG v JPN ICCF, 18.12.2023

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 Nf6 4.0-0 Nxe4 5.d4 Nd6 6.Bxc6 dxc6 7.dxe5 Nf5 8.Qxd8+ Kxd8 9.h3 Be7 10.Nc3 h5 11.Ne2 Nh4 12.Nxh4 Bxh4 13.Re1 Ke8 14.Bd2 Be7 15.Nd4 a6 16.e6 Bf6 17.c3 Bxd4 18.exf7+ Kxf7 19.cxd4 Rd8 20.Re4 Bf5 21.Rf4 Kg6 22.a4 c5 23.Bc3 cxd4 24.Bxd4 Rd5 25.Re1 Rad8 26.Bc3 Rd1 27.Rxd1 Rxd1+ 28.Kh2 Rd5 29.a5 Bd7 30.Rf8 Rf5 31.Rd8 Rf7 32.Kg1 Bc6 33.Rg8 Bb5 34.f3 c5 35.Kf2 Bc6 36.Rc8 Rd7 37.Kg3 Re7 38.Kh4 Rf7 39.Rd8

Rf4+ 40.Kg3 Rf5 41.Rg8 Rf7 42.Rh8 Bb5 43.Rb8 Bc6

½-½

Elwood,David (1936) - Tanabe,Koumei (1941)

[B52]

ENG v JPN ICCF, 18.12.2023

1.Nf3 c5 2.e4 d6 3.Bb5+ Bd7 4.Bxd7+ Nxd7 5.0-0 e6 6.d3 Be7 7.h3 Ngf6 8.c4 Ne5 9.Nxe5 dxe5 10.Nc3 0-0 11.Rb1 b6 12.a3 Nd7 13.b4 cxb4 14.axb4 a5 15.bxa5 bxa5 16.Be3 Bb4 17.Qc2 Qe7 18.Rfd1 Nc5 19.Kh2 Rfc8 20.g3 Qc7 21.Nb5 Qc6 22.f3 h6 23.Kg2 Rd8 24.Qe2 Rd7 25.d4 exd4 26.Nxd4 Qc8 27.Qc2 Qa6 28.Nb5 Rad8 29.Rxd7 Rxd7 30.Nd4 e5 31.Nb3 Nb7 32.Nd2 Qd6 33.Nf1 Nc5 34.Qe2 Nd3 35.Qa2 Qa6 36.Nh2 a4 37.Ng4 a3 38.c5 Qa4 39.Kf1 h5 40.Nf2 Nxf2 41.Kxf2 Rd3 42.c6 Rc3 43.c7 Rc2+ 44.Kg1 Rxa2 45.c8Q+ Bf8 46.Qc3 Re2 47.Rc1 a2 48.Ra1 Qb5

0-1

Tanabe,Koumei (1941) - Elwood,David (1936)

[D38]

ENG v JPN ICCF, 18.12.2023

1.d4 e6 2.c4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 Bb4 5.cxd5 exd5 6.Qa4+ Nc6 7.Bg5 0-0 8.e3 Bxc3+ 9.bxc3 h6 10.Bxf6 Qxf6 11.Be2 Rd8 12.c4 Be6 13.Rc1 dxc4 14.Bxc4 Ne7 15.Qb3 Bxc4 16.Rxc4 c6 17.0-0 Nf5 18.Qc2 Nd6 19.Rc5 Rac8 20.Ne5 Qe7 21.Rc1 Qe6 22.Nd3 Qe7 23.h3 Re8 24.Qa4 Ra8 25.Qc2 Ne4 26.Re5 Qc7 27.Rb5 Rad8 28.a4 Nd6 29.Rb2 Qa5 30.Rb4 Qd5 31.Nf4 Qa5 32.Qc5 Qa6 33.a5 Re4 34.Kh2 Ree8 35.Rb2 Rd7 36.Kg1 Ne4 37.Qa3 Rc8 38.Rbc2 Re8 39.Nd3 Rd5 40.Ra2 Qb5 41.a6 b6 42.Ne5 Re6 43.f3 Nf6 44.Rb2 Qa5 45.Qxa5 Rxa5 46.Nxc6 Rxa6 47.e4 Re8 48.d5 Kf8 49.Nb4 Ra3 50.Rc7 Ra8 51.Nc6 Ne8 52.Rd7 f6 53.Kh2 a5 54.Rd2 a4 55.d6 Ra1 56.Rb7 a3 57.d7 a2 58.Kg3 Rc1 59.Rxa2

1-0

Ruffle,Alan (1460) - Takahashi,Yoshihiro (1404)

[B70]

ENG v JPN ICCF, 18.12.2023

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Bc4 Bg7 7.Bg5 0-0 8.0-0 h6 9.Bh4 a6 10.Qd3 b5 11.Bb3 Nbd7 12.Nc6 Qe8 13.Rae1 Bb7 14.Na5 Rb8 15.Nxb7 Rxb7 16.a4 Nc5 17.Qe2 bxa4 18.Nxa4 Nxa4 19.Bxa4 Qxa4 20.b3 Qc6



## INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES

# England v Japan

## Games from the match

21.Ra1 Ra8 22.f3 a5 23.Ra4 Rc7 24.Be1 Qb6+ 25.Qf2 Qb5 26.Qd2 Qc5+ 27.Rf2 Nh5 28.g4 Nf6 29.b4 Qb5 30.Rxa5 Rxa5 31.bxa5 Nd7 32.Kg2 Nc5 33.Qd5 Rb7 34.c4 Qb3 35.h4 Nd3

0-1

**Takahashi,Yoshihiro (1404) - Ruffle,Alan (1460)**  
[B07]

ENG v JPN ICCF, 18.12.2023

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nbd7 4.Nf3 c6 5.Bd3 h6 6.Bd2 e5 7.Qe2 Qc7 8.h3 Be7 9.g4 g5 10.h4 exd4 11.Nxd4 Ne5 12.Nf5 Bxf5 13.gxf5 0-0-0 14.0-0-0 g4 15.Bf4 Nf3 16.Bc4 Ne5 17.Bb3 Rh7 18.Bxe5 dxe5 19.Rxd8+ Qxd8 20.Rd1 Qc7 21.Qe3 h5 22.Qxa7 Nd7 23.Qe3 Bxh4 24.Bc4 Rg7 25.Kb1 Bg5 26.Qd3 h4 27.Na4 b5 28.Bxb5 cxb5 29.Qxb5 g3 30.fxg3 hxg3 31.f6 Bxf6 32.Qa6+ Kd8 33.Qxf6+

1-0

**Suffield,Mel (1985) - Tanabe,Koumei (1941)**  
[B90]

ENG v JPN ICCF, 18.12.2023

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be7 8.f3 Be6 9.Qd2 0-0 10.0-0-0 Qc7 11.g4 b5 12.g5 b4 13.gxf6 bxc3 14.Qxc3 Qxc3 15.bxc3 Bxf6 16.Rxd6 Rc8 17.Kd2 Nc6 18.c4 Be7 19.Rd5 f6 20.c3 Bf8 21.Be2 Ne7 22.Rb1 Nxd5 23.exd5 Bf5 24.Bd3 Bxd3 25.Kxd3 Rab8 26.Rh1 a5 27.Nxa5 Ra8 28.Nc6 Rxa2 29.c5 h5 30.h3 Rg2 31.Kc4 Re2 32.Kd3 Rg2 33.h4 Rg3 34.Rf1 Rh3 35.Kc4 Kf7 36.Kb5 Ra8 37.d6 Ke6 38.Na5 Bxd6 39.cxd6 Kxd6 40.c4 Ke6 41.c5 Rb8+ 42.Kc6 Rxh4

½-½

**Tanabe,Koumei (1941) - Suffield,Mel (1985)**  
[E48]

ENG v JPN ICCF, 18.12.2023

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 d5 6.cxd5 exd5 7.Nf3 Bg4 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.h3 Bh5 10.Qb3 Bxc3 11.bxc3 c5 12.Be2 c4 13.Qxb7 Rb8 14.Qxa7 Ne4 15.Qa3 f5 16.Re1 Kh8 17.g3 Rb6 18.Bd1 Rg6 19.Rf1 Rg8 20.Qb2 Qc7 21.Kh1 Rh6 22.Kg2 g5 23.Nd2 Bxd1 24.Rxd1 f4 25.Nxe4 dxe4 26.Rg1 Nf6 27.Qb5 Qc8 28.Rh1 f3+ 29.Kf1 Rxh3 30.Rg1 Ng4 31.Rb1 Qe6 32.Rb2 Qh6 33.Qb6 Qxb6 34.Rxb6 Rh2 35.Rb2 h5 36.Ke1 h4 37.gxh4 gxh4 38.Rb5 Rg7 39.Rh5+

Kg8 40.a4 Rxf2 41.Rxh4 Rg2 42.Rgh1 Nf2 43.Rh8+ Kf7 44.Rf1 Nd3+ 45.Kd1 Re2 46.Bd2 Rgg2 47.Rh7+ Kg6 48.Rh6+ Kxh6 49.Rh1+ Kg5 50.Be1 f2 51.Rh5+ Kxh5 52.Bxf2 Rxf2

0-1

**Smyth,Sandy (1916) - Tanabe,Koumei (1941)**  
[D02]

ENG v JPN ICCF, 18.12.2023

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 e6 3.e3 c5 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.Nbd2 Nf6 6.c3 Bd6 7.Bg3 0-0 8.Bd3 b6 9.Qe2 h6 10.Ne5 Ne7 11.h4 Qc7 12.0-0 Nf5 13.Ng4 Nxe4 14.Bxd6 Nxd6 15.Qxg4 e5 16.Qg3 e4 17.Be2 Qe7 18.dxc5 bxc5 19.c4 d4 20.exd4 cxd4 21.Rfe1 f5 22.c5 Nf7 23.Nb3 Qf6 24.Bc4 Rd8 25.Rad1 d3 26.f3 f4 27.Qh2 e3 28.Bxd3 Rb8 29.c6 Rb4 30.Be4 Rxd1 31.Rxd1 Rxe4 32.fxe4 Bg4 33.Re1 Ne5 34.Nc1 f3 35.Rf1 f2+ 36.Kh1 Nxc6 37.Qg3 Ne5 38.a4 a5 39.h5 Qg5 40.b3 Qxh5+ 41.Qh2 Qg5 42.Qg3 Kh7 43.Rxf2 exf2 44.Qxf2 Qxc1+ 45.Qg1 Qf4

0-1

**Tanabe,Koumei (1941) - Smyth,Sandy (1916)**  
[D34]

ENG v JPN ICCF, 18.12.2023

1.c4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 c5 4.cxd5 exd5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.g3 Nf6 7.Bg2 Be7 8.dxc5 Bxc5 9.0-0 0-0 10.a3 Ne4 11.Nxd5 Be6 12.Nc3 Qxd1 13.Nxd1 Na5 14.b4 Nb3 15.Rb1 Bb6 16.Re1 Rfd8 17.Be3 f6 18.Rb2 Rd6 19.Nh4 Rad8 20.Bxe4 Rxd1 21.Rb1 Rxb1 22.Bxb1 Bxe3 23.fxe3 g6 24.Bd3 Kg7 25.Kf2 Bg8 26.Nf3 a5 27.Rb1 axb4 28.axb4 Rc8 29.e4 Nc1 30.h4 Rc7 31.Ke3 Be6 32.Nd4 Bf7 33.b5 b6 34.Kd2 Nxd3 35.exd3 Kf8 36.Rf1 Kg7 37.Ra1 Rb7 38.g4 Kf8 39.Ra8+ Be8 40.g5 fxg5 41.hxg5 Ke7 42.e5 Rc7 43.Rb8 Bf7 44.Rxb6 Be8 45.Re6+ Kf7 46.b6 Rb7 47.Rd6 Rb8 48.Nc6 Bxc6 49.Rxc6 Ra8 50.d4 Ke7 51.Kd3 Ra3+ 52.Kc4 Ra1 53.Kd5 Rb1 54.Rc7+ Kd8 55.Kc6

1-0



# ICCF Ratings 2025/2

ICCF ratings are updated quarterly. The following tables show active players as defined by ICCF.

## New ICCF Titles Awarded in 2025

ICCF ID	TITLE	NAME	GAMES	GRADE
211586	IM	Nierobisz, Jim	702	2356
213245	IM	Toon, James	462	2371
780026	CCM	Ward, Richard	1420	2298
212334	CCE	Woodhouse, Stephen	1438	2202

As mentioned previously, the Welsh CCF have a great explanation of the new ICCF rating system for anyone who would like to know more about the RD no featured as part of the system. You can read the guide at <https://www.welshccf.org.uk/article/1199>

In brief, Rating Deviation is a measure of the uncertainty of a player's rating. The more games we complete, the lower your RD and the more accurate your rating will reflect your current playing strength.

A new player will start out with a very high RD (250), as they have completed zero games, but this will drop as they complete games and their rating becomes more stable.

The ICCF Ratings page is at <https://www.iccf.com/Rating-List.aspx>

## Most Improved Players in 2025

ICCF ID	TITLE	NAME	RATING +
213376		Broomfield, Daniel	106
210201	IM	Harman, Kenneth B.	92
213218		Cutler, Matthew	86
212954		Carey, Graeme	86
211629		Raby, Eugene	84
212982		Tanner, Garry	64
211815		Picken, R. David	59
213358		Smith, Chris	58
213281		Ma, Geoffrey	57
211316		Winter, Malcolm J.	55
213090	CCE	Shaw, Dene	52
211092		Hassell, Graham S.	50
211541	CCM	Catt, Peter	45
212191		Ruffle, Alan	40
213327		Phillips, Steve	38
211382	CCM	Hart, Terry	36
211416		Herbert, G. M.	36
211742		Clark, Sean	34
212069		Kirk, Matthew	34
211408		Wood, Ben A.	30

## The '1000 Club' of Games Played

ICCF ID	TITLE	NAME	GAMES
210745	SIM	Rawlings, Alan J. C.	3068
210514	SIM	Pheby, Ian M.	2769
210454		Beckett, Phillip J.	2287
620648		Hardwick, Martin E.	2165
210201	IM	Harman, Kenneth B.	1822
210854	IM	Thompson, Brian	1783
210569	SIM	Kitson, Keith	1637
210847	CCM	Grobler, David J.	1549
210709	CCE	Sutton, Alan B.	1530
212334	CCE	Woodhouse, Stephen	1438
780026	CCM	Ward, Richard	1420
219137	CCM	Mason, Ian J.	1410
210447	CCM	Cole, Steve	1174
210218		Tibbert, Peter H.	1158
211643		Elwood, David	1105
211229	SIM	Ellis, Les	1092
211299	IM	Eldridge, Mark	1076
212397	CCM	McDermott, Frank J.	1068
211408		Wood, Ben A.	1023
210108	IM	Wharrier, Jo A.	1019
210717	CCM	Blake, Michael J.	1011
212314	LGM	Williamson, Dawn L.	1005

## Most Games Completed in 2025

ICCF ID	TITLE	NAME	+GAMES
620648		Hardwick, Martin E.	72
421439	CCM	Rózański, Robert	64
211824	CCM	Graham, Oliver	60
211996		Lambert, Derek	58
210690	CCM	Marchant, Arnold	55
211586	IM	Nierobisz, Jim	55
210605	CCM	Craven, Valerie	53
210454		Beckett, Phillip J.	48
213376		Broomfield, Daniel 75	37
210745	SIM	Rawlings, Alan J. C.	36
210847	CCM	Grobler, David J.	35
210709	CCE	Sutton, Alan B.	34
213365		Dyson, John	33
210514	SIM	Pheby, Ian M.	31
213068	CCM	Hooker, Stephen	29
211229	SIM	Ellis, Les 1092	28
219137	CCM	Mason, Ian J.	27
210447	CCM	Cole, Steve	27
211537		Ackley, Peter	26
210195		Phillips, Peter Stephen	24
213245	IM	Toon, James	24
212243		Eustace, David	24
212406		Gardner, Eric P.	24
213300		Scarrott, Clive Ian	24
211643		Elwood, David	23
210619	CCM	Norman, Nigel	22
212803	CCM	Webster, Richard	21



# The Top 100 for England

	ICCF Nr.	Title	Name	Games	Rating						
1	211305	GM	Robson, Nigel	234	2616	51	211824	CCM	Graham, Oliver	968	2382
2	210773	GM	Hall, Richard V. M.	435	2551	52	212443	CCM	Donovan, Terence	164	2381
3	211655	GM	Williamson, H. D.	653	2542	53	211382	CCM	Hart, Terry	169	2379
4	211229	SIM	Ellis, Les	1092	2514	54	210854	IM	Thompson, Brian	1783	2378
5	212704	SIM	Rallabandi, Prav.	538	2505	55	211459		Tolhurst, Philip	137	2378
6	213237	CCE	Curry-Machado, J.	107	2498	56	211621	CCM	Hamilton, David	256	2376
7	211303	GM	Coleman, Peter L.	331	2491	57	211062	SIM	Asquith, Jerry E. C.	455	2374
8	211942	IM	Weldon, David J.	355	2487	58	213245	IM	Toon, James	462	2371
9	210929	SIM	Frostick, Clive A.	141	2475	59	210619	CCM	Norman, Nigel	817	2369
10	213350		Jones, Andrew P.	85	2463	60	212381	CCM	Carr, Trevor	335	2369
11	212933	IM	Le-Marechal, G.	165	2456	61	735004	CCM	Kimlong, Ly	176	2367
12	212175	IM	Maguire, Gary	613	2445	62	211019	CCM	Dixon, Danny	240	2367
13	211765	IM	Brewer, Shaun	215	2440	63	210605	CCM	Craven, Valerie	706	2366
14	219137	CCM	Mason, Ian J.	1410	2438	64	210690	CCM	Marchant, Arnold	795	2364
15	211880	IM	Eastoe, Leslie K. G.	614	2437	65	212954		Carey, Graeme	258	2359
16	213011	SIM	Bailey, M. W.	565	2433	66	211586	IM	Nierobisz, Jim	702	2356
17	212544	CCM	Herman, Tom	309	2433	67	211887	CCM	Eastlake, Phil	230	2356
18	210717	CCM	Blake, Michael J.	1011	2432	68	210370	CCM	Owen, K. J.	283	2355
19	211299	IM	Eldridge, Mark	1076	2429	69	212819	CCM	Cowan, Alastair	300	2354
20	210787		McLaughlin, K. W.	232	2429	70	213358		Smith, Chris	32	2353
21	212902	IM	Wharam, George	72	2429	71	211552	CCE	Franks, Keith	310	2351
22	210701	SIM	Rhodes, John D.	669	2426	72	210800		Deans, Mary Helen	260	2350
23	210514	SIM	Pheby, Ian M.	2769	2422	73	213376		Broomfield, Daniel	75	2349
24	210788	IM	Lumley, Bill F.	829	2420	74	210866		Manley, J. P.	76	2346
25	421439	CCM	Róžański, Robert	921	2419	75	211788		Ewan, Rod	181	2344
26	211450	IM	Suto, Janos I.	638	2419	76	212397	CCM	McDermott, F.J.	1068	2344
27	211431	GM	Pugh, John	629	2418	77	210332	CCM	Wilkinson, J. P.	478	2342
28	210807	SIM	Tait, Jonathan A.	172	2417	78	211906	IM	Rice, Peter	288	2341
29	210108	IM	Wharrier, Jo A.	1019	2416	79	212686	CCM	Watkins, Kenneth	128	2339
30	212314	LGM	Williamson, Dawn	1005	2416	80	211509	CCM	Plant, Kevin D.	141	2335
31	212835	CCM	Shaw, John S.	144	2415	81	211925		Lewis, Andrew P.	25	2335
32	212803	CCM	Webster, Richard	585	2414	82	210447	CCM	Cole, Steve	1174	2334
33	212651	CCM	James, Angus	286	2413	83	212116	CCM	Spanton, Tim	200	2331
34	213218		Cutler, Matthew	69	2413	84	212659		Davey, Adrian	49	2330
35	210425	GM	Brookes, John G.	254	2406	85	210919	CCM	Girling, Clive F.	209	2329
36	211987	CCM	Hughes, Stephen.	240	2400	86	210823	CCM	Brotherton, Trevor	864	2328
37	212104	CCM	Copsey, Antony	478	2396	87	211384	CCM	Conterno, D.	474	2325
38	210265	SIM	Williams, c. C.	272	2395	88	213221		Baxter, Harold	87	2324
39	211452	CCM	Grayland, Stan J.	804	2394	89	212925	CCM	Brennan, Samuel	76	2324
40	212207	IM	Richardt, Mike	413	2394	90	210927		Bowden, Karl	44	2324
41	218010	CCM	Barber, Philip	353	2393	91	210845	CCE	Jefferson, N. W.	488	2319
42	210324	SIM	Mukherjee, Ajoy K.	657	2392	92	213090	CCE	Shaw, Dene	209	2317
43	212535	IM	Marks, Robert	267	2391	93	211009	CCE	Birkbeck, Brian	108	2314
44	212008	CCM	Williams, Richard	460	2391	94	211434	CCM	Sheppard, Barry S.	463	2309
45	219076	CCM	Squires, Michael B	546	2390	95	210507	CCM	Thurlow, Kevin J.	357	2309
46	213068	CCM	Hooker, Stephen	304	2387	96	210953	SIM	Vivante-Sowter, J.	757	2307
47	212012	CCM	Maver, Ian	123	2386	97	213184	CCM	Gittens, Mark	313	2307
48	210847	CCM	Grobler, David J.	1549	2385	98	210641	CCE	Lyne, Colin J.	286	2306
49	210569	SIM	Kitson, Keith	1637	2384	99	213377		Beech, Joseph	51	2300
50	210745	SIM	Rawlings, A. J. C.	3068	2383	100	780026	CCM	Ward, Richard	1420	2298
	ICCF Nr.	Title	Name	Games	Rating						

# ICCF Ratings 2025/2

## 101 - 200

ICCF Nr.	Title	Name	Games	Rating					
101	211952	Stebbing, A.J.	26	2294	151	213111	Dyer, Michael T.	125	2088
102	211840	Lalic, Susan K.	22	2291	152	212638	Farmer, Michael	325	2088
103	211154	Shaw, Sidney S.	597	2289	153	211407	Patrick, Graham	275	2086
104	211087	Goosey, R.W.	75	2273	154	211541	Catt, Peter	546	2086
105	212494	Tillett, Richard	134	2272	155	213281	Ma, Geoffrey	24	2085
106	211454	Cade, Steven	634	2269	156	212453	Cheek, Colin	405	2079
107	212046	Piper, Matthew	25	2269	157	212982	Tanner, Garry	176	2054
108	212463	Witt, Daniel	40	2266	158	211092	Hassell, Graham S.	124	2053
109	211280	Perrin, Richard D.	768	2265	159	212975	Lockett, John	237	2052
110	210881	O'Connor, N. P.	30	2261	160	211537	Ackley, Peter	767	2049
111	211958	Batchelor, Paul A.	389	2259	161	211254	Pooley, Mark C.	450	2037
112	210462	Wilson, M. R.	140	2257	162	211866	Upham, John E.	20	2030
113	211580	Foulds, E. V.	394	2256	163	211425	Lythgoe, M. P.	66	2019
114	210522	Sargent, John M.	199	2255	164	213180	Swindells, J.E.B.	211	2018
115	212357	Knapton, Geoff	362	2254	165	211036	Gould, Iain C.	287	2015
116	211147	Fleury, Martin	54	2252	166	210719	Beer, Doug	269	2015
117	213365	Dyson, John	33	2252	167	212243	Eustace, David	24	1999
118	213308	Chyckov, Igor	48	2247	168	212049	Clow, Ken	25	1998
119	212163	Dudeney, Peter	163	2234	169	212209	Gosling, B. G. E.	115	1983
120	210849	Chambers, Du.	451	2232	170	211629	Raby, Eugene	494	1974
121	210578	Williams, Stephen	134	2230	171	212495	Clayton, Ian	54	1973
122	211403	Gardner, Allan	532	2226	172	211179	Huntley, Kevin	58	1955
123	213197	Ashton, Barry	56	2224	173	212521	Scott, Ian	26	1953
124	212999	Read, Christopher	51	2220	174	210976	Illingworth, J. B.	213	1949
125	211199	Suffield, Mel	334	2211	175	213092	Hewes, Ralph	158	1947
126	211141	Doxey, Marcus	40	2209	176	211960	Kenworthy, Gary	32	1937
127	219115	Mounsey, Clive R.	29	2203	177	210504	Turner, B.	60	1934
128	212334	Woodhouse, S.	1438	2202	178	212505	Joslin, Kay	123	1925
129	212616	Hadi, Justin	95	2200	179	212098	Halliday, James	99	1925
130	211811	Vachtfeidl, Petr	223	2195	180	211874	Thurstan, Tim M.	28	1916
131	211742	Clark, Sean	249	2179	181	212757	Waud, David	57	1915
132	212669	Adamson, Trevor	258	2178	182	211316	Winter, Malcolm J.	361	1913
133	212469	Broadway, Dennis	994	2168	183	211643	Elwood, David	1105	1911
134	211908	Law, Steve	132	2168	184	211809	Primrose, Jo	385	1896
135	210709	Sutton, Alan B.	1530	2161	185	212446	Terry, Paul	92	1894
136	213277	de Maillet, A.	74	2155	186	211797	Lawrence, S.	184	1887
137	210669	Williamson, K.J.	20	2143	187	210216	Ruthen, Stephen	198	1875
138	211118	Roberts, Anthony	590	2138	188	210634	Bradney, Ray	418	1863
139	211575	Bonehill, Andrew	80	2120	189	211825	Lewyk, Ihor	232	1860
140	212326	Cunningham, P. J.	264	2117	190	210813	Twitchell, Neville	240	1857
141	211255	Hall, Timothy R.	316	2114	191	210962	Dixon, R. N.	140	1856
142	212940	Salmon, Graham	82	2114	192	213133	Clarke, David	92	1844
143	213100	Steward Anderson	172	2108	193	212255	Keehner, John	24	1844
144	211756	Cooper, J. G.	48	2105	194	219067	Spencer, Adam	219	1841
145	218021	Kraszewski, David	32	2100	195	211163	Tymms, J. D. M.	385	1837
146	211523	Herriot, Brian J.	517	2099	196	211460	McMahon, Frank	255	1835
147	211408	Wood, Ben A.	1023	2095	197	212406	Gardner, Eric P.	24	1835
148	212868	Raynor, Philip	26	2094	198	213327	Phillips, Steve	56	1833
149	212233	Beddoe, Bob	30	2092	199	213300	Scarrott, Clive Ian	24	1828
150	210195	Phillips, Peter S.	695	2090	200	212541	Alcock, Graham	18	1827



# ICCF Ratings 2025/2

## 201-305

ICCF Nr.	Title	Name	Games	Rating					
201	212380	Jordan, Matthew	46	1825	253	212000	Zigmond, Andrew	141	1539
202	212014	Kiddell, Tim	112	1822	254	212094	Holt, Frank	294	1538
203	213224	Hardingham, D.	84	1821	255	212288	Thistlewood, A.	205	1530
204	211416	Herbert, G. M.	227	1804	256	211543	Ross, Gavin J. S.	113	1526
205	212774	Rimmer, Tony	105	1799	257	212338	Kok, Herman	56	1524
206	212438	Naldrett, Geoff W.	44	1792	258	211836	Clark, Michael	383	1523
207	213182	Riddle, Bruce	177	1784	259	620749	Moore, John	159	1522
208	212069	Kirk, Matthew	120	1780	260	211313	Rosser, Geoffrey	230	1515
209	212186	Keene, Jim	36	1770	261	210218	Tibbert, Peter H.	1158	1510
210	213168	Mountford, David	87	1766	262	212425	Shaw, Tony	142	1489
211	211584	Whitehouse, Guy	45	1736	263	212114	Dudeney, Keith	664	1481
212	211764	Wood, Bryan	367	1732	264	211291	Hutchings, J. M.	91	1481
213	210454	Beckett, Phillip J.	2287	1714	265	211569	Smyth, Sandy	475	1469
214	210816	Puleston, Tim	110	1712	266	213099	Zlosnik, John	32	1454
215	210664	Gifford, M. J.	28	1710	267	210477	Morton, Peter S.	535	1443
216	212020	Pope-Mitchell, P.	343	1709	268	211345	Allport, Andrew	114	1440
217	211162	Rhodes, Lawrence	188	1706	269	212700	Mackenzie, Reg	96	1436
218	210510	Knee, John P.	72	1705	270	211992	White, Richard	280	1429
219	211815	Picken, R. David	321	1684	271	212579	Roberts, Stephen	189	1427
220	212629	Mahony, Jon D.	136	1683	272	210201 IM	Harman, Kenneth	1822	1419
221	212792	Pointon, Michael	109	1672	273	219123	Richardson, David	339	1416
222	211095	Hughes, Gregory	670	1666	274	213362	Harding, Simon	46	1409
223	212260	Cornes, Cornelius	198	1665	275	212383	Evans, Joyce	92	1403
224	211784	Ash, Graham	116	1657	276	213210	Gibbons, James	76	1402
225	212296	Dunks, Peter	294	1651	277	212081	Douglas, Craig	157	1401
226	211072	Clews, W.(Bill) A.	144	1647	278	212625	Isaac, Oliver	36	1394
227	210416	Ryan, Robert	155	1643	279	211973	Kent, Chris	140	1386
228	211991	Grummitt, William	445	1642	280	210820	Burton, Stephen	212	1375
229	212448	Page, Martin	29	1640	281	213291	Devalia, Aadishesh	28	1342
230	211793	Ibbitson, Anthony	165	1639	282	212991	Powell, Jonathan	220	1329
231	212956	Wright, Ashley	178	1637	283	211439	Fegan, Chris	102	1326
232	210636	Biddulph, D.	89	1635	284	212666	Cutter, Timothy	95	1323
233	211828	Brown, S.	69	1633	285	213297	Low, Mark	41	1319
234	211704	Pearce, Andrew	226	1630	286	212811	Morley, Ian	61	1318
235	212873	Swindells, Philip	60	1626	287	213343	Davison, C. J	42	1308
236	211872	Hampton, Barry	57	1624	288	212204	Brooks, Ian	74	1303
237	213145	Egginton, Roy	40	1614	289	212191	Ruffle, Alan	412	1301
238	211458	Cox, Raymond	247	1609	290	213238	Ariss, John	136	1289
239	211794	Walsh, Hilary J.	147	1606	291	213269	Barnett, Elliott	24	1289
240	213097	Glanville, Nicholas	102	1598	292	212271	Watson, Wilfred A.	93	1287
241	212702	McCormick, Roy	67	1596	293	212872	Deane, Phil	38	1270
242	211804	Tupper, Alex	132	1591	294	212997	Jones, Malcolm	108	1230
243	211492	Pickering, Peter	157	1589	295	213247	Watson, Francis	87	1230
244	211996	Lambert, Derek	58	1583	296	212790	Bishop, Edward	225	1229
245	212611	Czestochowski, E.	88	1581	297	211823	Ward, Bill	464	1220
246	211710	Jolly, Richard	34	1581	298	212100	Aitken, Nigel	65	1204
247	212439	Robinson, Robin	58	1570	299	213108	Stiles, Tony	59	1139
248	212750	Daykin, Stephen	66	1561	300	212639	Nichol, John	178	1130
249	212661	Foreman, Anthony	71	1555	301	211789	Mill-Wilson, Gm	267	1100
250	212899	Conway, John	38	1554	302	211242	Drury, Philip	223	1072
251	211312	Palmer, Vincent G.	123	1551	303	211429	Gosling, David C.	326	1041
252	212144	Clapp, Joseph D.	52	1548	304	620648	Hardwick, M.E.	2165	733
					305	212932	Law, Ken	474	651
ICCF Nr.	Title	Name	Games	Rating					

## 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!

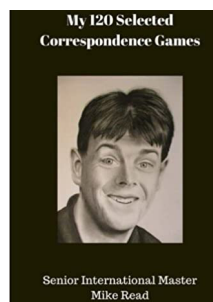
## Read,M - Gittens,M

British Junior Championship Preliminaries, 1979  
[Read,M.]

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nf3 d6 4.Bc4 Nf6 [Black avoids the well-known opening trap 4 ... Nd7?? 5 Bxf7+! when 5 .. Kxf7 loses the queen to 6 Ng5+ Ke8 7 Ne6]

5.Nc3 Nxe4? [However, he fails to sidestep this variation, which rightly condemned by theory, since White obtains a strong attack against a weakened Black kingside]

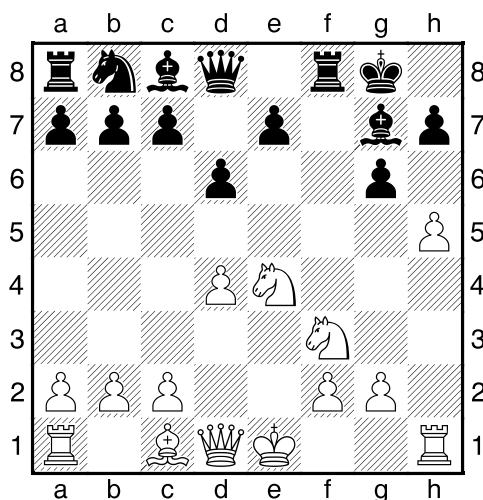
6.Bxf7+ [And not the 6 Nxe4 d5 that Black had been hoping for.]



6...Kxf7 7.Nxe4 Rf8 8.h4! [The second edition of ECO assesses this position as clearly advantageous to White.]

8...Kg8 [Allowing the further advance of the h-pawn. The alternative, 8 ... h5 would leave a gaping hole at g5.]

9.h5 [



9...d5! [An excellent move, which tempts White to put his

knight on the g-file, and opens up the possibility for Black of defending his kingside laterally by moving his queen to d6.

The immediate 9 ... Bg4?! would allow White to continue his assault with 10 hxg6 hxg6 11 Bh6 when thematic examples of the type of problems that Black would be experiencing are:

a) 11 ... Bxh6 12 Rxh6 Kg7 (preparing 13 ... Rh8) 13 Rxg6+!! Kxg6 14 Nh4+ f7 (Black will be checkmated after 14 ... Kh5? 15 Qd2) 15 Qxg4 Ke8 16 Qh5+ Kd7 17 Ng6 Re8 18 Qf5+ e6 (18 ... Kc6? loses to 19 Ne5+! Kb6 20 Nc4+ Kc6 21 a4 mating) 19 Qf7+ Kc6 (or 19 ... Re7? 20 Nxe7 Qxe7 21 Nf6+ Kd8 22 Qg8+) 20 Nf6 and White will come out material ahead with Black's king still exposed.

b) i. 11 ... Bxf3 12 gxf3 and now: i. 12 ... e5 13 Qd2 Qe7 14 O-O-O exd4 15 Rdg1 Qf7 16 Bxg7 Qxg7 17 Rh6 and White's attack is decisive

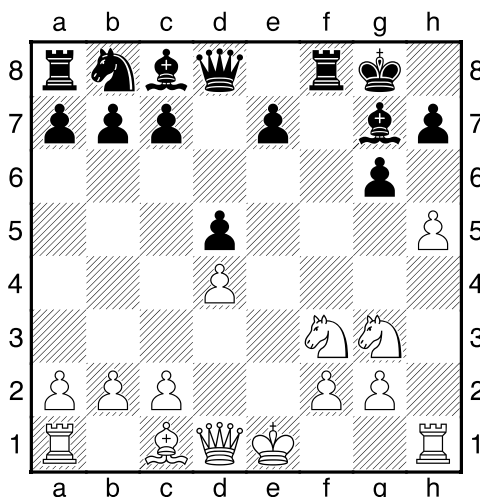
ii. 12 ... Bxh6 13 Rxh6 Kg7 14 Qd2 Rh8 (this time Black does manage to play this move, but White has a strong reply) 15 Ng5! Qg8 (if 15 ... Rxh6? 16 Ne6+ Kh7 17 Nxd8 Rh1+ 18 Ke2 Rxa1 White has 19 Qf4!) 16 Rxh8 Qxh8 17 d5 with an obvious clear advantage to White (17 ... Qh1+ 18 Ke2 Qxa1 loses to 19 Qd4+ mating

c) 11 ... e6 12 Qd2 Qe7 13 Bxg7 Qxg7 14 Nfg5 and White has a blistering attack. 10 Ng3?!

This allows Black a chance to get back into the game as it slows down White's attack in some lines. 10 Neg5? is also an error as it allows Black to solve his immediate kingside problems with 10 ... h6 11 Nh3 g5.

Correct was 10 Nc5 when after 10 ... b6 11 Nd3 Bg4 12 hxg6 hxg6 13 Bh6, Black will hardly dare to ever exchange on f3, as White would utilise the half-open g-file for his queen's-rook after playing his queen to d2 and castling.]

10.Ng3?! [



This allows Black a chance to get back into the game as it slows down White's attack in some lines. 10 Neg5? is also an error as it allows Black to solve his immediate kingside problems with 10 ... h6 11 Nh3 g5.

Correct was 10 Nc5 when after 10 ... b6 11 Nd3 Bg4 12 hxg6 hxg6 13 Bh6, Black will hardly dare to ever exchange on f3, as White would utilise the half-open g-file for his queen's-rook after playing his queen to d2 and castling.]

**10...Bg4 11.hxg6 e5??** [An attempt for counterplay which contains a big tactical flaw! Ironically, at this point Black could have obtained a satisfactory game by 11 ... hxg6 12 Bh6 Qd6! (the idea mentioned earlier, in the note to Black's 9th move) 13 Qd2 Bxf3! (eliminating this potential attacker is safe now that White's other knight blocks the g-file) 14 gxf3 and now:

a) Not the greedy 14 ... Rxf3? when 15 Bxg7 Kxg7 16 Qh6+ Kf7 17 Qh8 keeps White on top.

Correct is b) 14 ... Nc6 (a developing move) when 15 Bxg7 Kxg7 16 Qh6+ Kf7 17 O-O-O can be met by 17 ... Rh8 and after 18 Qe3, we reach an unclear position where Black has better pawns but his king is potentially vulnerable]

**12.gxh7+ Kh8 13.Nxe5!** [Black had only counted on 13 dxe5? Nc6 when he has good play in the centre. After the text, the threat of 14 Ng6 mate prevents 13 ... Bxd1 and Black is totally busted.]

**13...Bf5??** [13 ... Bxe5 14 Qxg4 Bf6 was the only way to keep the deficit to three pawns.]

**14.Nxf5 Bxe5** [14...Rxf5 15.Ng6#]

**15.dxe5?** [It might be something of a record to have four connected passed pawns as early as move 15. Bg4 e5??

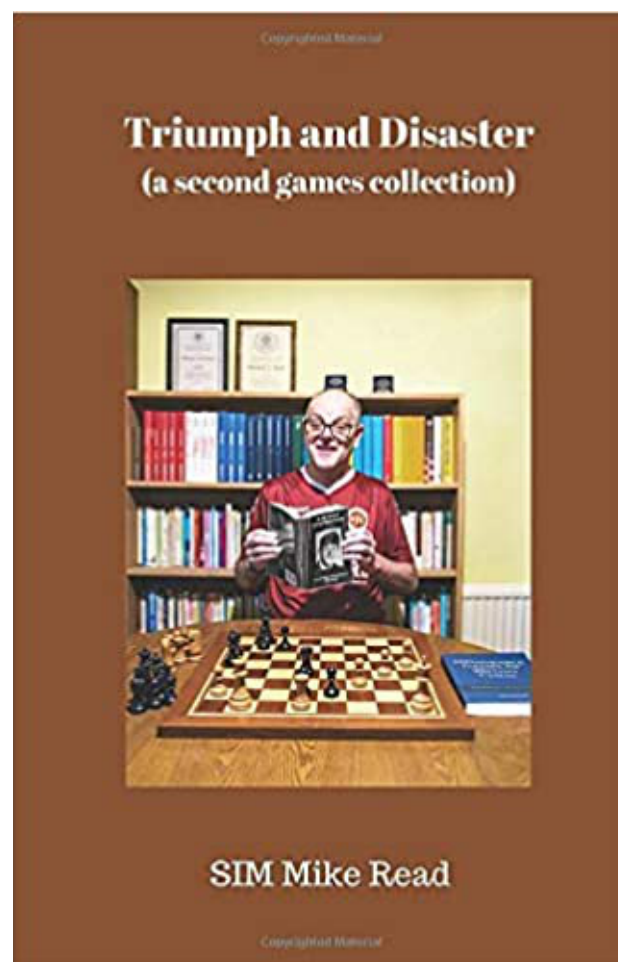
However, White must have been fast asleep here as he missed 15 Nh4 when the threat of 16 Ng6+ forces the win of more material. Even the line 15 ... Qf6 16 Qh5! Qxf2+ 17 Kd1 Qxd4+ 18 Bd2 fails to help Black then.]

**15...Rxf5 16.Rh5 Rf7?** [Although his cause would still be hopeless Black can win a pawn back here by 16 ... Rxh5 17 Qxh5 Qe7.

The text allows White to finish him off immediately.]

**17.e6 Re7 18.Qg4** [It is mate after 18 ... Rg7 19 Bh6 Qf8 20 Bxg7+ Qxg7 21 Qxg7+Kxg7 22 h8=Q+ Kg6 23 Qh6]

1-0





## FEATURE ARTICLE

# Gary Kasparov

## A Life of Genius and Influence



GARY KASPAROV IS a Russian chess grandmaster, former World Chess Champion (1985–2000), political activist and writer. His peak FIDE chess rating of 2851, achieved in 1999, was the highest recorded until being surpassed by Magnus Carlsen in 2013.

AUTHOR: KEITH KITSON

### Introduction: The Legacy of Garry Kasparov

Garry Kasparov stands as an indomitable figure in the history of chess, a name synonymous with brilliance, resilience, and innovation. More than a world champion, Kasparov transformed chess from a traditional board game into a global intellectual phenomenon. His contributions transcend the chessboard, touching realms of artificial intelligence, education, politics, and human rights.

As the youngest World Chess Champion in history, Kasparov dominated the game for over two decades, setting records



and creating masterpieces that are still studied by players worldwide. But his story does not end with his retirement from competitive play. Today, he remains a force of influence, a political dissident, an advocate for democracy, and a pioneer of strategic thinking.

This article delves deeply into the life of Garry Kasparov, exploring his journey from a prodigious child in Baku to a global chess icon and beyond. With detailed analyses of his legendary matches, his groundbreaking contributions to AI and technology, and his tireless efforts as a political activist, this comprehensive examination reveals the many layers of a man whose legacy endures.

### Early Life and Beginnings in Chess

#### Childhood in Baku

Born on April 13, 1963, in Baku, Azerbaijan, then part of

the Soviet Union, Garry Kimovich Kasparov was destined for greatness. His father, Kim Moiseyevich Weinstein, was Jewish, while his mother, Klara Shagenovna Kasparova, was of Armenian descent. The multi-cultural environment of Baku and his family's intellectual leanings played a pivotal role in shaping his personality.

At the tender age of seven, tragedy struck when Kasparov's father succumbed to leukaemia. Despite the loss, young Garry found solace and inspiration in his mother, Klara, who played a crucial role in nurturing his chess talent. Garry later adopted his mother's surname as a tribute to her unwavering support.

### The Chess Awakening

Kasparov's fascination with chess began serendipitously when he solved a chess problem in one of his parents' magazines. Recognising his natural aptitude for the



game, his parents encouraged him to pursue formal training. By the age of 10, he was admitted to the prestigious Mikhail Botvinnik Chess School, where his talent flourished under the guidance of Soviet chess legends.

At the Botvinnik School, Kasparov's extraordinary analytical skills, photographic memory,

and relentless drive quickly set him apart. His teachers, including the revered Mikhail Botvinnik himself, recognized that they were training a future world champion. "He had an incredible ability to learn from mistakes," Botvinnik later remarked, "and an insatiable hunger for knowledge."

### Early Successes

Kasparov's competitive career began with local tournaments, where he routinely outclassed players much older than himself. By 13, he won the Soviet Junior Chess Championship, a remarkable achievement in a country teeming with chess prodigies. In 1979, at just 16 years old, Kasparov competed in his first major international tournament, the Banja Luka tournament, where he scored an incredible victory against seasoned grandmasters, earning world-wide attention.

This period of rapid ascent marked the beginning of Kasparov's journey to the summit of the chess world.

### Rivalry with Anatoly Karpov: A Defining Era

The 1984 World Chess Championship was one of the most gruelling and controversial matches in chess history. Played under a first-to-six-wins format, the match saw



Karpov take an early lead, winning four games to Kasparov's none. At just 21 years old, Kasparov faced the toughest challenge of his career.

But rather than collapse under the pressure, Kasparov mounted an extraordinary comeback. Employing a strategy of resilience, he ground out a series of draws and eventually secured his first victory in Game 32. The tide began to turn, and by Game 48, it was clear that Kasparov had the momentum. However, the match was abruptly halted by FIDE, the governing chess body, citing concerns over the players' health.

### The 1985 Rematch

The rematch in 1985 was a more traditional 24-game match, and Kasparov was determined to make his mark. Displaying a combination of aggression and meticulous preparation, he defeated Karpov 13-11 to become the youngest World Chess Champion in history at the age of 22. This victory was not just a personal triumph but a seismic shift in the chess world, as it heralded the rise of a

new era.

### Subsequent Encounters

Kasparov and Karpov would face off in several more World Championship matches, each showcasing their contrasting styles and mutual respect. These encounters solidified Kasparov's dominance while underscoring the depth of their rivalry. Over the course of their careers, they played a staggering 144 games against each other in World Championship matches, with Kasparov winning 21, Karpov 19, and the rest ending in draws.

### Kasparov vs. Artificial Intelligence

#### Deep Blue: The First Encounter



In 1996, Kasparov faced IBM's Deep Blue, a supercomputer designed to play chess at a world-class level. This match was a landmark moment in the history of chess and technology. Kasparov won the match 4-2, showcasing the power of human intuition and creativity against machine calculation.

#### The 1997 Rematch

The rematch in 1997, however, told a different story. Deep Blue defeated Kasparov 3.5-2.5, marking the first time a reigning World Chess Champion lost to a computer under standard tournament conditions. The loss was a watershed moment, symbolising the rise of artificial intelligence.

Kasparov was visibly shaken by the defeat, later alleging that IBM had acted unfairly during the match by making unexpected changes to Deep Blue's programming. Despite the controversy, the match highlighted the growing capabilities of AI and its potential to surpass human limits in specific domains.

### Kasparov's Reflections on AI

Rather than dwelling on his defeat, Kasparov embraced the lessons of his encounters with Deep Blue. He became an advocate for human-AI collaboration, coining the term "advanced chess," where humans and machines work together to achieve superior results. This forward-thinking perspective has influenced discussions on AI's role in society, making Kasparov a prominent voice in the field.

## Retirement from Competitive Chess - The Shock Announcement

In March 2005, Garry Kasparov stunned the chess world by announcing his retirement from professional chess after winning the prestigious Linares tournament. Still ranked as the world's number-one player at the time, Kasparov explained that he was stepping away to focus on other pursuits, particularly political activism and writing.

"I have reached the peak of my chess career," Kasparov said during his announcement, "and now it's time for me to apply my energies to new challenges." For many, the news marked the end of an era. Kasparov's unmatched dominance, captivating playing style, and larger-than-life presence had defined chess for over two decades.

### Reflections on His Chess Career

Following his retirement, Kasparov reflected on his career with both pride and humility. He acknowledged that his competitive drive and meticulous preparation had been instrumental in his success but also expressed gratitude to his peers and rivals for pushing him to achieve greatness.

In interviews and writings, Kasparov has often emphasised the importance of chess in shaping his worldview.

## Post-Chess Career: Advocacy and Politics

### A New Battlefield: Russian Politics

After leaving competitive chess, Kasparov quickly turned his attention to the political arena. A vocal critic of Vladimir Putin's regime, he became one of the most prominent opposition figures in Russia. In 2006, he founded the United Civil Front, a movement aimed at promoting democracy and defending human rights in Russia.

Kasparov's political activities put him in direct conflict with the Kremlin. He accused Putin of authoritarianism, corruption, and suppressing dissent, often likening Russia's political climate to a chessboard controlled by a single player. Despite facing arrests, harassment, and threats to his safety, Kasparov remained undeterred, speaking out against Putin on global platforms.

### The Legacy of Garry Kasparov

Garry Kasparov's legacy is one of excellence, innovation, and inspiration. As a player, he redefined what it meant to be a chess champion, combining raw talent with relentless preparation and a forward-thinking mindset. As a public figure, he has used his platform to advocate for democracy, human rights, and technological progress.



"Chess taught me to think ahead, to prepare for contingencies, and to learn from defeat," he remarked. These lessons would guide him in the next phase of his life.

Kasparov's life is a testament to the power of strategic thinking, perseverance, and the pursuit of greatness. His influence will continue to shape chess, technology, and global thought for generations to come.



## REVIEWS

Reviewed by Michael  
Blake

# Gideon Ståhlberg - An Epoch in Swedish Chess - The Musketeer Years

Gideon Ståhlberg - An Epoch in Swedish Chess, Volume I is a meticulously crafted biography that chronicles the early life and chess career of Gideon Ståhlberg (1908–1967), one of Sweden's greatest chess players and a world-class grandmaster.

Authored by Swedish chess historian Peter Holmgren and published by Verendel Publishing in 2024, this 582-page hardcover is a monumental tribute to Ståhlberg's contributions to chess, particularly during the period from his childhood to the 1939 Buenos Aires Olympiad.

The book covers Ståhlberg's formative years, from his humble beginnings in a village outside Gothenburg to his rise as a global chess figure. It details his triumphs against legendary players like Rudolf Spielmann and Aron Nimzowitsch, his role alongside Gösta Stoltz and Erik Lundin (collectively known as "The Three Musketeers") in elevating Sweden to chess prominence, and his contributions as a writer and arbiter.

The narrative is enriched with approximately 500 annotated games, many featuring contemporary annotations, which provide a vivid glimpse into the chess world of the early 20th century.

The book also includes tournament crosstables, career records, and profiles of Ståhlberg's opponents, offering a comprehensive view of the era's chess culture.

Holmgren's storytelling is engaging, blending biographical details with chess history. Chapters are organised chronologically, covering key milestones such as Ståhlberg's 1927 Swedish Championship win, his Nordic Championship title from 1929 to 1939, and his international successes in the 1930s.

The book delves into Ståhlberg's character, motivations, and personal challenges, making it more than just a chess biography—it's a portrait of a man at the epicentre of a golden age in Swedish chess.

The book has received glowing reviews

## Verdict

### Pros

- + Depth of Research
- + Historical Context
- + Production Quality
- + Game Annotations
- + Broad Appeal

### +

### Cons

- Cost. Priced at around £50 (approximately \$55 USD), the book is expensive, and its large size and weight result in high shipping costs.
- As Volume I only covers up to 1939, readers must await Volume II for the remainder of Ståhlberg's career, including his later tournament successes and time in Argentina (1940–1948).

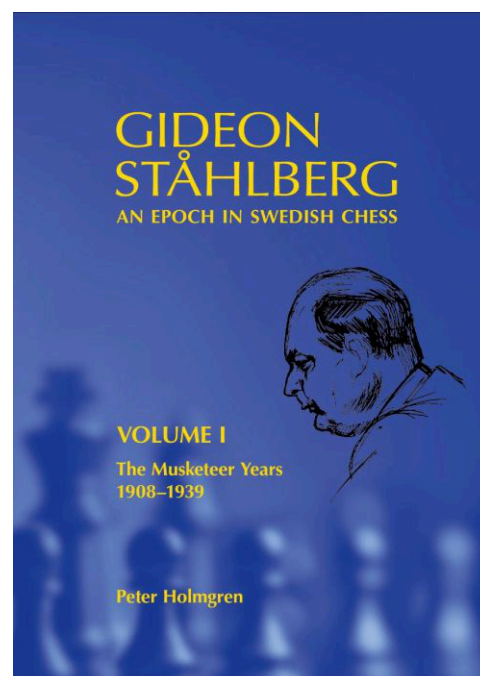
### RATING



Published by  
Verendel Publishing  
Format: Hardback  
Cost: £49.95

Pages: 582

Website: [London Chess Centre](#)



from chess communities. Matthew Sadler, a respected chess author, gave it a 5-star review, highlighting its quality and depth. An enthusiastic chess historian described it as a "fabulous book" and a "work of love," praising its detailed portrayal of Ståhlberg's life and the Swedish chess scene, though they gave it a 4/5 rating due to the absence of computer-checked analysis.

Another reviewer called it a "magnificent monument to the golden age of Swedish chess," emphasising its scholarship and production quality, and expressed eagerness for Volume II.

Seemingly expensive at £50 but in reality this is a very well made book, over 500 pages and containing great content. I am looking forward to Volume 2.

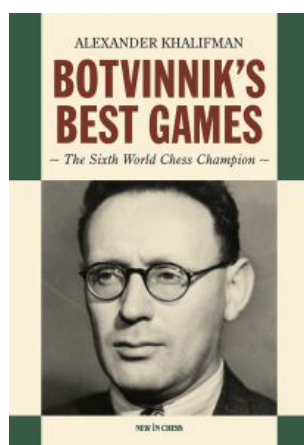
## REVIEWS

# Chess Books & Software, New Releases

## Botvinnik's Best Games

by Alexander Khalifman (4 June 2025)

Published by New in Chess.



Mikhail Botvinnik is widely regarded as one of the greatest chess players ever. He was the World Chess Champion from 1948 until 1963, with two short interruptions.

For this modern biography, the Russian grandmaster Alexander Khalifman has selected and annotated more than fifty of Botvinnik's best games.

Alexander Khalifman (1966) is a Russian grandmaster who has won numerous tourna-

ments, including the Russian Championship and the New York Open. He was FIDE World Champion in 1999-2000 and has written more than a dozen widely acclaimed chess books.

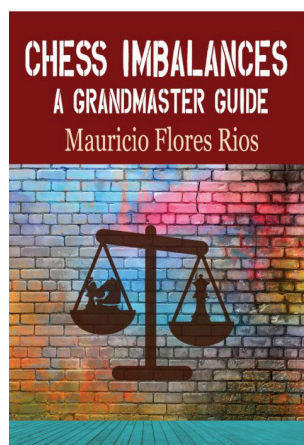
448 pages €29.95 (pb) €34.95 (hc) €23.95 (eBook)



## Chess Imbalances - Grandmaster Guide

by Mauricio Flores Rios by Mauricio Flores Rios

(9 April 2025) Published by Quality Chess



Material imbalances are a fundamental part of almost every chess game.

In Chess Imbalances, GM Flores Rios breaks down this topic into categories such as bishop vs knight, opposite coloured bishops, possessing and playing against the bishop pair, and various scenarios with a queen or rook for several pieces.

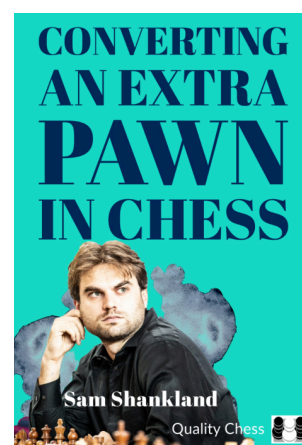
Mauricio Flores Rios is a grandmaster and former member of the Chilean national team, who now lives and works in the USA.

472 pages €29.99 (pb) €34.99 (hc) €25.99 (eBook)

## Converting an Extra Pawn

by Sam Shankland (4 June 2025)

Published by Quality Chess



In this groundbreaking work, GM Shankland shares his three-step process for handling positions with an extra pawn, using clear examples to illustrate his concepts.

With Converting an Extra Pawn, you too can become a master at converting the most common type of material advantage in chess.

Sam Shankland is a former US Champion and had won both individual and team gold

medals at Chess Olympiads. His two previous books for Quality Chess, Small Steps to Giant Improvement and Small Steps 2 Success, received rave reviews.

272 pages €27.99 (pb) €32.99 (hc) €23.99 (eBook)



## Opening Repertoire: Benoni Mayhem

by Andrew Martin by Andrew Martin (9 April 2025)

Published by Popular Chess



Experienced chess coach and author Andrew Martin introduces the reader to a number of weird and wonderful variations based on the Benoni structure.

Black's dynamism takes White players outside their comfort zone and forces them onto their own resources.

Andrew Martin is a FIDE Senior Trainer and International Master. He teaches in

several schools, is an experienced chess writer and has produced numerous chess DVDs.

336 pages €23.95 (pb) €29.95 (hc) €19.95 (eBook)

## REVIEWS

# Chess Books & Software, New Releases

## Botvinnik's Best Games

By Cyrus Lakdawala

Published by Popular Chess



Chess theory ebbs and flows. Lines that have been discarded for decades suddenly become all the rage and everyone starts playing them. A case in point are queenside openings where White plays Bf4. For years these had been the chess equivalent of flared trousers but in recent times they have been reinvented and even the best players in the world are now sporting them.

The London System (1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 followed by 3 Bf4) is at the forefront of this renaissance.

Formerly regarded as a quiet backwater, useful only to avoid theory, it is now a hot topic. A big advantage of playing the London is that (unlike other lines these days) it is highly unlikely you will get caught out in the opening. White's position is very solid and the early play revolves far more around plans and concepts than having to defuse engine-inspired bombs that have been lobbed into your position.

448 pages €23.99 (pb)

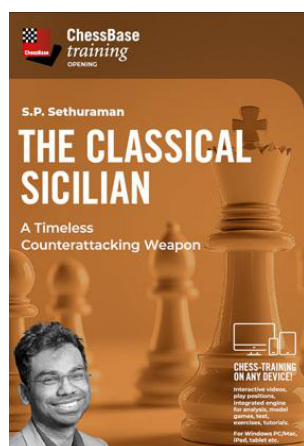


## The Classical Sicilian

by S.P. Sethuraman

Published by ChessBase

The Classical Sicilian has stood the test of time as one of the most principled and fighting defences against 1.e4. With its rich history spanning world championship matches and modern elite tournaments, this opening remains a favourite among players who seek a dynamic, counterattacking approach without venturing into extreme theoretical battles like the Najdorf or Sveshnikov.

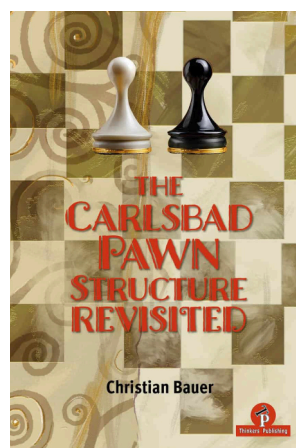


€39.90 (dvd)

## The Carlsbad Pawn Structure

By Christian Bauer

Published by Thinkers Publishing



The Carlsbad Pawn Structure is one of the most important and instructive pawn structures in chess. It commonly arises from the Queen's Gambit Declined, Exchange Slav, and other 1. d4 openings, offering a wealth of strategic ideas for both sides. This structure has been studied extensively by many world champions, including Capablanca, Karpov, and Petrosian, due to its rich positional themes.

This textbook is a must-study for any serious chess player. It provides a deep understanding of long-term plans and strategic manoeuvring. If you want to improve your positional play, mastering this structure will give you a huge edge in tournament games.

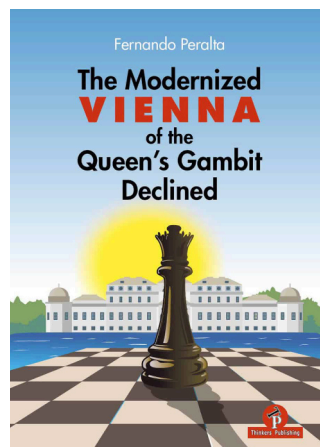
ISBN: 9789493435001, Hardback, 204 pages, £32.95



## Opening Repertoire: The Modernized Vienna of the Queens Gambit Declined

by Fernando Peralta

Published by Thinkers Publishing.



This book is especially focused on Black's perspective and aims to provide you with all the necessary material to successfully employ this variation. You will find theory, exemplary games, deep analyses, conceptual explanations, and many novel ideas that have yet to see the light of day in practice.

The book covers the Vienna Variation of the Queen's Gambit Declined (QGD)

ISBN: 9789493435025, Hardback, 230 pages, Thinkers Publishing

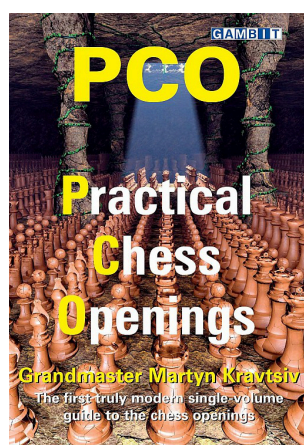


## REVIEWS

# Chess Books & Software, New Releases

## Practical Chess Openings

By Martyn Kravtsiv  
Published by GAMBIT



The first truly modern single-volume guide to the chess openings.

Chess opening theory has changed out of all recognition in the 21st century, yet chess literature has been slow to catch up with this. Martyn Kravtsiv, a grandmaster and trainer of the same generation as Magnus Carlsen, is here to redress the balance.

This huge book fully takes on board these developments. The most space is devoted to lines that are

popular today, and that deep computer analysis suggests have the brightest futures. If an opening cannot be recommended, Kravtsiv explains why with the minimum of var-

iMartyn Kravtsiv is a grandmaster from Lviv, Ukraine. He was blitz champion of the 2008 World Mind Sports Games (at age 17), represented his country at the 2017 World Team Championship and was a coach for the team that won silver medals at the 2016 Olympiad. Kravtsiv currently works as a trainer at the children's chess school in Lviv, and has written three widely acclaimed books for Gambit.

544 pages (248 mm by 172 mm). **£27.50/\$34.95/€34.95**



## The Semi Slav

By Nicholas Yap, Published by Popular Chess



Play the Semi-Slav! (1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Nf3 c6). This line provides a great balance between solidity and dynamism. The opening is undoubtedly sound but also contains plenty of latent aggressive possibilities. The Semi-Slav is also one of those openings that will repay players who enjoy studying the game.

9781836840046, 400 Pages  
**€23.99 (pb)**

## Accelerated Dragon

By Nigel Davies  
Published by Popular Chess



The Accelerated Dragon (1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 g6) has attracted the attention of many creative players. In the past these included Tigran Petrosian and Bent Larsen while modern aficionados include the dominant player of the era, Magnus Carlsen, as well as Viswanathan Anand, Veselin Topalov, Vassily Ivanchuk, Jan-Krzysztof Duda and many others.

The opening is characterised by the swift fianchetto of the dark-squared bishop on g7. It is a close relative of the "normal" Dragon (1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 g6) but with one crucial difference - Black delays committing the d-pawn to d6, a decision which complicates the play. If White does not respond accurately, Black will often gain the opportunity to play ... d7-d5 in one go. This can mimic the effect of a bomb going off as the white position is laid to waste.

9781836840039, 320 Pages, **£23.99**



## Chessbase Opening Encyclopedia

Published by ChessBase.



Be well prepared with the new Opening Encyclopaedia 2025! Whether you want to build up a reliable and powerful opening repertoire or find new opening ideas for your existing repertoire, the Opening Encyclopaedia covers the entire opening theory on one product and is the ideal start for your opening training. Many new articles enrich the current theory with new or revisited ideas.

**€79.90(dvd)**

## FEATURE ARTICLE

# Chess Art & Culture

INSPIRED THE SCOTTISH Correspondence Chess Magazine we take a look at Chess related art and other social fields where chess is the inspiration. This issue we take a look at Henri-Robert-Marcel Duchamp.

AUTHOR MICHAEL BLAKE



Henri-Robert-Marcel Duchamp (28 July 1887 – 2 October 1968) was a

French-American painter, sculptor, chess player and writer whose work is associated with Cubism, conceptual art, and Dada, although he was careful about his use of the term Dada and was not directly associated with Dada groups.

Duchamp is commonly regarded, along with Pablo Picasso and Henri Matisse, as one of the three artists who helped to define the revolutionary developments in

the plastic arts in the opening decades of the twentieth century, responsible

for significant developments in painting and sculpture.

Duchamp has had an immense impact on twentieth-century and twenty first-century art; and he had a seminal influence on the development of conceptual art.

By World War I, he had rejected the work of many of his fellow artists (like Henri Matisse) as "retinal" art, intended only to please the eye. Instead, Duchamp wanted to use art to serve the mind.



## FEATURE ARTICLE

# Engine Shed

CHESS ENGINES CONTINUE to create a storm in the world of Chess, does this mean the end for correspondence play or is it an opportunity to strive for greater learning?

AUTHOR MICHAEL BLAKE

The image to the top-right shows an Amstrad CPC64, the personal computer I used in the 1980s to manage the Stars Barred Postal Chess Club. When I handed over the club's management to another player, I passed this trusty machine along too. My computer skills haven't advanced much since then, though I've picked up some programming knowledge, including Smalltalk, an object-oriented language I learned through an Open University course.

This article is my first step toward understanding today's powerful chess engines, and I hope someone with deeper expertise might contribute a regular column on chess engine development for the magazine. Why even mention chess engines you may ask, well our first 3 issues included in-depth coverage of computers in chess, superbly written by Keith Kitson and these articles proved very popular, there was clearly a demand for them.

Chess engines, or more particularly their use, is a touchy subject within chess and more so within correspondence chess. Whilst we have seen top over-the-board players exposed for using chess engines, it is much more difficult in correspondence chess to tackle this subject. Having said that, sites such as chess.com have done so.

Let's get started!

## Current Status of Chess Engines

Chess engines have reached unparalleled strength, with top programs like Stockfish, Leela Chess Zero (LCZero), Sugar AI ICCF, Berserk, RubiChess, and Koivisto dominating the landscape. These engines, leveraging advanced algorithms, neural networks, and powerful hardware, achieve Elo ratings above 3500, far surpassing human grandmasters (rated around 2800–2900). This summary explores the current status, strengths, and contributions of these engines, highlighting their roles in analysis, competition, and the broader chess ecosystem.

## Stockfish

Stockfish remains the preeminent chess engine, widely regarded as the strongest CPU-based engine globally. As of March 2025, Stockfish 17.1 holds an estimated Elo rating of 3642 at a 40/15 time control, according to the Computer Chess Rating Lists (CCRL).

Developed by Tord Romstad, Marco Costalba, Joona Kiiski, and a vibrant open-source community, Stockfish evolved from the Glaurung engine (2004) and has dominated major championships, including the Top Chess Engine Championship (TCEC) and Chess.com Computer Chess Championship (CCC) since 2020.



Its strength lies in a hybrid evaluation system, combining a neural network (NNUE, introduced in 2020) with traditional alpha-beta search and minimax algorithms. The NNUE, trained on millions of positions, enables rapid, accurate evaluations on consumer-grade CPUs, eliminating reliance on handcrafted heuristics since July 2023. Stockfish's ability to analyse 20–30 moves deep, supported by optimisations like transposition tables and move ordering, ensures tactical precision. It powers plat-



forms like Lichess and Chessify, offering analysis at up to 1,000 kN/s, and supports variants like Chess960. Recent TCEC performances include decisive victories over LCZero (52–48 in Season 25) and Komodo Dragon, cementing its dominance.

<https://stockfishchess.org/>

## Leela Chess Zero (LCZero)

LCZero, an open-source neural network-based engine inspired by DeepMind's AlphaZero, is a close rival to Stockfish. Spearheaded by Gary Linscott in 2018, LCZero has played over 2.5 billion self-play games by November 2024, generating about 1 million daily through a distributed computing network. With an Elo rating around 3600, it competes at Stockfish's level, excelling in strategic depth and creative play.

Unlike Stockfish's CPU efficiency, LCZero relies on GPUs, using a transformer-based neural network



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(upgraded in 2022) to evaluate positions via Monte Carlo Tree Search (PUCT). This approach produces “alien-like” moves, often uncovering unconventional strategies. LCZero has achieved notable TCEC successes, including a Season 15 Superfinal win (53.5–46.5 vs. Stockfish) and TCEC Cup victories. It supports UCI-compatible GUIs like Nibbler and chess variants, making it a favourite for innovative analysis. However, its GPU dependency limits accessibility compared to Stockfish, and recent TCEC losses to Stockfish (e.g., 58–42 in Season 24) highlight a slight performance gap.

<https://lczero.org/play/download/>

## SugaR AI ICCF

SugaR AI ICCF, a free UCI engine derived from Stockfish, is optimised for correspondence chess, particularly for International Correspondence Chess Federation (ICCF) games. Developed by Marco Zerbini, it integrates self-learning, storing experience in a ‘SugaR.exp’ file, and supports polyglot opening books and Syzygy tablebases. SugaR offers dual evaluation functions: a classical handcrafted approach and an NNUE leveraging vector intrinsic (e.g., SSE2, AVX2) for efficiency. Its contempt setting avoids draws, aligning with ICCF’s draw-averse rules, and it achieves high performance on platforms like Chessify at up to 130 MN/s.

SugaR supports up to 128 cores, with customizable parameters like MultiPV and UCI\_Elo, but faces Android compatibility issues causing analysis interruptions. Its Elo rating, estimated around 3600, places it among top Stockfish derivatives. SugaR’s focus on deep analysis makes it ideal for correspondence players, though it trails Stockfish in general-purpose strength due to its specialised design.

<https://github.com/MichaelB7/SugaR-AI-ICCF>

## Berserk

Berserk, a free, open-source UCI engine written in C by Jay Honnold, ranks among the world’s top engines, with a CCRL 40/15 Elo rating of 3489 as of October 2023. Released in 2021, Berserk transitioned to NNUE with version 6, using a proprietary network trained on billions of self-play positions. Version 13 (2024) solidified its third-place ranking behind Stockfish and Komodo Dragon, excelling in tournaments and cloud analysis on Chessify. Berserk’s dynamic playstyle, supported by bitboards and magic bitboards, distinguishes it from peers, rapidly solving complex positions like “Gusev’s Immortal.”

It supports platforms like Windows, Linux, Mac, and



Android, requiring UCI-compatible GUIs like Arena. Berserk’s community-driven development, with contributions from developers like Finn Eggers, ensures rapid updates. While slightly weaker than Stockfish and LCZero (estimated Elo ~3500), Berserk’s accessibility and competitive performance make it a favourite for analysis and training.

<https://github.com/jhonnold/berserk/releases>

## RubiChess

RubiChess, developed by Andreas Matthies, is a strong open-source UCI engine written in C++, with an estimated Elo rating around 3450–3500. Known for its balanced play, RubiChess employs NNUE and advanced search techniques, including lazy SMP and principal variation search. It supports Windows and Linux, requiring a UCI-compatible GUI, and is available on platforms like Chessify at up to 130 MN/s. RubiChess performs well in tournaments, often ranking in the top 10–15 on lists like Ipman Chess, with versions like 20230410 and 20221120 showing consistent strength against engines like Berserk and Koivisto. Its automated evaluation tuning via logistic regression enhances positional accuracy. While not as dominant as Stockfish or LCZero, RubiChess’s steady performance and open-source nature make it a reliable choice for players and analysts seeking robust analysis without GPU dependency.

<https://github.com/jhonnold/berserk/releases>

## Koivisto

Koivisto, developed by Kim Kahre and Finn Eggers since 2020, is a strong open-source UCI engine with an estimated Elo rating of 3450–3500. Written in C++, it features lazy SMP, iterative deepening, and a sophisticated move-ordering system using history heuristics. Koivisto’s NNUE, trained on billions of positions, combined with Syzygy tablebase probing via the Fathom library, ensures competitive performance.

It supports Windows and Linux, requiring a UCI-compatible GUI, and excels in tournaments, often ranking alongside Berserk and RubiChess. Koivisto’s ability to switch between quiescence and shallow-depth searches enhances its tactical flexibility. While slightly weaker than Stockfish and LCZero, Koivisto’s rapid development and accessibility make it a valuable tool for analysis, particularly for players exploring strategic variations and endgame precision.

<https://koivisto-chess.com/index.php>

## FEATURE ARTICLE

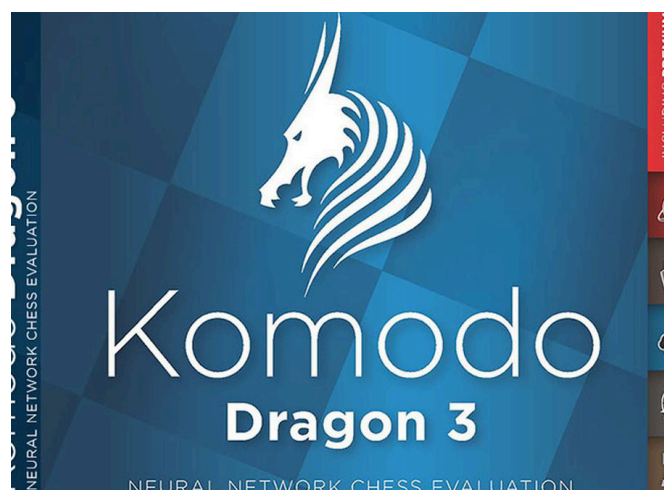
# Engine Shed

CHESS ENGINES CONTINUE to create a storm in the world of Chess, does this mean the end of correspondence play or is it an opportunity to strive for greater learning?

AUTHOR MICHAEL BLAKE

**Komodo Dragon**, a commercial engine developed by Don Dailey, Larry Kaufman, and Mark Lefler, is a perennial contender in the chess engine hierarchy. The latest iteration, Komodo Dragon 3.3, released in 2024, incorporates NNUE technology, aligning it with modern trends while retaining its signature positional style.

Komodo's strength lies in its balanced evaluation function, which excels in strategic positions where long-



term planning is critical. Unlike Stockfish's aggressive search, Komodo prioritizes king safety and pawn structure, making it a favorite for analysing human games. Its Elo rating, estimated at 3550, places it just behind Stockfish and Leela in TCEC and CCC rankings.

Komodo's NNUE integration enhances its tactical acuity, allowing it to compete in sharp positions. The engine also offers adjustable playing styles, from ultra-aggressive to conservative, catering to diverse user needs. Its commercial nature ensures regular updates and professional support, though it lacks Stockfish's community-driven development.

Weaknesses include its higher computational demands and slightly inferior performance in rapid time controls compared to Stockfish. Nevertheless, Komodo's versatility makes it a staple in professional analysis, with grandmasters like Hikaru Nakamura praising its human-like insights. Komodo's paid model limits its accessibility but ensures a polished product.

**AlphaZero** developed by DeepMind, is a landmark in chess engine history. Introduced in 2017, it stunned the



chess world by defeating Stockfish 8 after training solely through self-play, without human games or opening books. AlphaZero's neural network and MCTS-based approach allowed it to develop a unique, intuitive style.

With an estimated Elo rating of 3500 at its peak, AlphaZero showcased superhuman strength, winning 28 of 100 games against Stockfish 8, losing none, and drawing the rest. Its games featured dynamic sacrifices and long-term strategic ideas, redefining how chess could be played. However, AlphaZero is not publicly available, limiting its direct impact.

Strengths include its revolutionary learning method and ability to generate novel strategies. Weaknesses include its lack of optimisation for modern hardware and absence of ongoing development. AlphaZero's legacy lies in inspiring engines like Leela and advancing AI research, though its closed-source nature restricts its practical use.

AlphaZero's influence on human chess is significant, with players studying its games to uncover new ideas. Its contribution to chess theory remains a benchmark for AI-driven engines, even if it no longer competes actively.

**CorrChess**, another Stockfish-based engine, is designed for correspondence chess. Developed by a small team, it refines Stockfish's algorithms to emphasize deep positional understanding, similar to Sugar ICCF. CorrChess's Elo rating, around 3500, places it slightly below top engines but competitive in ICCF settings.

CorrChess modifies Stockfish's search and evaluation to handle the unique demands of correspondence play, where precision over days-long analysis is critical. It integrates custom heuristics for pawn play and king activity, excelling in strategic endgames. Like Sugar ICCF, it benefits from large opening books and tablebases.

Strengths include its reliability in prolonged analysis and compatibility with correspondence platforms. Weaknesses include its limited development community and narrower scope compared to Stockfish. CorrChess's open-source availability makes it accessible, though it appeals primarily to correspondence enthusiasts.

CorrChess's role in ICCF events is notable, enabling players to achieve high-level results. Its existence underscores the growing specialisation of chess engines for specific formats, reflecting the diversity of modern chess applications.

**Hiarcs**, developed by Mark Uniacke, is a veteran commercial engine with a storied history. Version 15, the latest in



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2025, emphasises positional play, with an Elo rating around 3200. Hiarcs's handcrafted evaluation function prioritises king safety and material balance, making it a favourite for analysing human games.

Hiarcs's strengths include its polished interface, integration with chess databases, and human-like style, earning praise from grandmasters like Vishy Anand. It supports adjustable strength levels, ideal for training. However, its lack of NNUE and reliance on traditional search techniques limit its competitiveness against Stockfish or Leela.

Weaknesses include its commercial cost and slower performance on modern hardware. Hiarcs's niche is its accessibility to non-technical users, with a user-friendly GUI and extensive documentation. Its contributions to chess include aiding professional preparation and fostering chess education.

Hiarcs remains a respected name, though its relevance wanes in the era of neural network engines. Its legacy lies in its longevity and influence on early engine development.

**Fritz**, developed by ChessBase, is an iconic commercial engine synonymous with chess software. Fritz 19, released in 2024, combines a strong engine (Elo ~3300) with a comprehensive ecosystem, including database tools,



training modes, and online play. Its evaluation blends traditional search with NNUE, offering a balanced style.

Fritz's strengths include its accessibility, polished GUI, and integration with ChessBase's vast game database, making it ideal for casual players and professionals. It supports features like cloud analysis and adjustable difficulty, catering to diverse audiences. Fritz's human-like play aids in training, though it trails Stockfish in raw strength.

Weaknesses include its cost and lower performance in elite competitions. Fritz's commercial model ensures regular updates but limits its open-source appeal. Its contributions to chess are immense, popularising computer chess and providing tools for players of all levels.

Many years ago I enjoyed playing against Fritz, I think that in the absence of a playing partner that I might purchase this one as it includes a wealth of instructive opportunities.

## Analysis of Chess Engines

The regular TCEC, Top Chess Engine Championship, formerly known as Thoresen Chess Engines Competition, is a computer chess tournament that has been run since 2010. It was organised, directed, and hosted by Martin Thoresen until the end of Season 6; from Season 7 onward it has been organised by Chessdom. It is often regarded as the Unofficial World Computer Chess Championship because of its strong participant line-up and long time-control matches on high-end hardware, giving rise to very high-class chess. The tournament has attracted nearly all the top engines compared to the World Computer Chess Championship. When the tournament runs you can follow the games live.

Whilst TCEC may provide us with a World Champion in chess engine terms, another great source for evaluating these beasts is at [CCRL](https://www.ccrl.ch) where they run continuous engine matches to determine who is currently the top engine. When visiting the site I discovered there is an engine named Torch which seems quite strong. Perhaps that is one to cover in the next instalment of my journey.

## Summary

Chess engines are here to stay and if the percentage of draws in a tournament does not change, then engines may be the end of the game. I prefer to remain positive and look on the bright side, correspondence chess is about friendship and communicating with like minded people out to enjoy a game of chess.



# Introduction to ChessBase Software

CORRESPONDENCE CHESS PLAYERS make good use of quality databases such as those provided by ChessBase. This series of articles aims to cover the basics and help players get the most out of the software.

In this first part, we discuss ChessBase and in particular the database program now at version 18. ChessBase is a premier chess database software widely regarded as the gold standard for chess players, coaches, and analysts. Since its inception in 1987 by ChessBase GmbH, a German company founded by Matthias Wüllenweber and Frederic Friedel, the software has evolved into a powerful tool for managing, analysing, and studying chess games. It combines a robust database management system with advanced analytical features, making it indispensable for professionals and

▼ ChessBase is available on initial purchase in a variety of packages. Note that the subsequent 'upgrade' versions are significantly cheaper

	ChessBase 18 Premium-Package	ChessBase 18 Mega-Package	ChessBase 18 Starter-Package	ChessBase 18 program only
Online-DB *	✓	✓	✓	✓
Database	Mega 2025	Mega 2025	Big 2025	–
DB-Updates2025	✓	✓	✓	–
CB Magazine	6x	6x	3x	–
ChessBase Account	12 Months Premium	12 Months Premium	12 Months Premium	12 Months Premium
Corr-DB2024	✓	–	–	–
Ducates incl.	1000	–	–	–
Price	€499.90	€349.90	€249.90	€199.90
Price Saving	(€389.60)	(€239.70)	(€234.60)	€0.00

enthusiasts alike. This article explores the features, functionalities, benefits, and impact of ChessBase, delving into its role in modern chess.

## Core Features of ChessBase

### 1. Database Management

ChessBase is fundamentally a database program that allows users to store, organise, and retrieve chess games. It can handle millions of games, with the latest versions supporting databases containing over 10 million games. The software uses a proprietary format for its databases, ensuring efficient storage and quick access. Users can create multiple databases, categorise games by tournaments, players, or openings, and perform complex searches based on criteria such as player names, Elo ratings, game results, or specific positions.

The search functionality is particularly powerful. For example, users can search for games where a specific opening was played, filter by tactical motifs (e.g., pins or forks), or find positions with particular material imbalances. This makes ChessBase an invaluable tool for opening preparation and studying specific players' repertoires.

### 2. Game Analysis with Engines

ChessBase integrates seamlessly with chess engines like Stockfish, Komodo, and Houdini, allowing users to analyse games with unparalleled depth. The software provides features like:

**Deep Analysis:** Users can run engines to evaluate positions, identify critical moments, and suggest alternative moves.

**Tactical Analysis:** ChessBase automatically annotates games, highlighting blunders, mistakes, and brilliant moves based on engine evaluations.

**Monte Carlo Analysis:** This feature simulates thousands of games from a given position to assess its statistical outcome, useful for evaluating opening novelties or complex middlegame positions.

**The “Let’s Check” feature,** a cloud-based analysis tool, allows users to access pre-analysed positions contributed by other ChessBase users, saving time and leveraging collective computing power.

### 3. Opening Preparation

ChessBase is a cornerstone of professional chess players’ opening preparation. The software’s “Reference” tab provides instant access to a statistical overview of any position, showing how often it has been played, the success rate of each move, and the players who have employed it. This is particularly useful for identifying trends in opening theory and preparing against specific opponents.



▲ Mega Database once purchased will give you a full year of updates from tournaments around the world.

The “Opening Report” feature generates detailed summaries of opening variations, including key games, statistics, and critical positions. Users can also create and maintain their own opening repertoires, annotating moves with text, symbols, or variations to build a personalised database of preferred lines.

### 4. Training and Study Tools

ChessBase offers a suite of tools for improving chess skills:

**Training Questions:** Users can create interactive exercises from their databases, such as guessing the next move in a position or solving tactical puzzles.

**Replay Training:** This feature allows users to practice openings by playing against the computer, which responds with moves from the data-

base.

**Position Drills:** Users can set up specific positions to practice, such as endgame scenarios or tactical combinations.

These tools are particularly useful for coaches and students, as they facilitate structured learning and targeted improvement.

## 5. Integration with Online Resources

ChessBase connects to online platforms like the ChessBase Server and Playchess.com, enabling users to access live games, play online, or follow major tournaments in real-time. The software also integrates with the ChessBase Account, a cloud-based service that syncs databases across devices and provides access to additional content, such as annotated games by grandmasters and video tutorials.

## Benefits of ChessBase

### 1. Professional-Grade Analysis

ChessBase is the tool of choice for top players like Magnus Carlsen, Viswanathan Anand, and Fabiano Caruana. Its ability to handle vast datasets and provide precise engine analysis makes it ideal for preparing for high-level competition. The software’s depth and flexibility allow professionals to uncover subtle nuances in positions that might be missed by less sophisticated tools.

### 2. User-Friendly Interface

Despite its complexity, ChessBase has an intuitive interface that caters to both beginners and experts. The layout is customisable, with drag-and-drop functionality for organising games and a clear display of board, notation, and analysis windows. The software also supports multiple languages, broadening its accessibility.

### 3. Versatility

ChessBase is not just for professionals. Amateurs can use it to store their own games, analyse their mistakes, and learn from master games. Coaches use it to prepare lessons, while researchers and historians use it to study the evolution of chess theory. Its versatility makes it a one-stop solution for all chess-related needs.

### 4. Regular Updates and Support

ChessBase GmbH regularly releases updates to improve functionality and compatibility with new engines and operating systems. The company also provides comprehensive support through tutorials, forums, and customer service, ensuring users can maximise the software’s potential.

## Impact on Modern Chess

ChessBase has revolutionised the way chess is studied and played. Before its advent, players relied on physical books and handwritten notes to prepare, a time-consuming process that limited the depth of analysis. ChessBase democratised access to chess knowledge by providing a digital platform where anyone could study millions of games and leverage powerful engines.

The software has also shaped opening theory. By making it easy to identify trends and novelties, ChessBase has accelerated the development of new ideas, leading to a more dynamic and competitive chess landscape. However, this has also sparked debates about whether the reliance on databases and engines has diminished creativity in chess, as players often follow computer-recommended lines rather than exploring original ideas.

Additionally, ChessBase has fostered a global chess community. Through its online platforms, players from different countries can connect, share games, and collaborate on analysis, breaking down geographical barriers and promoting the growth of the game.

## Limitations and Challenges

*“ChessBase is more than just a database program; it is a comprehensive chess ecosystem that has transformed the way the game is played, studied, and taught”*

▼ The latest version of ChessBase.

While ChessBase is a powerhouse, it is not without drawbacks:

**Cost:** The software is expensive, with the latest version, ChessBase 17, retailing for around €200. Additional features like the Mega Database or SuperGrok subscriptions add to the cost, making it less accessible for casual players.

**Learning Curve:** Despite its user-friendly interface, mastering ChessBase’s advanced features requires time and effort, which can be daunting for beginners.

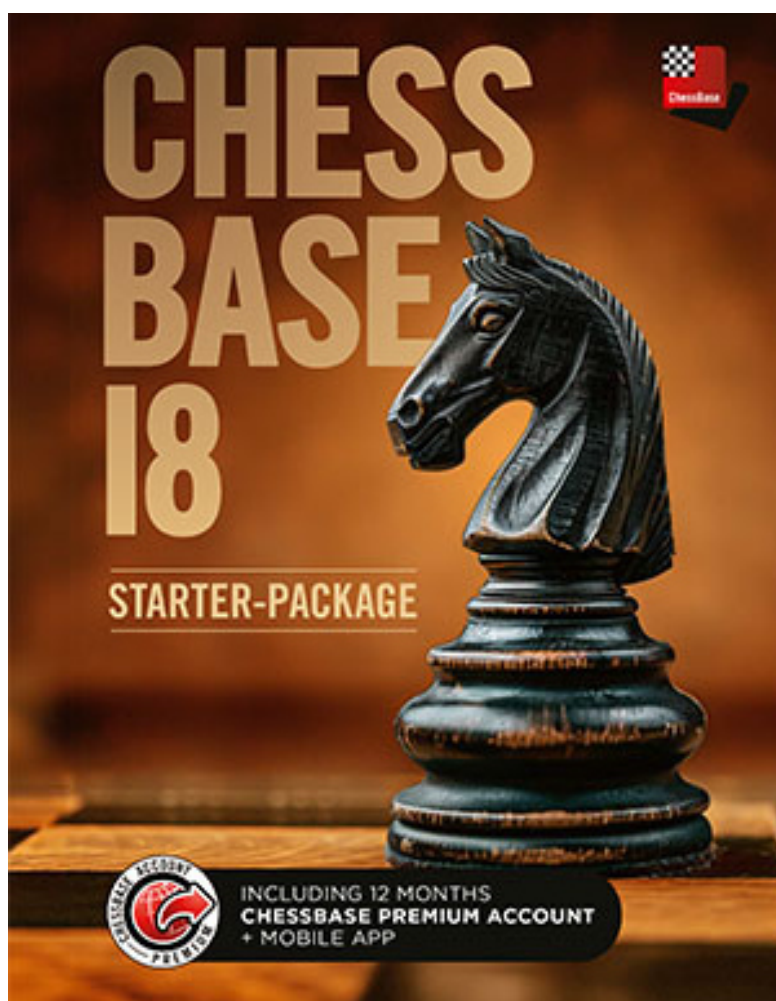
**Hardware Requirements:** Running ChessBase with modern engines demands significant computing power, particularly for deep analysis, which may necessitate high-end hardware.

## Conclusion

ChessBase is more than just a database program; it is a comprehensive chess ecosystem that has transformed the way the game is played, studied, and taught. Its ability to manage vast amounts of data, integrate with cutting-edge engines, and provide tools for preparation and training makes it an essential tool for anyone serious about chess. While its cost and complexity may pose challenges, the benefits it offers—precision, versatility, and connectivity—are unmatched. As chess continues to evolve in the digital age, ChessBase remains at the forefront, empowering players to push the boundaries of their understanding and performance.

## Future Articles

The aim is to continue this series with articles covering the management of databases, how to start using ChessBase and the various options available to you. Please get in touch with any questions that you would like to be covered in the future.





# Introduction to Hiarcs Chess Explorer

▼ Hiarcs runs on both PC and Mac, unlike ChessBase which is PC only.



HCE IS PERHAPS not as full featured as ChessBase 18 but it is much cheaper and a very reliable alternative.

The screenshot displays the HIARCS Chess Explorer Pro interface. The top menu bar includes File, Edit, View, Game, Play, Database, and Help. Below the menu is a toolbar with various icons for file operations, game management, and analysis. The main window is divided into several panes:

- Chessboard:** A large board showing a game in progress. The pieces are arranged in their starting positions, with a white arrow pointing to the e4 square.
- Game History:** A list of games with details such as player names, dates, and results. The selected game is "Steffen Schubert 2238 - Osvalds Macs 2016 1/2-1/2".
- Game Moves:** A list of moves for the selected game, starting with "1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3 Qb6 6.a3 Nh6 7.Bd3 cxd4 8.cxd4 Nf5 9.Bxf5 exf5 10.Nc3 Be6 11.b4 h6 12.Qd3 Be7 13.O-O g5 14.Re1 a6 15.Rb1 Kf8 16.b5 axb5 17.Nxb5 Qa4 18.Qc3 Qa5 19.Qd3 Qa6 20.Qd1 Qa4 21.Qd3 Qc4 22.Qd1 Qa4 23.Qd3 Qc4 24.Qd1 Qa4 25.Qd3 Qc4 26.Qd1 1/2-1/2".
- Evaluation:** A graph showing the evaluation of the game over time.
- Online book: GM++:** A table showing the results of the game, including Rating, Performance, Year, and Play%.
- Database correspondence:** A table showing the results of all 1,437,467 games.

Nr	White	Elo	Black	Elo	Event	Site	Round	Date	Result	ECO	Length	Flags
1432143	Zakharov, Oleg	2274	Vanntaja, Ilkka	2259	MT-Kolesnik/SF2	ICCF		2024.07.01	1/2-1/2	D59	21	
1432144	Taylor, Wilf	2110	Wister, Finn A.	2195	MT-Kolesnik/SF2	ICCF		2024.07.01	1/2-1/2	D43	24	
1432145	Lachica Jr., Cesar G.	2295	Wister, Finn A.	2195	MT-Kolesnik/SF2	ICCF		2024.07.01	1/2-1/2	E60	37	
1432146	Drygas, Konrad	2217	Ylipartanen, Jorma	2263	MT-Kolesnik/SF2	ICCF		2024.07.01	1-0	D30	25	
1432147	Azpiri Medina, Luis	2191	Ylipartanen, Jorma	2263	MT-Kolesnik/SF2	ICCF		2024.07.01	1-0	E18	41	
1432148	Rajala, Olavi	2232	MacGregor, Colin A.	1957	MT-Kolesnik/SF2	ICCF		2024.07.01	0-1	B12	58	
1432149	Ricafort, Kleizmer	2271	Wärstads, Leif Edvin	2124	MT-Kolesnik/SF2	ICCF		2024.07.01	1/2-1/2	B12	22	
1432150	Charpentier, Denis	2118	Suárez Quesada, Alexis	2178	MT-Kolesnik/SF2	ICCF		2024.07.01	1/2-1/2	B52	31	

HIARCS Chess Explorer (HCE) is a chess database, analysis, and playing program developed by HIARCS, a company renowned for its World Chess Software Championship-winning engine. Designed for both PC and Mac, HCE combines a powerful graphical user interface (GUI) with the HIARCS chess engine, aiming to

serve players of all levels—from beginners to grandmasters. This review explores HCE's features, usability, strengths, limitations, and its place in the competitive landscape of chess software, drawing on user feedback and comparisons with alternatives like ChessBase.

## Overview and Purpose

HIARCS Chess Explorer, first released in 2012, is marketed as an innovative, intuitive, and multi-platform chess software that integrates database management, game analysis, opening preparation, and playing capabilities. The program's philosophy, as noted by users, is to "do the important things and do them well," prioritising a streamlined experience over the exhaustive feature set of competitors like ChessBase. The latest version, HIARCS Chess Explorer Pro (HCE Pro), released in January 2022, includes the upgraded HIARCS 15.4 engine, which is over 250 Elo points stronger than its predecessor, HIARCS 14, and supports advanced database formats and multi-core processing.

HCE is particularly appealing to Mac users, who have historically had fewer options for high-quality chess software compared to PC users. Its cross-platform compatibility, support for multiple languages (English, French, German, Italian, Polish, Russian, and Spanish), and ability to read ChessBase's proprietary .cbh and .cbv formats make it a versatile tool for a broad audience. This review evaluates HCE based on its core functionalities, user experience, and value for money.

## Core Features

### 1. Graphical User Interface (GUI)

The HCE GUI is frequently praised for its elegance and simplicity. Users describe it as "stunning in its beauty" and "easy to understand and use," with a clean layout that avoids the clutter of some competitors. The interface supports drag-and-drop functionality, tabbed views for managing multiple games or databases simultaneously, and a dark mode that enhances readability, especially on macOS.

**Customisable Layout:** Users can toggle windows (e.g., board, notation, analysis) and adjust their positions and sizes. The "Explorer" windows (Game Explorer, Book Explorer, Analysis Explorer) provide quick access to critical tools.

**High-Quality Graphics:** The board and piece sets are visually appealing, with artist-designed icons and textures that enhance the user experience.

**Tabbed View:** A unique feature, the tabbed view allows users to switch effortlessly between games, databases, or analysis tasks, a functionality rarely seen in other GUIs like SCID or ChessBase.

The GUI's intuitiveness is a significant

***"HCE is particularly appealing to Mac users, who have historically had fewer options for high-quality chess software compared to PC users"***

strength, particularly for casual players or those new to chess software. However, some users note minor quirks, such as the scroll wheel behaviour with Apple's Magic Mouse, which can make navigating moves less smooth.

### 2. Database Management

HCE supports multiple database formats, including PGN, its proprietary HCE format, and ChessBase's .cbh and .cbv files, allowing users to import and convert existing databases seamlessly. The software excels in database management, with features like:

**Comprehensive Search:** Users can search by game header (player, tournament, year), openings, positions, or ECO codes. The Pro version adds advanced search options, such as pawn structure or material imbalances.

**Reference Databases:** HCE includes a Master-Base with 350,000 games in the Pro version (35,000 in the standard version).

**Automated Repertoire Summaries:** HCE Pro generates summaries of a player's or database's opening repertoire, making it easier to prepare against opponents or study trends.

### 3. Game Analysis

HCE integrates the HIARCS chess engine (version 15.4 in HCE Pro) for game analysis, alongside support for UCI-compatible engines like Stockfish or Komodo. The Analysis Explorer provides real-time engine evaluations, move suggestions, and variation trees. Key analysis features include:

**Automated Annotations:** HCE can analyse games in the background, adding annotations for blunders, inaccuracies, or brilliant moves. Users can customise analysis criteria, such as focusing on critical moments or all errors.

**Evaluation Explorer:** A visual graph displays the evaluation ups and downs of a game, helping users identify turning points. This feature is particularly useful for analysing complex games, such as middlegame struggles.

**Multi-Tasking:** HCE allows simultaneous

tasks, such as analysing one game while playing another or browsing a database, without performance issues.

Some users report that the HIARCS engine can be sluggish to start analysing, though this may be hardware-dependent. Once running, it performs well, and other UCI engines like Stockfish integrate smoothly. The lack of a feature to display only the engine's evaluation (without the suggested move) is a minor limitation for training purposes.

## 4. Playing Capabilities

HCE's playing mode is a highlight, particularly for casual players. The HIARCS engine is famous for its "human-like and entertaining attacking playing style," reportedly used by World Chess Champion Viswanathan Anand. It supports:

**Adjustable Skill Levels:** The engine can be set to Elo ratings from 1000 (beginner) to over 3060 (super-grandmaster), with human-like mistakes at lower levels, making it an ideal sparring partner.

**Coach Mode:** An electronic coach points out blunders, suggests better moves, and provides hints, enhancing the learning experience.

**Handicap and Training Modes:** Users can practice specific openings, play from set positions, or engage in rated/unrated games with variable time controls.

## 5. Opening Preparation

HCE's Book Explorer and Game Explorer facilitate opening preparation by providing access to local or online opening books and statistical analysis of positions. The software automatically classifies openings by ECO codes and supports extensive game notation with variations, comments, and diagrams.

**Export Options:** Games and analysis can be exported to PGN, PDF, EPUB, or HTML, making it easy to share or publish work.

These tools are effective for self-study, but the smaller default database and less advanced search capabilities may limit their utility for coaches or advanced players.

## Usability and Performance

HCE is lauded for its stability, with users reporting no crashes or slowdowns, unlike early versions of Aquarium or even ChessBase, which can be prone to bugs. The program starts quickly, and copy-paste functionality for PGN and FEN works seamlessly.

***"The HIARCS engine is famous for its "human-like and entertaining attacking playing style," reportedly used by World Chess Champion Viswanathan Anand."***

For Mac users, HCE is often considered the best chess software available, surpassing alternatives like Shredder or Chess King in features and reliability. On Windows, it competes closely with ChessBase and Fritz, with some users preferring HCE's cleaner interface and human-like engine.

Performance-wise, HCE Pro supports up to 32 cores for the HIARCS engine, though the standard version is limited to single-core processing. The Deep HCE version offers access to 1TB of online endgame and opening book databases, a significant advantage for professional preparation. However, some users criticise the pricing model, particularly the additional cost for multi-core support, which feels outdated in 2025 when multi-core processing is standard.

## Strengths

**Intuitive and Elegant GUI:** The clean interface is a standout, making HCE accessible to beginners while powerful enough for advanced users.

**Human-Like Engine:** The HIARCS engine's realistic play and adjustable skill levels make it an excellent sparring partner and coach.

**Cross-Platform Compatibility:** Support for Mac and PC, along with ChessBase file formats, ensures broad accessibility.

**Stability:** HCE's crash-free performance and smooth multi-tasking enhance the user experience.

**Ease of Use:** HCE's GUI is more intuitive and less cluttered than ChessBase's, which can feel overwhelming.

**Mac Support:** HCE's native Mac compatibility gives it an edge for Apple users, as ChessBase is Windows-only.

## Conclusion

HIARCS Chess Explorer is superb chess software that balances power and simplicity, making it an excellent choice for casual players, Mac users, and those seeking a reliable alternative to ChessBase.

As a Mac user I have relied on HiarcS to keep track of my games. I particularly like the player database and layout of games played when compared to ChessBase. This is a great alternative to ChessBase but does lack some of that programs features.



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](http://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

## FEATURE ARTICLE

# Club Watch: NATCOR



IN ISSUE 5 we covered recent activity within Yorkshire Chess. Unfortunately the Clergy CCC were unable to add anything this issue so we take a look at NATCOR.

AUTHOR MICHAEL BLAKE

Founded in 1932 by Tom Morris as The Forest and District Correspondence Chess Club, The National Correspondence Chess Club (Natcor or NCCC) is a proud founding member of the former British Federation for Correspondence Chess. Natcor is affiliated with the International Correspondence Chess Federation (ICCF), under which it operates, as well as the English Federation for Correspondence Chess (EFCC) and the Welsh Correspondence Chess Federation (WCCF).

Originally established as a postal chess club, Natcor has evolved to incorporate modern communication methods. We provide a variety of tournament formats suitable for all skill levels, with free entry to all tournaments for members. Postal players receive complimentary scorecards, and members enjoy free access to the ICCF webserver.

Natcor publishes a regular journal, *En Passant*, featuring club news, game results, fixtures, and chess-related articles. This journal is provided free to members and complements the content on our website. A free sample of *En Passant* is available for download.

Membership costs just £10 per year, with concessions and pro-rata fees available. Visit our Membership page for more details.

<https://www.natcor.org.uk/>

With free entry to all tournaments, members may enjoy the Continuous Tournament, All-Play-All, Webserver Championship, Tom Morris League Championship and the Knock-Out. The League and Webserver are held annually whilst the others are available throughout the year.

Interestingly, all games played in NATCOR events may be scored in the Reg Gilman Continuous Tournament where the aim is to climb the ladder based on your most recent 20 games. The current CT has around 70 players listed and the leader is David Elood on 17/20, the latest table is at <https://www.natcor.org.uk/index.php/tournaments/continuous-tournament>

Whilst looking through a number of NATCOR games, it struck me how many of them reach mate or involve a strong battle between the players, no sign of the +90% draw rates as seen in many ICCF tournaments!

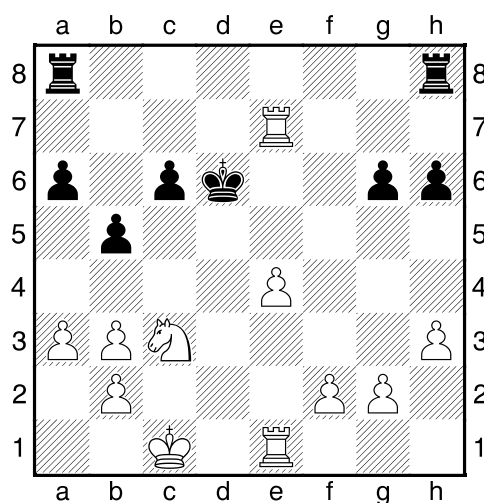
## Shaw, Tony (1528) - Watson, Wilfred A. (1306) [B06]

NCCC APA123 (ENG) ICCF, 24.06.2024

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Bf4 d6 4.Qd2 h6N [Predecessor: 4...a6 5.Nc3 b5 6.Nf3 Bb7 7.Bd3 Nd7 8.0-0 c5 9.dxc5 Nxc5 10.Rfe1 Nf60-1 Ristic,N (2343)-Sanal,V (2595) Titled Tuesday intern op 25th Oct Early Chess.com INT blitz 2022 (1)]

5.h3 e6 6.Nf3 [ B06: Modern Defence.]

6...Nd7 7.Nc3 a6 8.Bc4 b6 9.0-0-0 b5 10.Bb3 Bb7 11.Rhe1 Ne7 12.d5 Nc5 13.a3 c6 14.dxe6 Nxb3+ 15.cxb3 Be5 16.Bxe5 dxe5 17.exf7+ Kxf7 18.Nxe5+ Kg7 19.Qd7 Qxd7 20.Rxd7 Kf6 21.Rxb7 Kxe5 22.Rxe7+ Kd6 [



23.Rf7 Ke6 24.Rf3 Ke5 25.b4 a5 26.bxa5 Rxa5 27.Rd1 Ra7 28.Rfd3 Rha8 29.g3 b4 30.f4+ Ke6 31.axb4 Ra1+ 32.Kc2 Rxd1 33.Rxd1 Rf8 34.e5 g5 35.Rd6+ Ke7 36.Rxc6 Kd7 37.b5 Rb8 38.e6+ Ke7 39.f5 h5 40.Nd5+

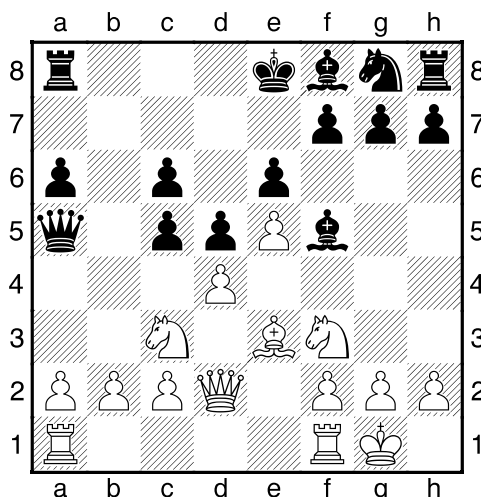
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# Powell,Jonathan (1445) - Shaw,Tony (1528) [B12]

NCCC APA123 (ENG) ICCF, 24.06.2024

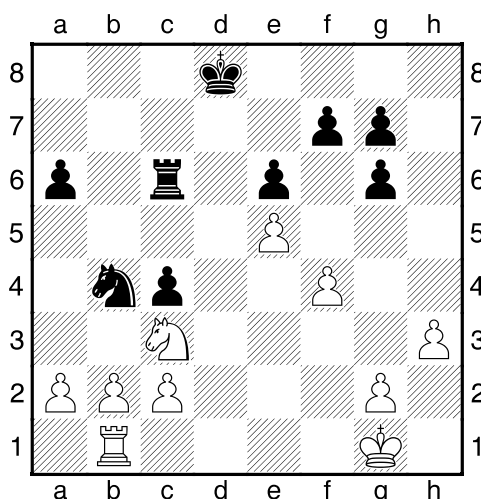
1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nf3 e6 5.Nc3 c5 6.Bb5+ [ B12: Caro-Kann: Advance Variation.]

6...Nc6 7.0-0 a6 8.Bxc6+ bxc6 9.Be3 Qa5 10.Qd2N [



[10.a3 Rb8 11.Rb1 c4 12.Nh4 Ne7 13.f4 h6 14.g4 Bh7 15.f5 g5 16.fxg6 Nxc6 17.0-0 Tofte,S-Jensen,S (2031) Politiken Cup 27th Copenhagen 2005 (2)]

10...Rb8 11.Rab1 c4 12.Nh4 Bg6 13.Nxc6 hxc6 14.h3 c5 15.dxc5 Bxc5 16.Bd4 Bxd4 17.Qxd4 Ne7 18.Qa7 Qb6 19.Qxb6 Rxb6 20.f4 Nf5 21.Rf3 Nd4 22.Rf2 Ke7 23.Rd2 Nc6 24.Rxd5 Nb4 25.Rd2 Rhb8 26.Na4 Rc6 27.Nc3 Rd8 28.Rxd8 Kxd8 [



29.a3 Nd5 30.Nxd5 exd5 31.c3 Rb6 32.Kf2 Ke7 33.Ke3 Kd7 34.Kd4 Kc6 35.g4 Rb7 36.g5 Rb6 37.h4 Rb7 38.Ke3 Kd7 39.Kd4 Kc6

1/2-1/2



# Shaw,Tony (1528) - Law,Ken (760) [B12]

NCCC APA123 (ENG) ICCF, 24.06.2024

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Bf5 5.g4 Bg6 6.f4N [ B12: Caro-Kann: Advance Variation.]

[6.h4 h6 7.h5 Bh7 8.e6 fxe6 9.Bd3 Nf6 10.Bxh7 Rxh7 11.Qd3 c4 12.Qg6+0-1 Selkovski,Z (2007)-Shankar,P (1499) Online Olym Disabilities Tornelo INT rapid 2020 (4.15)]

6...h6 7.f5 Bh7 8.dxc5 e6 9.Nf3 Bxc5 10.Bd3 Nc6 11.Qe2 Qb6 12.b3 a5 13.Ba3 Be7 14.fxe6 Bg5 15.exf7+ Kxf7 16.Nxc5+

1-0



# Nichol,John (1158) - Shaw,Tony (1528) [B11]

NCCC APA123 (ENG) ICCF, 24.06.2024

1.e4 c6 2.Nc3 d5 3.h3 d4 4.Na4 e5 5.Nf3 Qc7N

[5...f6 6.b3 Be6 7.d3 Bb4+ 8.Bd2 Ba3 9.Rb1 Ne7 10.Be2 0-0 11.0-0 b50-1 Majic,N-Vujadinovic,Z (1959) Podgorica Zeta CC-ch 10th 2009 (2)]

6.Be2 [ B11: Caro-Kann: Two Knights Variation.]

6...Nf6 7.0-0 b5 8.c3 c5 9.Bxb5+ Bd7 10.Bxd7+ Nxb5 11.cxd4 cxd4 12.d3 Bd6 13.Bg5 Qb7 14.b3 0-0 15.Nh4 h6 16.Bxh6 gxf6 17.Qf3 Kh7 18.Nf5 Ba3 19.Qg3 Rg8 20.Qh4 Rg6 21.g4 Rag8 22.f3 Qb8 23.Rab1 Bf8 24.Nb2 Nc5 25.Rf2 Ne6 26.Rg2 Nf4 27.Rh2 Qb4 28.Rf1 Rh8 29.Nd1 Nxd3 30.Nf2 Nf4 31.g5 Rxc5+ 32.Ng4 Nxc4 33.hxc4 Kg8 34.Rc2 Ng6 35.Qh2 h5 36.Qe2 hxc4 37.fxc4 Nf4 38.Rf3 Nxe2+ 39.Rxe2 Rxc4+ 40.Rg3 Rxc3+ 41.Nxc3 Qc3 42.Rf2 Qe1+ 43.Kg2 Rh2+ 44.Kxh2 Qxf2+ 45.Kh3 d3 46.Kg4 d2 47.Nf5 d1Q+ 48.Kg5 Qd1+ 49.Kf6 Bg7+ 50.Ke7 Qc5+ 51.Ke8 Qc8+ 52.Ke7 Qc5+ 53.Nd6 [

53...Q5c7#

0-1





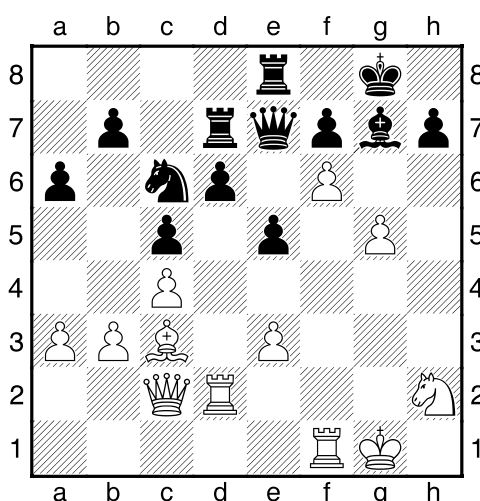
# Watson,Wilfred A. (1306) - Powell,Jonathan (1445) [A30]

NCCC APA123 (ENG) ICCF, 24.06.2024

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 c5 4.Bg2 Nc6 5.0-0 Be7 6.a3 [ A30: Symmetrical English: Double Fianchetto and Hedgehog.]

6...d6 7.d3 0-0 8.b3N [8.Nbd2 Rb8 9.Qc2 Qc7 10.Rb1 b6 11.e3 Bb7 12.Re1 Rbc8 13.b3 d5 14.Bb2½-½ Reimann,G (1941)-Hansch,K (1850) Bad Woerishofen Seniors op 32nd 2016 (8)]

8...Qc7 9.Bb2 e5 10.e3 Bg4 11.Qc2 a6 12.Nbd2 Rfe8 13.h3 Bd7 14.Ne4 Nxe4 15.dxe4 Bf6 16.Rad1 Rad8 17.g4 g6 18.Rd2 Bg7 19.g5 Qc8 20.Bc3 Bxh3 21.Bxh3 Qxh3 22.Nh2 Qe6 23.f4 Rd7 24.f5 gxf5 25.exf5 Qe7 26.f6 [



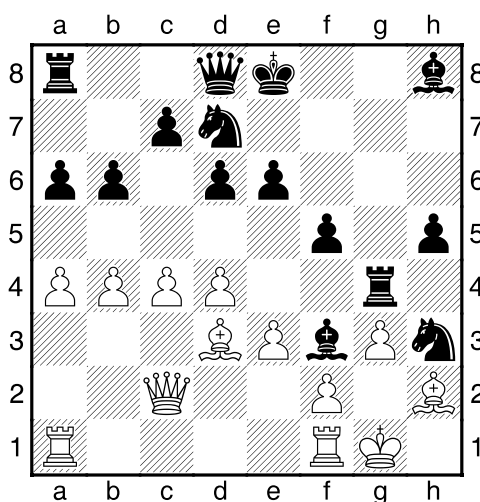
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# Law,Ken (760) - Watson,Wilfred A. (1306) [A46]

NCCC APA123 (ENG) ICCF, 24.06.2024

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4 e6 3.Nf3 g6 4.e3 a6N 5.Nbd2 d6 6.c3 Bg7 7.Be2 b6 8.0-0 Nbd7 9.Qc2 h6 10.h3 Bb7 11.b4 g5 12.Bg3 Nh5 13.Bh2 Rg8 14.Bd3 Nh6 15.Qb3 Bh8 16.a4 h5 17.Ne4 Nxe4 18.Qc2 f5 19.c4 g4 20.hxg4 Rxg4 21.g3 Ng5 22.Kg2 Bxf3+ 23.Kg1 Nh3# 0-1 [



# Watson,Wilfred A. (1306) - Nichol,John (1158) [C57]

NCCC APA123 (ENG) ICCF, 24.06.2024

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.Ng5 d5 5.exd5 Nxd5 6.Nxf7 Kxf7 7.Qf3+ Ke6 8.Nc3 Nce7?! [8...Ncb4 9.Bb3 Bc5=]

9.0-0 c6

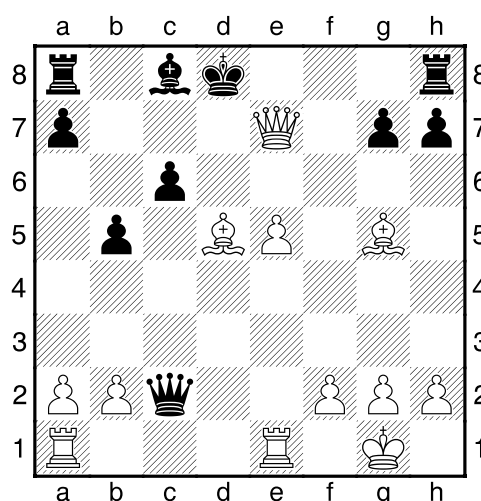
[ C57: Two Knights: Wilkes-Barre/Traxler and 4 Ng5 d5 5 exd5, unusual Black 5th moves.]

10.Re1?? [10.d4 g6 11.dxe5+-]

10...b5 11.Bb3 Qd6 12.d4 Kd7 13.dxe5 Qg6N

[Predecessor: 13...Qc5 14.Ne4 Qb6 15.Bg5 Kc7 16.Qf7 Bd7 17.Rad1 h6 18.Bh4 Be8 19.Qf3 Bg61-0 Villanueva Claramonte,R-Roig Castellanos,L Provincial-ch Gandia Segunda Valencia Gandia 2011 (1.9)]

14.Nxd5 Nxd5 15.Bxd5 Qxc2 16.Qf7+ Kd8 17.Bg5+ Be7 18.Qxe7# [



1-0



# Powell,Jonathan (1445) - Law,Ken (760) [B12]

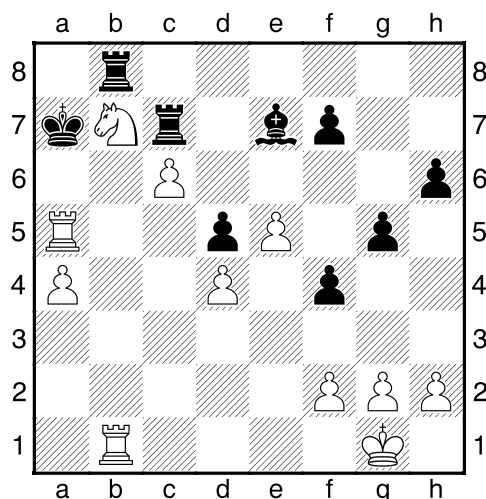
NCCC APA123 (ENG) ICCF, 24.06.2024

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.Ne2 Nc6 5.c3 Bf5 6.Ng3 [ B12: Caro-Kann: Advance Variation.]

6...e6N

[6...Bxb1 7.Rxb1 cxd4 8.cxd4 e6 9.a3 Qb6 10.Be3 Nge7 11.b4 g6 12.Bd3 h5 13.h4 Bh60-1 Kisilinsky,A (2489)-Kovalenko,I (2656) Lutsk Nebesna Sotnya Memorial blitz 2015 (14)]

7.Bb5 h6 8.Nxf5 exf5 9.Nd2 g6 10.0-0 Bg7 11.Nf3 Nge7 12.Be3 a6 13.Bxc6+ Nxc6 14.Re1 Qb6 15.Rb1 0-0-0 16.dxc5 Qa7 17.Bd4 Nxd4 18.cxd4 Rhe8 19.a3 Kb8 20.b4 g5 21.Qd3 f4 22.a4 Ka8 23.Nd2 Qb8 24.b5 a5 25.Qc3 b6 26.Nb3 Qa7 27.cxb6 Qxb6 28.Qc6+ Qxc6 29.bxc6 Rb8 30.Nxa5 Bf8 31.Nb7 Rec8 32.Rb6 Ka7 33.Reb1 Rc7 34.R6b5 Be7 35.Ra5# [

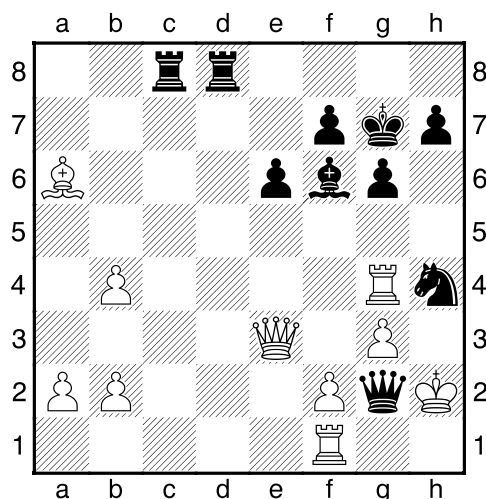


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**Nichol,John (1158) - Powell,Jonathan (1445)**  
[B55] NCCC APA123 (ENG) ICCF, 24.06.2024

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Bd3 Nbd7 6.Bg5  
6...e6 7.0-0 Be7 8.Nd2 a6 9.Bxf6N Nxf6 10.c3 Bd7 11.N2f3  
0-0 12.e5 dxe5 13.Nxe5 Qc7 14.Nef3 Rfd8 15.Qd2 Rac8  
16.Qc2 b5 17.g3 Bc6 18.Ng5 g6 19.Nxc6 Qxc6 20.Rad1 Kg7  
21.Rde1 Nd5 22.Re4 Bxg5 23.h4 Bf6 24.Qe2 b4 25.cxb4  
Ne7 26.Rg4 Nf5 27.Bxa6 Nd4 28.Qe3 Nf3+ 29.Kg2 Nxh4+  
30.Kh2 Qg2# [



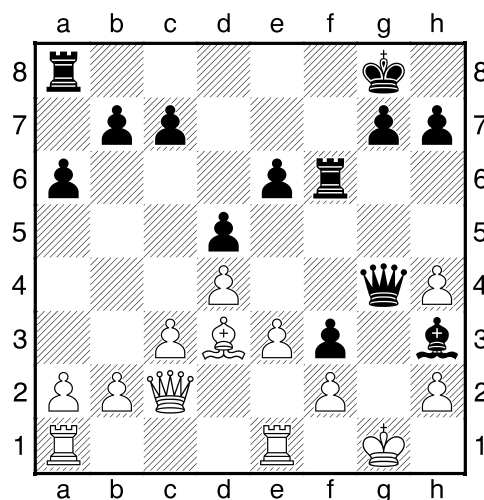
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**Law,Ken (760) - Nichol,John (1158) [D02]**  
NCCC APA123 (ENG) ICCF, 24.06.2024

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 Nf6 3.e3 a6 4.Nf3 Nc6 5.c3 Bf5 6.Nbd2 e6  
7.Be2 Be7 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nb3N [9.Qb3 Na5 10.Qa4 Nc6  
11.Bxa6 Rxa6 12.Qb5 Rb6 13.Qa4 Bd6 14.Bxd6 Qxd6  
15.b40-1 Torabi,S-Ebrahimi Besiabi,A IRI-ch U10 Chess.com  
INT 2021 (8)]

9...Nh5 10.Ne5 Nxe5 11.Bxe5 f6 12.Bxh5 fxe5 13.Be2 Bh4  
14.Nd2 Qg5 15.g3 Bh3 16.Re1 Rf6 17.Nf3 Qf5 18.Qd3 e4  
19.Qc2 exf3 20.Bd3 Qh5 21.gxh4 Qg4+ 0-1



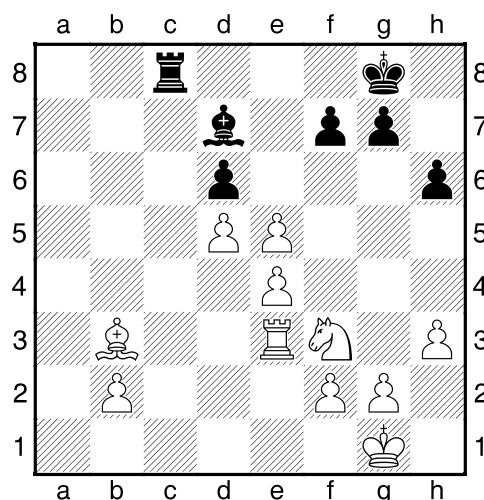
**Wakeham,Marc R. (2482) - Scarrott,Clive Ian**  
(2087) [C54]

NCCC KO173SF1 (ENG) ICCF, 14.08.2024

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3 Nf6 5.d3 a6 6.0-0 d6  
7.Nbd2 [ C54: Giuoco Piano: 4 c3 Nf6, main lines with 5 d4  
and 5 d3.]

7...Ba7 8.a4 Ne7 9.h3 h6 10.Re1 0-0 11.Nf1 Ng6 12.Bb3 c5  
13.a5 Be6N [13...Nh5 14.Bc4 Nhf4 15.Bxf4 Nxf4 16.Ne3 Be6  
17.h4 Bd7 18.g3 Ne6 19.Nd2 Nc7½-½ Ramnath,B (2352)-  
Laxman,R (2429) Mumbai Mayors Cup 6th 2013 (7)]

14.Ne3 Rc8 15.c4 b6 16.axb6 Bxb6 17.Rxa6 Ra8 18.Ra3  
Nf4 19.Rxa8 Qxa8 20.Nd5 N6xd5 21.cxd5 Bd7 22.Bxf4 Qa7  
23.Be3 c4 24.Bxc4 Bxe3 25.Rxe3 Qb7 26.Qb3 Qxb3  
27.Bxb3 Rb8 28.d4 Rc8 29.dxe5 [



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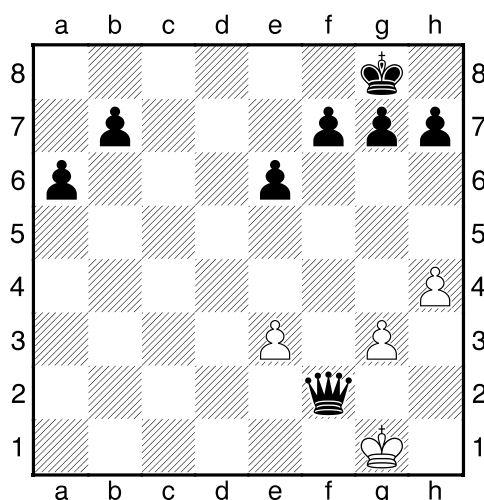
# Scarrott,Clive Ian (2087) - Wakeham,Marc R. (2482) [B22]

NCCC KO173SF1 (ENG) ICCF, 14.08.2024

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Bc4 Nb6 7.Bb3 d5 8.exd6 Qxd6 9.0-0 Be6 10.Bxe6 Qxe6 11.Nxd4 Nxd4 12.cxd4 Qd7 [ B22: Sicilian: 2 c3.]

13.a4 Rd8N [13...g6 14.a5 Nd5 15.Nc3 Bg7 16.Qb3 Nxc3 17.bxc3 0-0 18.Rb1 Qc7 19.Qxb7 Qxc3 20.Qxe7½-½ Felzer,K (2146)-Solonar,S (2307) Bad Zwesten op 3rd 1999 (9)]

14.Nc3 e6 15.Re1 Be7 16.Be3 a6 17.Qe2 0-0 18.a5 Nd5 19.Nxd5 Qxd5 20.Rec1 Rc8 21.Rxc8 Rxc8 22.Rc1 Rxc1+ 23.Bxc1 Qxd4 24.Be3 Qa4 25.Qf1 Qxa5 26.g3 Qa4 27.h4 Qc2 28.Bg5 Bc5 29.Be3 Bxe3 30.fxe3 Qxb2 31.Qf2 Qxf2+ [



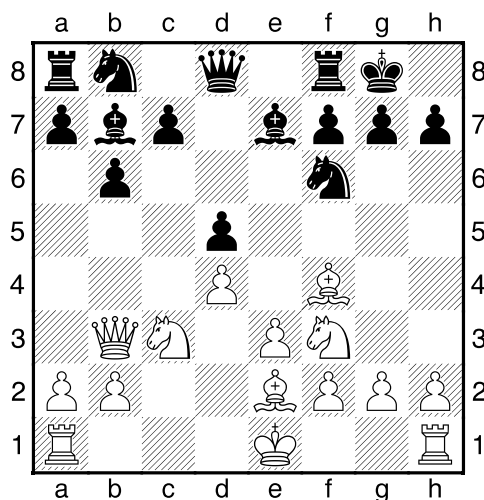
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# Gould,Iain C. (1918) - Dahlgren,Paul P. (1502) [D37]

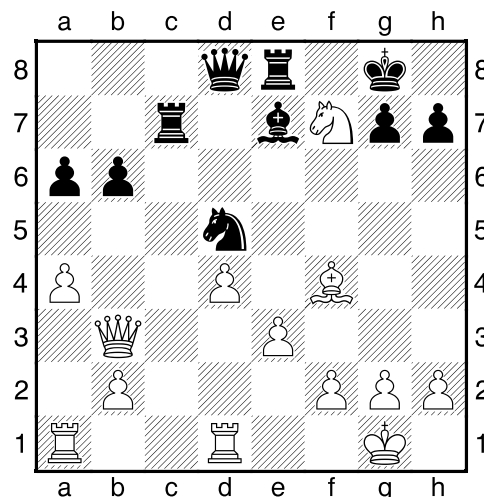
NCCC CT36253/54 (ENG) ICCF, 28.08.2024

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 e6 3.Bf4 Nf6 4.e3 Be7 5.c4 0-0 6.Nc3 b6 7.Qb3 Bb7 8.cxd5 exd5 9.Be2N [



[9.Rc1 Re8 10.Nb5 Na6 11.Rxc7 Nxc7 12.Nxc7 Rc8 13.Nxe8 Qxe8 14.Bb5 Bc6 15.Bxc6 Qxc61-0 Luoto,T-Rintanen,J FIN-ch I qual corr Finland 1972]

9...Nbd7 10.0-0 c5 11.Ne5 c4 12.Qc2 a6 13.a4 Bb4 14.Bf3 Re8 15.Nxc4 Ne4 16.Bxe4 dxe4 17.Qb3 Bf8 18.Rfd1 Be7 19.Na5 Ra7 20.Nxb7 Rxb7 21.Nxe4 Nf6 22.Nc5 Ra7 23.Nd3 Nd5 24.Ne5 Rc7 25.Nxf7 [



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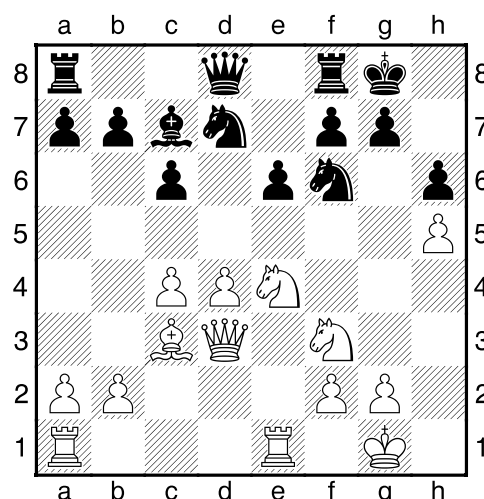


# Dahlgren,Paul P. (1502) - Gould,Iain C. (1918) [B19]

NCCC CT36253/54 (ENG) ICCF, 28.08.2024

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5 5.Ng3 Bg6 6.h4 h6 7.Nf3 Nd7 8.h5 Bh7 9.Bd3 Bxd3 10.Qxd3 Ngf6 11.Bf4 e6 12.0-0 Nd5 [ B19: Classical Caro-Kann: 4...Bf5 main line.]

13.Bd2 Bd6 14.Ne4 Bc7 15.Rfe1 0-0 16.c4 N5f6 17.Bc3N [

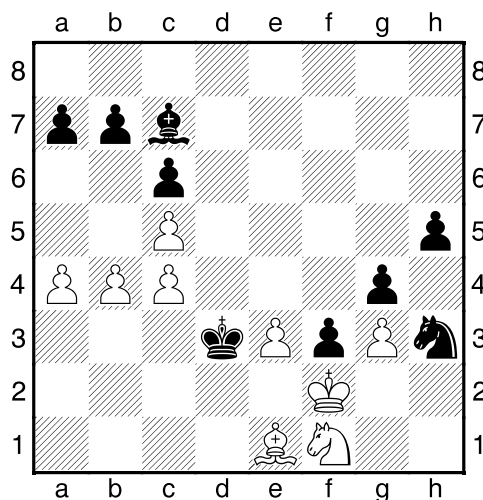


[17.Bb4 Re8 18.Nd6 Bxd6 19.Bxd6 Nxh5 20.c5 Nh6 21.Nd2 Nd5 22.a3 Qg5 23.Ne4 Qg6 24.Qb30-1 Bravos,P (1481)-Johansen,T (2264) Rethymno op 5th 2013 (2)]

17...Re8 18.Rad1 Nxh5 19.Qd2 f5 20.Nc5 Nxc5 21.dxc5 Qxd2 22.Rxd2 Rad8 23.Red1 Rxd2 24.Rxd2 Rd8 25.Nd4



Kf7 26.Nf3 Rxd2 27.Nxd2 Nf4 28.Kf1 e5 29.b4 g5 30.a4 h5  
31.g3 Ne6 32.Nf3 Kf6 33.Ke2 f4 34.Kf1 g4 35.Nd2 Kf5  
36.Kg2 e4 37.Nf1 e3 38.fxe3 f3+ 39.Kf2 Ke4 40.Be1 Kd3  
41.Nd2 Ng5 42.Nf1 Nh3# [



0-1



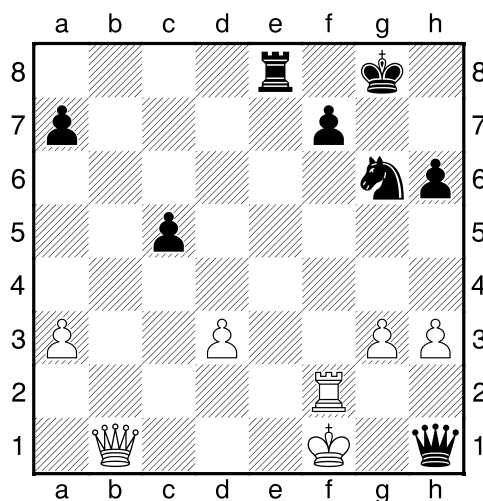
### Mill-Wilson, Graham (1088) - Beckett, Phillip J. (1761) [C24]

NCCC TMLC24 D1J (ENG) ICCF, 30.11.2024

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d3 Be7 5.a3 d6 6.h3 0-0 [ C24:  
Bishop's Opening: 2...Nf6.]

7.0-0 h6 8.Nc3 Re8 9.Be3 Bf8 10.Nh2 Be6 11.Bxe6 Rxe6  
12.Nd5 Ne7 13.Nxf6+N [13.c4 c6 14.Nxf6+ Rxf6 15.f4 exf4  
16.Bd4 Re6 17.Rxf4 d5 18.exd5 cxd5 19.c50-1 Misailovic,N  
(2323)-Sorgic,D (2220) SRB-ch Central Kragujevac 2015 (7)]

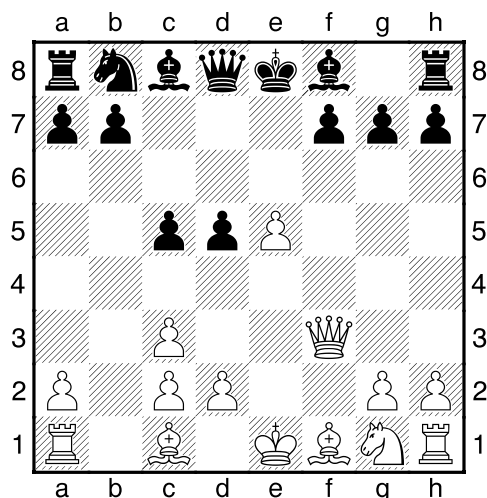
13...Rxf6 14.Ng4 Re6 15.f4 exf4 16.Bxf4 Ng6 17.Be3 Qd7  
18.Bxh6 gxh6 19.Nf6+ Rxf6 20.Rxf6 Bg7 21.Rf2 Bxb2  
22.Rb1 Bd4 23.Rb4 Bxf2+ 24.Kxf2 c5 25.Rb2 d5 26.Qb1  
dxe4 27.Rxb7 Qd4+ 28.Kf1 exd3 29.cxd3 Re8 30.g3 Qd5  
31.Rb2 Qf3+ 32.Rf2 Qh1# 0-1 [



### Cope, Jerry (1654) - Beckett, Phillip J. (1761) [C29]

NCCC TMLC24 D1A (ENG) ICCF, 30.11.2024

1.e4 e5 2.Nc3 Nf6 3.f4 d5 4.fxe5 Nxe4 5.Qf3 Nxc3 6.bxc3 c5  
[

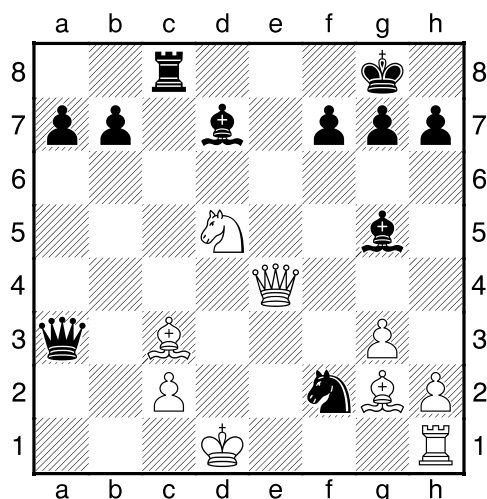


C29: Vienna Game: 2...Nf6 3 f4.]

7.d4?! [7.Bb5+ Nc6 8.Qg3=]

7...Nc6 8.Ne2 Be7 9.Nf4N [Predecessor: 9.g3 0-0 10.Bg2 Be6  
11.0-0 Qd7 12.Be3 f6 13.h3 fxe5 14.Qh5 g6 15.Qh60-1 Bos,R  
(2025)-Kouwenhoven,D (1964) Hoogetveen Unive op 20th  
2016 (6)]

9...cxd4 10.Qxd5 0-0 11.Bb2 Bg5 12.g3 Qc7 13.Nd3 Rd8  
14.Qe4 Qa5 15.Nf4 Nxe5 16.0-0-0 dxc3 17.Rxd8+ Bxd8  
18.Ba1 Bd7 19.Bg2 Rc8 20.Nd5 Qxa2 21.Bxc3 Bg5+ 22.Kd1  
Ng4 23.Nb4 Qa3 24.Nd5 Nf2+ [



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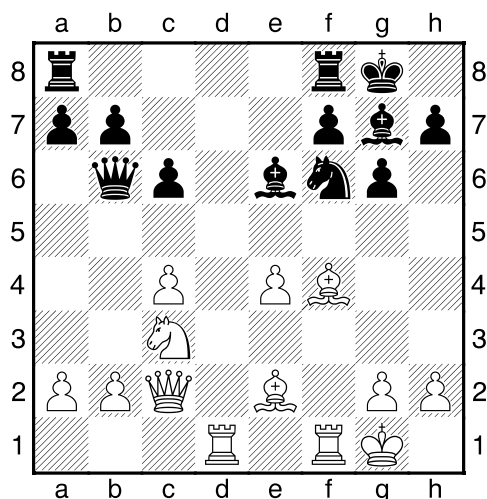


**Moore,John (1519) - Pointon,Michael (1655)****[E97]**

NCCC CT36383/84 (ENG) ICCF, 12.01.2025

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.dxe5 Nxe5 9.Nxe5 dxe5 10.Bg5 c6 11.Qc2 [ E97: King's Indian: Classical Main Line (6...e5 7 0-0 Nc6): 8 Be3 and 8 d5 Ne7, not 9 Ne1.]

11...Be6 12.Rad1 Qc7 13.f4 exf4 14.Bxf4 Qb6+N [



]

[14...Qe7 15.Bd6 Qd8 16.Bxf8 Qxf8 17.Qd2 Bxc4 18.Bxc4 Qc5+ 19.Qd4 Qh5 20.Rxf6] 1-0 Saint Esteven,D-Llugain,L URU-ch qual Interior Florida 2004 (4)]

15.Kh1 Rfd8 16.Bg5 Rxd1 17.Rxd1 Ng4 18.Bxg4 Bxg4 19.Rd2 h6 20.Bh4 Re8 21.h3 Be6 22.Na4 Qc7 23.Qd3 b6 24.Nc3 Be5 25.b3 g5 26.Bf2 g4 27.hxg4 Bxg4 28.Ne2 c5 [

½-½

**Pointon,Michael (1655) - Moore,John (1519)****[C43]**

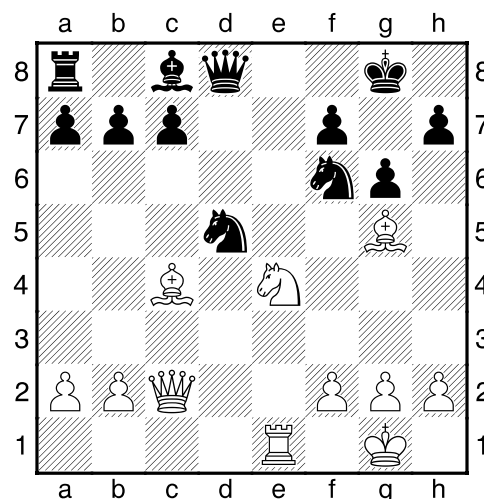
NCCC CT36383/84 (ENG) ICCF, 12.01.2025

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 Nxe4 4.Bd3 d5 5.Nxe5 Bd6 6.0-0 0-0 7.c4 Re8?! [7...c5 is becoming the main line. C43: Petroff Defence: 3 d4.]

[7...c5 8.cxd5 Nf6=]

8.cxd5+- Bxe5 9.dxe5 Rxe5 10.Qc2N [Predecessor: 10.Bxe4 Rxe4 11.Nc3 Re8 12.Bf4 a6 13.d6 cxd6 14.Qxd6 Be6 15.Qxd8 Rxd8 16.Rad1 Nc6 17.Bc7 Rxd1 18.Rxd1 h6 19.b3 Rc8 20.Bb6] 1-0 Lima,J-De Castro,R TTW-C-3-0003 corr Brazil CXEB 1993]

10...Nf6 11.Nc3 Nbd7 12.Bf4 Re8 13.Rfe1 Rxe1+ 14.Rxe1 Nb6 15.Bg5 g6 16.Ne4 Nbd5 17.Bc4 [



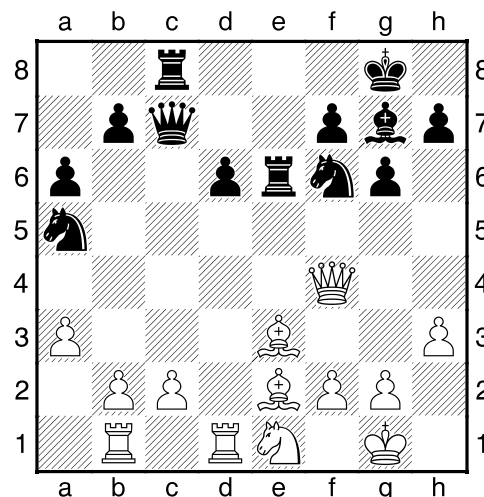
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**Broomfield,Daniel (2243) - Sherwood,Russell (2432) [B53]**

NCCC CT36385/86 (ENG) ICCF, 13.01.2025

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4 Nc6 5.Qe3 g6 6.Be2 Bg7 7.0-0 Nf6 8.h3 0-0 9.Rd1 Be6 [9...b6 is the modern continuation.]

10.Nc3 Rc8 11.a3 Qc7 12.Rb1 a6 13.Nd5 Bxd5 14.exd5 Na5 15.Ne1 Rfe8 16.Qf4 e6 17.dxe6 Rxe6 18.Be3N [



[18.Bd3 Nh5 19.Qh4 Rce8 20.Nf3 d5 21.Qg5 Rd8 22.Bf1 Bf6 23.Qd2 Nc4 24.Qd3½-½ Perevertkin,V (2607)-Robson,N (2611) W-ch31 final email ICCF email 2019]

18...Rce8 19.c3 Ne4 20.Bd3 Be5 21.Qg4 h5 22.Qe2 d5 23.Nc2 Nc4 24.Bxe4 dxe4 25.Bd4 Bxd4 26.Rxd4 e3 27.Nxe3 Nxe3 28.fxe3 Rxe3 29.Qc4 Qxc4 30.Rxc4 R8e7 31.Kf1 R3e5 32.Rf4 g5 33.Rf2 Kg7

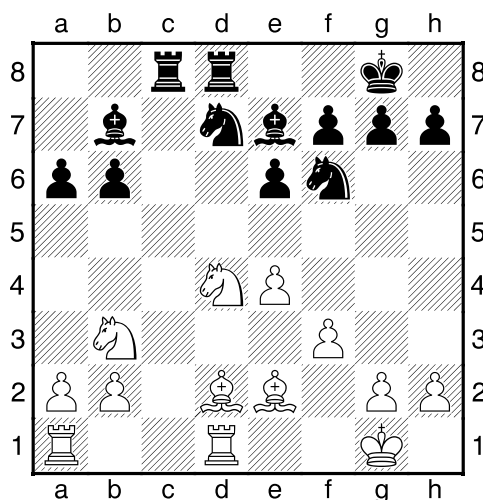
½-½



# Sherwood,Russell (2432) - Broomfield,Daniel (2243) [D27]

NCCC CT36385/86 (ENG) ICCF, 13.01.2025

1.d4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.c4 dxc4 4.e3 e6 5.Bxc4 c5 6.0-0 a6 7.dxc5 Qxd1 8.Rxd1 Bxc5 9.Be2 Nbd7 10.Nbd2 b6 11.Nb3 Be7 12.Bd2 Bb7 13.Nfd4 0-0 14.f3 Rac8 15.e4 Rfd8N [



[15...Rc7 16.Bf4 Rcc8 17.Be3 Ne5 18.Rac1 Rxc1 19.Rxc1 Rc8 20.Rxc8+ Bxc8 21.Nd2 Bb71-0 Savchenko,S (2512)-Ivanov,J (2350) Metz op 23rd 2005 (4)]

16.Rac1 Nc5 17.Rc4 b5 18.Rcc1 Na4 19.Na5 Rxc1 20.Bxc1 Bc5 21.Be3 Ba8 22.Rc1 e5 23.Nf5 Bxe3+ 24.Nxe3 Nxb2 25.Rc7

½-½

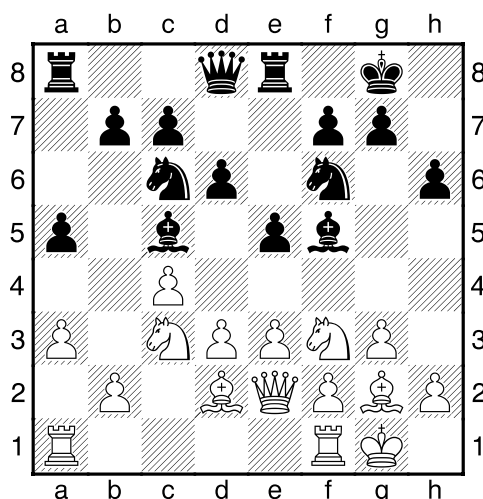


# Dunks,Peter (1704) - Elwood,David (1937) [A28]

NCCC CT36389/90 (ENG) ICCF, 28.01.2025

1.c4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d3 h6 5.g3 Bb4 6.Bd2 [ A28: English Opening: Four Knights Variation.]

6...a5 7.Bg2 d6 8.a3 Bc5 9.0-0 0-0 10.e3 Bf5 11.Qe2 Re8N [



[11...Qd7 12.Rfel Be6 13.Rad1 a4 14.Bc1 Bg4 15.Qc2 Qf50-1 Miquel,I (1504)-Correa de Almeida,C (1594) SD-2017-0-00283 LSS email]

12.e4 Bg4 13.Be3 Nd4 14.Bxd4 Bxd4 15.Qc2 Bxc3 16.Qxc3 Qd7 17.b4 b6 18.Nd2 axb4 19.axb4 Bh3 20.Nb3 c5 21.bxc5 Rxa1 22.Rxa1 Bxg2 23.Kxg2 dxc5 24.Nd2 Rd8 25.Ra3 Qd4 26.Qxd4 exd4 27.h3 Rb8

½-½



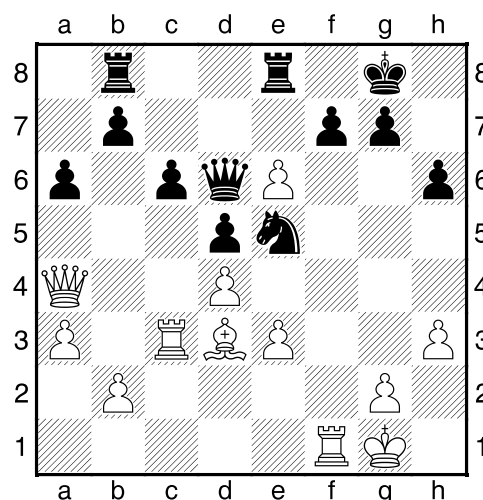
# Elwood,David (1937) - Dunks,Peter (1704) [D38]

NCCC CT36389/90 (ENG) ICCF, 28.01.2025

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.d4 e6 3.c4 d5 4.Nc3 Bb4 5.Bg5 0-0 6.e3 h6 7.Bxf6 Qxf6 8.Rc1 Nd7 9.cxd5 exd5 10.a3 Bxc3+ 11.Rxc3 c6 12.Bd3 [ D38: Queen's Gambit Declined: Ragozin Defence (4 Nf3 Bb4).]

12...Nb6 13.Ne5 Nd7 14.Nf3 Re8 15.0-0 Qd6 16.h3N [16.b4 a6 17.Qe2 Nf6 18.Ne5 Be6 19.Rb1½-½ Dmitrenko,V (2362)-Susterman,L (2312) Tiraspol Lutikov Memorial 2008 (6)]

16...Nf6 17.Qb3 Rb8 18.Ne5 Be6 19.Qa4 a6 20.f4 Nd7 21.f5 Nxe5 22.fxe6 [



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# Dunks,Peter (1704) - Kirk,Matthew (1746) [D48]

NCCC CT36397/98 (ENG) ICCF, 30.01.2025

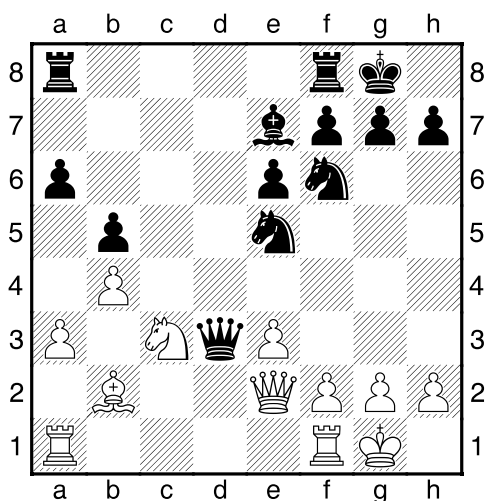
1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.e3 Nf6 4.Nc3 c6 5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5 8.Bd3 Bb7 9.0-0 a6 10.a3 c5 11.dxc5 Bxc5 12.b4 Be7 13.Bb2 0-0 14.Qe2 [ D48: Semi-Slav: Meran System: 7..b5 8 Bd3 a6.]

14...Bxf3 15.Qxf3N [15.gxf3 Ne5 16.Rad1=; Predecessor: 15.gxf3 Ne5 16.Rfd1 Qc7 17.Rac1 Nxd3 18.Qxd3 Qb7 19.Ne4 Rfd8 20.Qb1 Nxe4 21.Qxe4 Qxe4 22.fxe4 Rxd1+ 23.Rxd1½-½ Giryra,O (2398)-Shuvalova,P (2492) RUS-ch Rapid (Women) Sochi 2022 (7)]

15...Ne5!-+ 16.Qe2 Qxd3 [

]





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**Kirk, Matthew (1746) - Dunks, Peter (1704)**

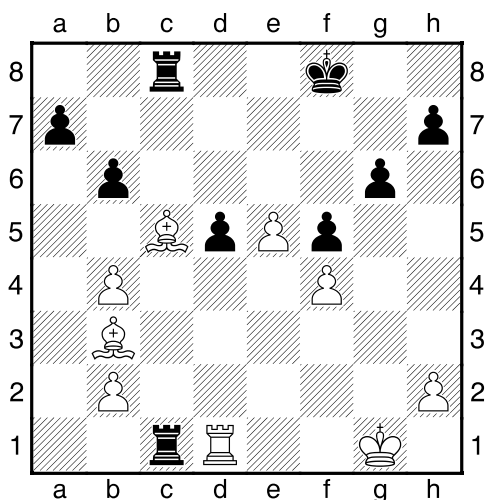
**[C43]**

NCCC CT36397/98 (ENG) ICCF, 30.01.2025

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.d4 Nxe4 4.Bd3 d5 5.Nxe5 Bd6 6.0-0 0-0  
7.c4 Bxe5 8.dxe5 Nc6 9.cxd5 Qxd5 10.Qc2 Nb4 11.Bxe4  
Nxc2 12.Bxd5 Bf5! 13.g4 Bxg4 14.Be4 Nxa1 15.Bf4 Bh3 [C43: Petroff Defence: 3 d4.]

16.Rc1 c6 17.Nc3N [Predecessor: 17.Na3 Rae8 18.Rxa1 g5  
19.Be3 Rxe5 20.Bc2 Rfe8 21.Nc4 R5e6 22.Bb3 h6 23.Rd11-0  
Hinzmann,M-Diehle,J GER-ch U15 Girls Bensheim 1997 (6)]

17...Nb3 18.axb3 Be6 19.Bc2 Rad8 20.Be3 b6 21.Ra1 Rd7  
22.f4 f5 23.b4 Rfd8 24.Ne2 g6 25.Ba4 Bd5 26.Nc3 Rc7  
27.Nxd5 cxd5 28.Bb3 Kf8 29.Bf2 Rdc8 30.Rd1 Rc1  
31.Bc5+ [



1-0

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## FEATURE ARTICLE

# C42Trends in Correspondence Chess

THE PETROFF DEFENCE is a popular reply to the Kings Pawn opening e4, it arises after 1. E4 e5, 2. Nf3 Nf6. The Petroff is a solid and active opening for Black. Often what arises is a black knight anchored on e4, which offers chances for an attack on the king.

AUTHOR MICHAEL BLAKE

Petrov's Defence (also known as Petroff Defence, Russian Defence, or Russian Game) is a chess opening defined by the moves: 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nf6. Named after Russian chess master Alexander Petrov, who popularised it in the mid-19th century, it is also called the Russian Game in some regions due to Petrov's and Carl Jaenisch's early analyses.

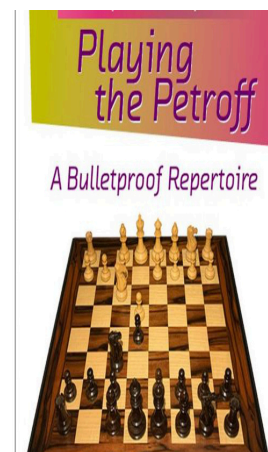
Known for its drawish tendencies, Petrov's Defense still provides attacking chances for both sides, with some sharp lines. It often leads to an early trade, allowing Black to gain a tempo and place a knight effectively, as seen in Harry Pillsbury's 1895 game against Emanuel Lasker. Black's central counterattack sidesteps openings like the Ruy Lopez, Giuoco Piano, Italian Game, and Scotch Game.

The opening has been favoured by top players, including world champions Vasily Smyslov, Tigran Petrosian, Anatoly Karpov, Vladimir Kramnik, and grand-master Fabiano Caruana.

White's primary third-move options are 3. Nxe5 (Classical Variation) and 3. d4 (Steinitz Variation). The former is more common, but both often result in similar positions, with no definitive reason to favor one over the other. Other moves include 3. Nc3, which may transpose to the Four Knights Game, 3. Bc4, leading to the Boden-Kieseritzky Gambit or Two Knights Defense, and the rare 3. d3 (French Attack).

Looking through the ICCF database from 2023, there are many thousands of Petroff games with the statistics showing White scoring 14%, Black a little over 12% and almost 74% of games scored as draws.

A little uninspiring but perhaps within these games we may find a way for the player with Black to surprise an opponent. Two players stand out as successfully using the Petroff in recent times, they are German Schneider and Günter Schulz. We will take a look at some of their recent games and how they handle the C42 line of the Petroff Defence successfully.



## Corbat,Philippe (2421) - Schneider,German (2468) [C42]

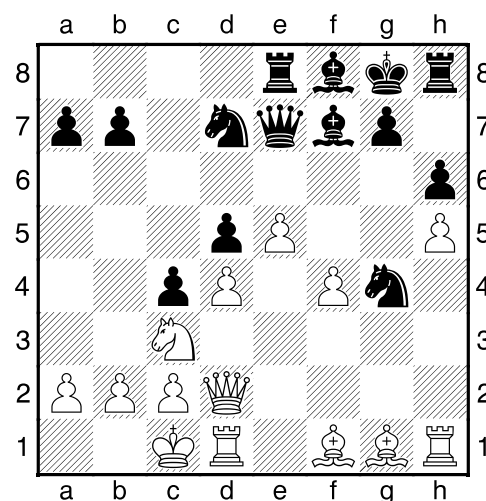
WSTT/5/22/S 1 ICCF, 01.03.2024

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nxf7 Kxf7 5.Nc3 Be6 6.d4 [ C42: Petroff Defence: 3 Nxe5 and unusual White 3rd moves.]

6...Kg8 7.h4 Nbd7 8.f3 [Black is better.]

8...h6 9.h5 Qe7N [Predecessor: 9...Bf7 10.g4 c5 11.d5 Ne5 12.a4 g5 13.hxg6 Nxg6 14.Qe2 Bg7 15.Ra3 Qe7½-½ Corbat,P (2421)-Steffani,F WS TT/5/22/4 email ICCF email 2022]

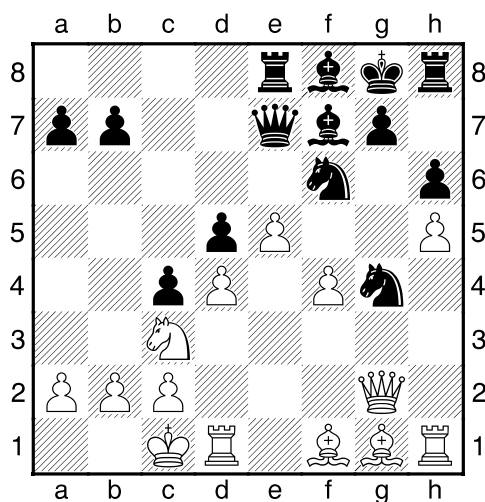
10.Be3 Bf7 11.g4 Re8 12.Qd2 d5 13.e5 c5 14.f4 Nxg4 15.Bg1 c4 16.0-0-0 [



16...Nd6! 17.Qg2 [

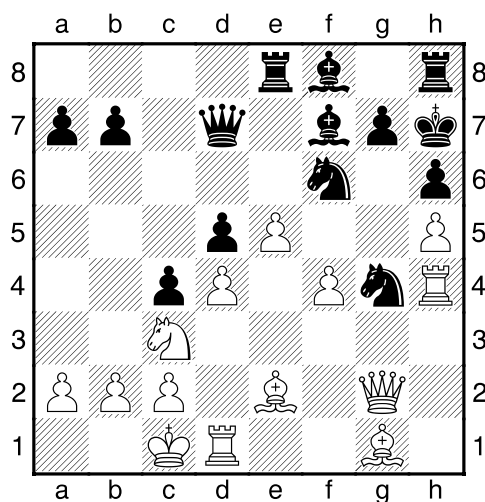
## FEATURE ARTICLE

# C42 Trends in Correspondence Chess



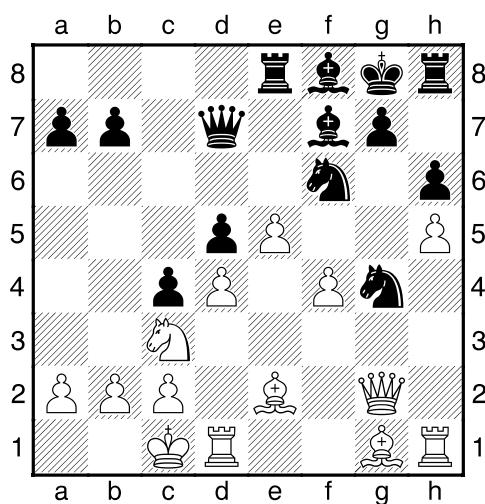
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17...Qd7! 18.Be2 [



]

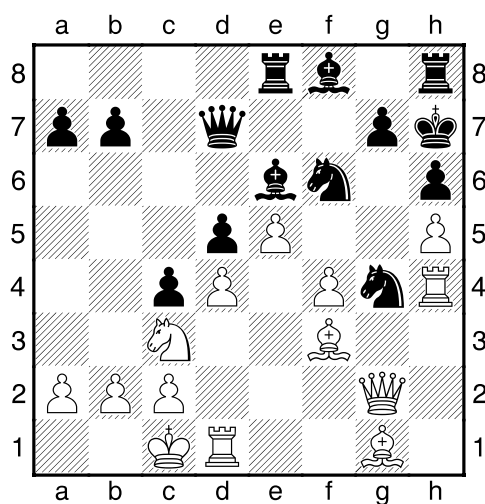
19...Be6 20.Bf3 [



]

[18.Rh4 Bb4]

18...Kh7! 19.Rh4 [



]

[20.exf6 Nxf6]

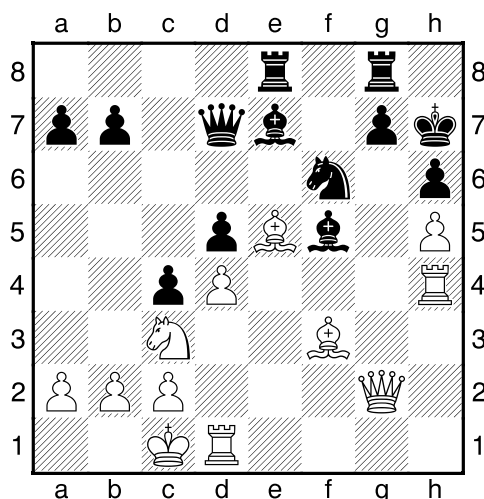
20...Rg8! 21.exf6 [21.f5 Bxf5]

21...Nxf6 22.f5 Bxf5 [ Successful Defence Black]

23.Bh2 [ But not 23.Nxd5 Nxd5 24.Bxd5 Be7

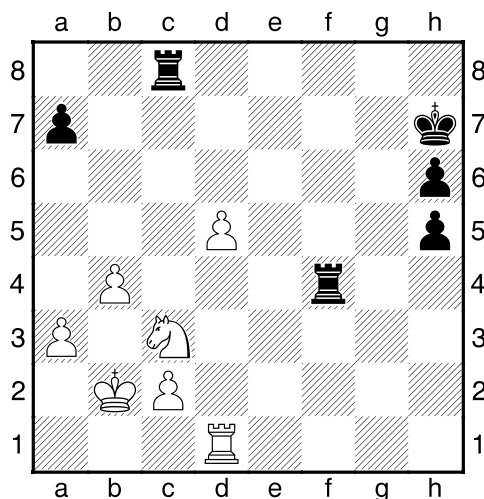
23...Be7 24.Be5 [



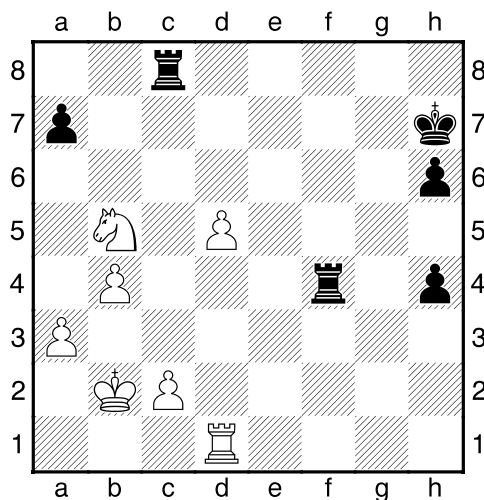


24...Ne4! 25.Rxe4 dxe4 26.Nxe4 g6 27.Qh1 Bg4 28.Nc5 Qf5 29.Bxg4 Qxg4 30.Qxb7 gxh5 31.b4 c3 32.Ne4 Rg6 33.Nxc3 Qc8! 34.Qxc8 Rxc8 35.Kb2 Bf6 36.Bxf6 Rxf6 [ KRR-KRN]

37.d5 Rf4 38.a3 [



38...h4! 39.Nb5 [



39...Rf2! 40.Nd4 h3 [ Hoping for ...h2. Black is more active.]

41.d6 [ And now d7 would win.]

[ Beautiful play by Schneider!

41...Rf6

0-1



**Poelvoorde,Hugo (2348) - Schneider,German (2468) [C42]**

WSTT/5/22/S 1 ICCF, 01.03.2024

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nxf7 Kxf7 5.Nc3 Be6 6.d4 [ C42: Petroff Defence: 3 Nxe5 and unusual White 3rd moves.]

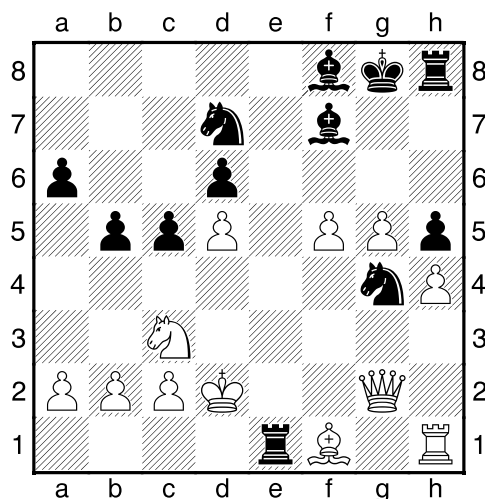
6...Kg8 7.h4 Nbd7 8.f3 [Black is better.]

8...h6 9.Qe2N [Predecessor: 9.h5 Bf7 10.g4 c5 11.d5 Ne5 12.a4 g5 13.hxg6 Nxg6 14.Qe2 Bg7 15.Ra3½-½ Corbat,P (2421)-Steffani,F WS TT/5/22/4 email ICCF email 2022]

9...c5 10.d5 Bf7 11.g4 g6 12.Bd2 a6 13.f4 Qe7 14.0-0 b5 15.Re1 Re8 16.Qg2 h5 [16...b4? 17.Nd1 Nxe4 18.Bc4-+]

17.g5 Ng4 18.f5 gxf5 19.exf5 Qxe1+ 20.Bxe1 Rxe1+ [ Black attacks]

21.Kd2 [



21...Re5 [ The board is on fire. Black has more active pieces.]

22.Be2 Rxf5 23.Rf1 Rxf1 24.Qxf1 Nde5 25.Qf5 Bg6 26.Qe6+ Kg7 [ Strongly threatening ...b4.]

27.a4 b4 28.Nd1 [ An entertaining game by Schneider. Weighted Error Value: White=0.08 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless) ]

28...a5

0-1

**(113819) Aymard, Michel (2042) - Schneider, German (2468) [C42]**

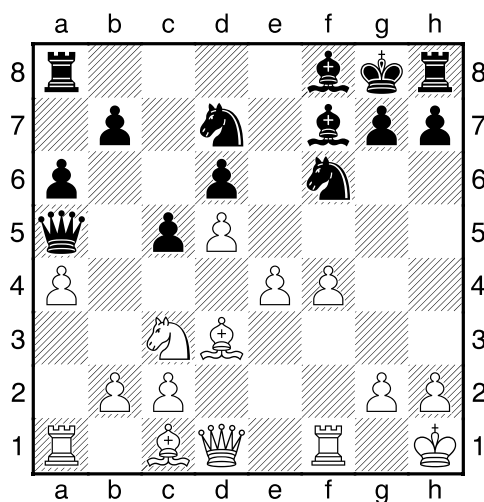
WSTT/5/22/S 1 ICCF, 01.03.2024

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nxf7 Kxf7 5.Nc3 Be6 6.d4 [C42: Petroff Defence: 3 Nxe5 and unusual White 3rd moves.]

6...Kg8 7.Bd3 c5 8.d5 [Black is better.]

8...Bf7 9.0-0 Nbd7 10.a4 a6 11.f4N [Predecessor: 11.b3 Qc7 12.f4 Re8 13.Qf3 h5 14.Nd1 g6 15.Bb2 Bg7 16.Nf2 Qa5 17.Rab1½-½ Moreira,J (2150)-Dimitrov,G (2121) FICGS class A 000237 email FICGS email 2020 (1)]

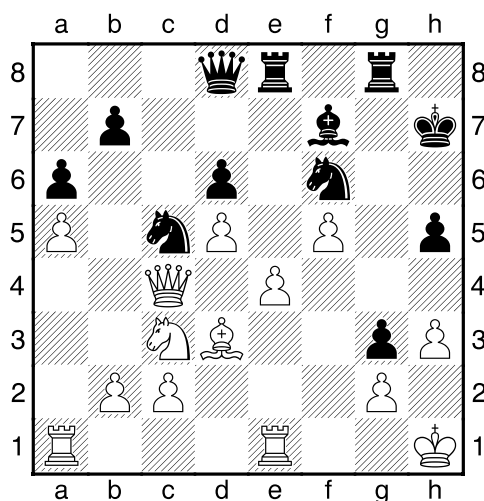
11...Qa5 12.Kh1 [



12...c4! 13.Be2 [13.Bxc4 b5]

13...Re8 14.Bd2 Qc7 15.Bf3 Nc5 16.Re1 Bg6 17.f5 Bf7 18.Bg5 h5 19.a5 Be7 20.Bf4 Nfd7 21.Qd4 Bf6 22.Qxc4 g5 23.Be3 g4 24.Bd1 Kh7 25.Bd4 Rhg8 26.Be2 Qd8 27.Bxf6 Nxf6 [27...Qxf6 28.Rad1 ♣]

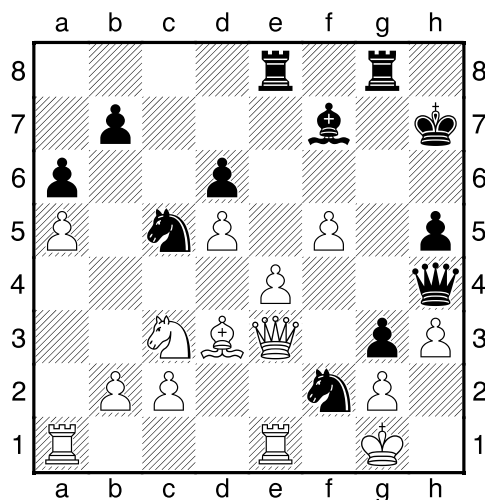
28.Bd3 g3 29.h3 [



29...Ng4! 30.Qd4 [30.Kg1 Nf2]

30...Qh4 31.Kg1 Nf2 [Excellent horsemanship.]

32.Qe3 [



]

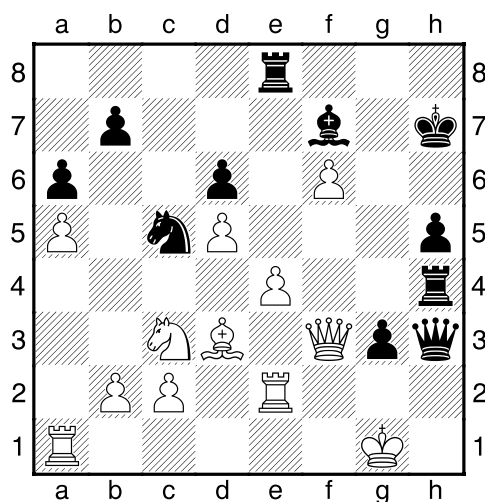
32...Rg4! [Back Rank]

33.Re2 [33.Qd2 Rf4]

33...Nxh3+ [Demolition]

34.gxh3 Qxh3 35.f6 Rh4 [35...Bg6 36.Rg2=]

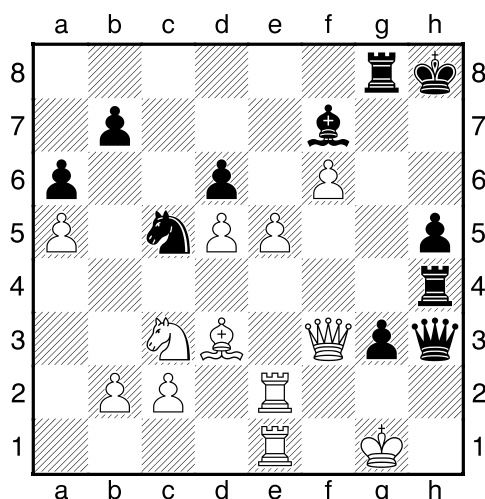
36.Qf3 [



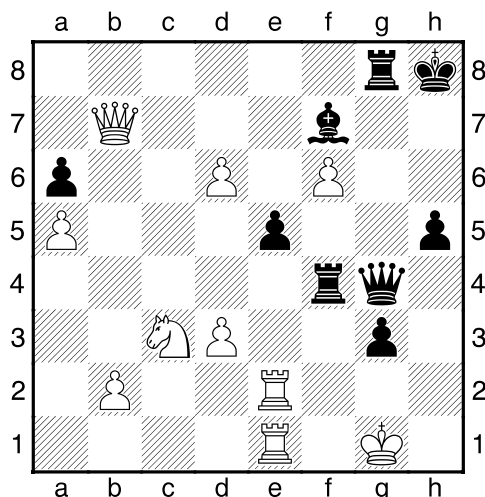
Wards off Qh1+]

36...Kh8! 37.Rae1 Rg8 38.e5 [

]

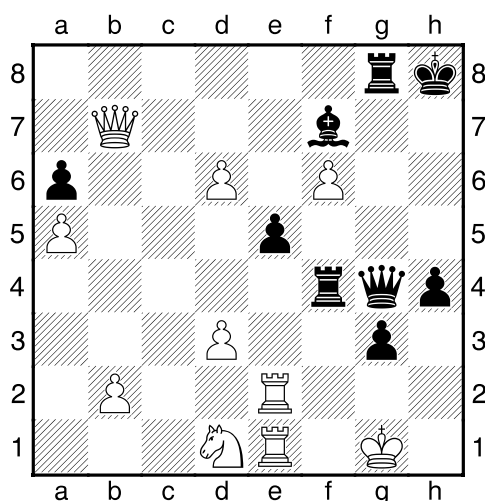


38...Nxd3 39.cxd3 dxe5 40.d6 Rf4 41.Qg2 Qh4 42.Qh1 Qg4 43.Qxb7 [



[⚡43.Nd1 g2 (43...Rxf6? 44.Ne3+-) 44.Rxg2]

43...h4!+- 44.Nd1 [



[44.d7 h3]

44...h3! 45.Ne3 [ Against g2]

45...Qh5 46.Qxf7 Qxf7

0-1



**Chan,Mark (2276) - Schneider,German (2468)**

**[C42]**

WSTT/5/22/S 1 ICCF, 01.03.2024

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nxf7 Kxf7 5.Nc3 Be6 6.d4 [ C42: Petroff Defence: 3 Nxe5 and unusual White 3rd moves.]

6...Kg8 7.Bd3 c5 8.d5 [8.dxc5 ♣ Nc6 (8...dxc5 9.e5±) 9.cxd6]

8...Bf7+- 9.0-0 Nbd7 10.a4 a6 11.b3 h5N [Predecessor: 11.. .Qc7 12.f4 Re8 13.Qf3 h5 14.Nd1 g6 15.Bb2 Bg7 16.Nf2 Qa5 17.Rab1 Ng4 18.Bxg7 Kxg7½-½ Moreira,J (2150)-Dimitrov, G (2121) FICGS class A 000237 email FICGS email 2020 (1)]

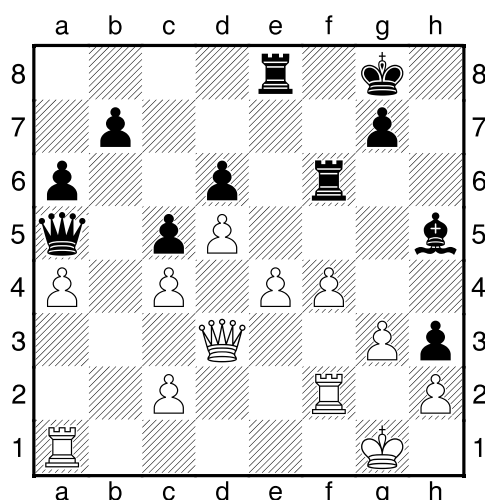
12.Qd2 h4 13.Bb2 Qa5 14.Rae1 Re8 15.f4 h3 16.g3 Be7 17.Bc4 Bd8 18.Qd3 Bg6 19.Qd1 Nb6 [19...Nxe4 20.Qg4 Nxc3 21.Qxg6 (21.Qxd7 Rf8♣) 21...Rxe1 22.Rxe1±; 19...Bxe4 20.Nxe4 Nxe4 (20...Rxe4 21.Rxe4 Nxe4 22.Qe2=) 21.Qf3=]

20.Ba1 Nxc4 [20...Nxe4 21.Nxe4 Nxc4 (21...Rxe4? 22.Rxe4 Nxc4 23.Qg4+-; 21...Bxe4? 22.Qg4+-) 22.Qg4=]

21.bxc4 Qc7 [21...Nxe4 22.Nxe4 Bxe4 (22...Rxe4? 23.Rxe4 Bh5 24.g4+-) 23.Qg4±]

22.Bb2 Rh6 [22...Nxe4 23.Qd3 Bf6 24.Nxe4 Bxb2 25.Ng5 Rxe1 (25...Bxd3 26.Rxe8♣) 26.Rxe1; Inferior is 22...Bxe4 23.Nxe4 Nxe4 (23...Rxe4? perishes. 24.Bxf6 Rxe1 25.Rxe1+-) 24.Qd3=]

23.Qf3 Bh5 24.Qd3 Ng4 25.Nd1 Bf6 26.Bxf6 Rxf6 27.Nf2 Nxf2 28.Rxf2 Qa5 29.Ra1 [

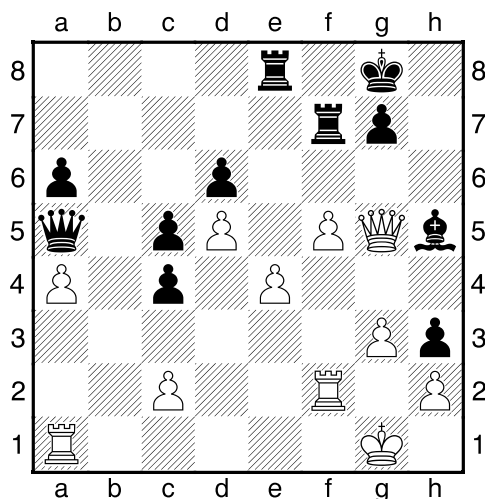


29...b5! 30.f5 30...bxc4 [ Much less strong is 30...bxa4 31.Rf4+-]

]



31.Qe3 Rf7 32.Qg5 [



32...Rxe4! 33.Qxh5 Re1+ 34.Rxe1 Qxe1+ 35.Rf1 Qe3+

0-1



**Tanti,Joe G. (2344) - Schneider,German (2468)**  
[C42]

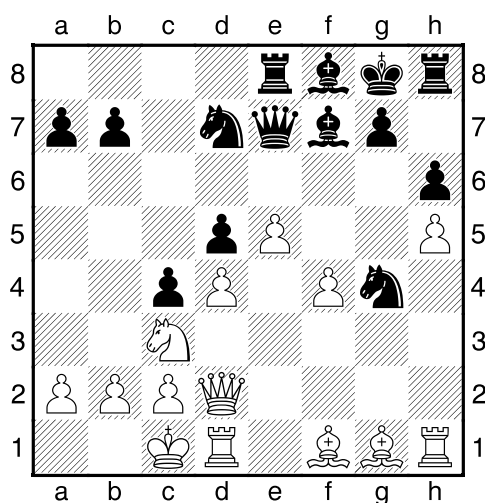
WSTT/5/22/S 1 ICCF, 01.03.2024

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nxf7 Kxf7 5.Nc3 Be6 6.d4 [C42: Petroff Defence: 3 Nxe5 and unusual White 3rd moves.]

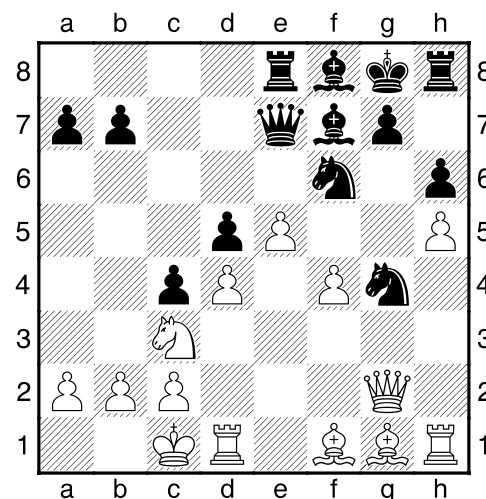
6...Kg8 7.h4 Nbd7 8.f3 [Black is better.]

8...h6 9.h5 Qe7N [Predecessor: 9...Bf7 10.g4 c5 11.d5 Ne5 12.a4 g5 13.hxg6 Nxg6 14.Qe2 Bg7 15.Ra3 Qe7½-½ Corbat, P (2421)-Steffani,F WS TT/5/22/4 email ICCF email 2022]

10.Be3 Bf7 11.g4 Re8 12.Qd2 d5 13.e5 c5 14.f4 Nxg4 15.Bg1 c4 16.0-0-0 [

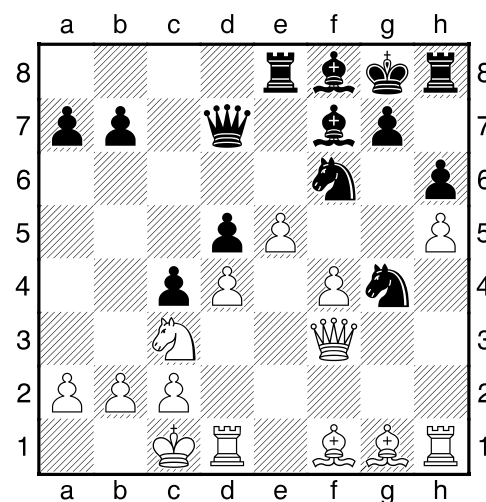


16...Ndf6! 17.Qg2 [



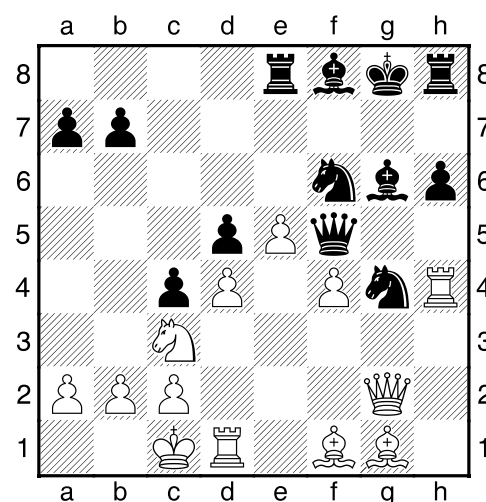
17...Qd7! [ White must now prevent ...b5!..]

18.Qf3 [



18...Qf5! 19.Rh4 g5 20.hxg6 [20.Rh1-+]

20...Bxg6+ 21.Qg2 [



21...h5! 22.exf6 Nxf6 23.Qh2 Ng4 24.Bh3 [ Hoping for Bxg4.]

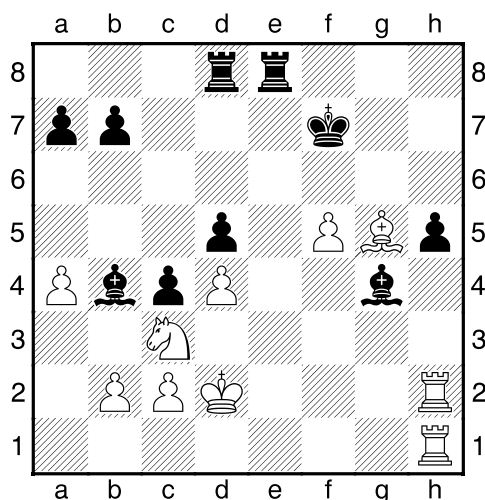
24...Rh6 [ Black is much more active.]

25.Kb1 Nxb2 26.Bxf5 Bxf5 27.Rxb2 Bg4 28.Rf1 Rd6 29.Bf2 Bg7 30.Rg1 Rf8 31.Kc1 Kf7 [31...Rxf4 32.Bg3 Rff6 (32.. .Bh6 33.Kb1±) 33.Bxd6 Rxd6 34.Re1♣]

32.a4 Bh6 [ This pair of bishops is nice.]

33.Be3 Re8 34.Kd2 Bf8 35.Rgh1 Rdd8 36.f5 Bb4 [36...Bxf5 37.Rxb5 Bg6 38.Rg5± (38.Rxd5 Rxd5 39.Nxd5 Bd6±) ]

37.Bg5 [

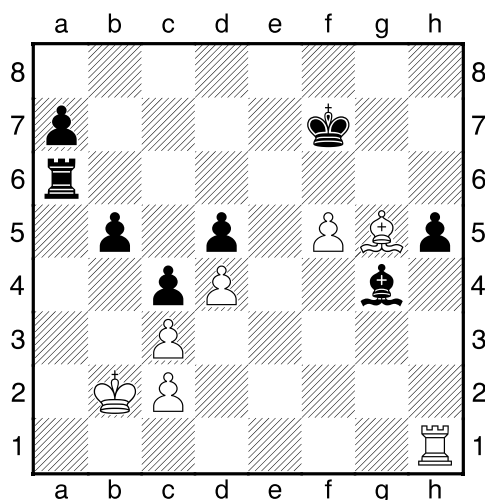


37...Rd6 38.Rf2 Ra6 39.Kc1 Bxc3 40.bxc3 Rxa4 41.Kb2 [ Against Ra1]

41...Re4 42.Rff1 Ra6 43.Rf2 b5 44.Bd8 Re3 45.Bg5 Rf3 46.Rxf3 [46.Re2 was worth a try. 46...Rxf5 (46...Bxf5 47.Re7+ Kg6 48.Rg1♣) 47.Re7+ Kg6 48.Bh4]

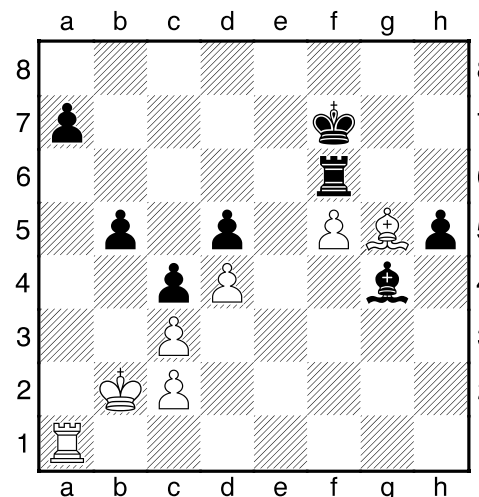
46...Bxf3→ [Endgame KRB-KRB. Black is a pawn up.]

47.Rh3 Bg4 48.Rh1 [



]

48...Rf6! 49.Ra1 [



]

[49.Bxf6 Kxf6 50.Rf1 Bxf5♣; 49.Bh4 Rxf5]

49...a6 50.Ka3 [50.Bxf6 Kxf6 51.Rxa6+ Kxf5♣; 50.Re1 Rxf5]

50...Rxf5 51.Bd8 Ke8 52.Bh4 a5 53.Rb1 Rf3 54.Rxb5 Rxc3+ 55.Kb2 Rh3 56.Bf6 Kf7 57.Bd8 Bf3 58.Rxa5 Be4 59.Bc7 Rf3 [Black is clearly winning.]

60.c3 Rf2+ 61.Ka3 Rc2 [61...h4? 62.Ra7 Kg6 63.Ra8→]

62.Kb4 Rb2+ [62...h4? 63.Ra6→]

63.Kc5 Rb3 64.Ra7 Kg6 [64...Rxc3? is the wrong capture. 65.Ba5+ Kf6 66.Bxc3→]

65.Ba5 [ A cool game by Schneider. Weighted Error Value: White=0.10 (very precise) /Black=0.01 (flawless) ]

65...h4

0-1



Salzmann,Stefan (2406) - Schulz,Günter (2467)  
[C42]

WSTT/5/22/S 2 ICCF, 01.03.2024

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nxf7 Kxf7 5.Nc3 Be6 6.d4 [ C42: Petroff Defence: 3 Nxe5 and unusual White 3rd moves.]

6...Kg8 7.Bd3 c5 8.dxc5 Nc6 [8...dxc5 9.e5 Nfd7 10.Qg4=]

9.cxd6 Qxd6 [9...Bxd6 10.h3♣]

10.h3 Rd8 11.0-0 h5 12.Be3 Ne5 13.Bf4 h4 14.Be2 [ Against Nh5. And now Bxe5 would win.]

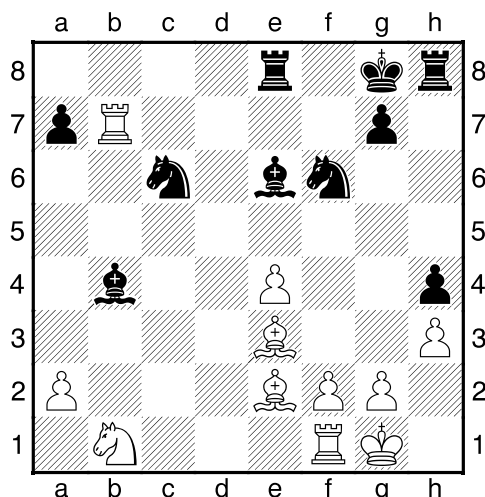
14...Qb6 15.Qe1 Nc6 [ Excellent horsemanship. Black has space advantage and is better]

16.Bg5 Re8 [16...Qxb2?! 17.Rb1 Qxc2 18.Rxb7=]

**17.Be3N** [Predecessor: 17.Kh1 Qxb2 18.Rb1 Qxc2 19.Bb5 Bf7 20.Ba4 Qd3 21.Bxf6 gxf6 22.Rxb7 Re7 23.Rb10-1 Tanti, J (2332)-Schulz,G (2435) WS TT/5/22/2 email ICCF email 2022]

**17...Qxb2 18.Rb1 Qxc2 19.Rxb7 Bb4** [19...Nxe4 20.Nxe4 Qxe4 21.Bf3; 19...Bxa2 20.Qa1 (20.Bxa7 Nxe4 21.Bf3 Qxc3 ♞; 20.Bd1 Qd3+-) 20...Bb4 21.Qxa2+ Qxa2 22.Nxa2+-]

**20.Qb1 Qxb1 21.Nxb1** [



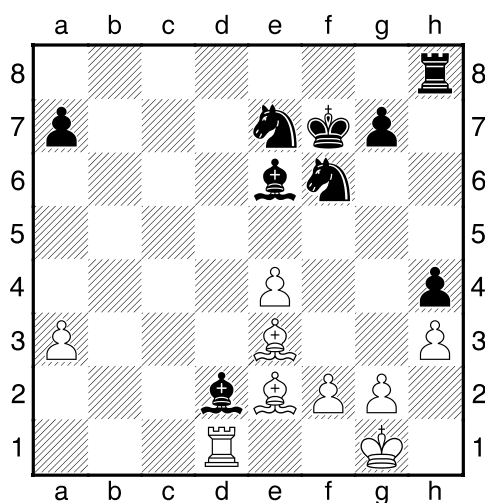
]

**21...Re7! [21...Bxa2 22.Rc1 Rb8 (22...Rxe4 23.Rxc6 Bd5 24.Rc8+ Kh7 25.Rxh8+ Kxh8 26.Rxa7±) 23.Rc7♞]**

**22.Rxe7 Nxe7 [22...Bxe7 23.Rc1 Ne5 (23...Bxa2 24.Rxc6 Bxb1 25.e5=) 24.f4]**

**23.Rd1 Kf7 [23...Nxe4 24.Rd8+ Kh7 25.Rd4=]**

**24.a3 Ba5 25.Nd2 Bxd2** [



Remove Defender]

**26.Rxd2 Nxe4 27.Rc2 a5 28.Bf3 Bd5 29.Rc7 Rb8 30.Bxe4!** ]

**Bxe4 31.Bg5! Rb7 [31...Rb1+? 32.Kh2 Rb7 33.Rc4+-]**

**32.Rc5 a4 33.Bxe7! Rxe7♞ [Endgame KRB-KR]**

[33...Kxe7? is the wrong capture. 34.Re5+ Kf8 35.Rxe4+-; Reject 33...Rb1+?! 34.Kh2♞]

**34.Rc4 Kg6 35.Rxa4 Kg5 36.Rb4 Bf5 37.a4 Ra7 38.Rc4 Ra5 39.Rd4 g6 40.Rc4 Kh5 41.Rb4 Bd7 42.Kh2 Rxa4 [42..Bxa4? 43.Rb8+-]**

**43.Rb3 Kg5 44.Rd3 Bf5 45.Re3 Ra2 46.Kg1 Ra1+ 47.Kh2 Rf1 48.Re2 Rc1** [Threatens to win with ...Rc2.]

[ White happily takes the draw. Weighted Error Value: White=0.02 (flawless) /Black=0.03 (flawless) ]

**49.Re5**

½-½



**Schmitt,Dariusz (2380) - Schulz,Günter (2467) [C42]**

WSTT/5/22/S 2 ICCF, 01.03.2024

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nxf7 Kxf7 5.Nc3 Be6 6.d4** [C42: Petroff Defence: 3 Nxe5 and unusual White 3rd moves.]

**6...Kg8 7.Bd3 c5 8.dxc5** [Black is better.]

**8...Nc6 [8...dxc5 9.e5 Be7 10.exf6 Bxf6 11.0-0+-]**

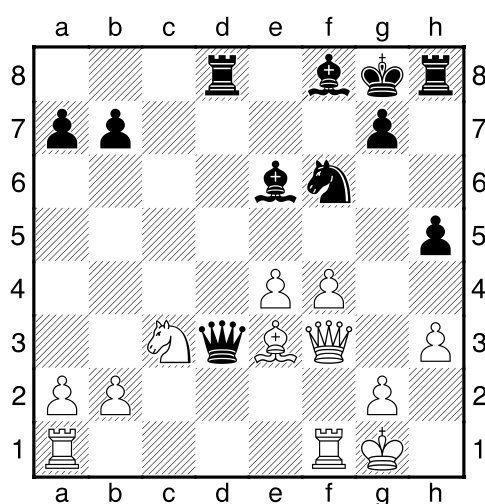
**9.cxd6 Qxd6** [ Don't play 9...Bxd6 10.h3♞]

**10.h3 Rd8** [ Black has more active pieces. The white rooks are passive.]

**11.Be3 Ne5** [Black is clearly better.]

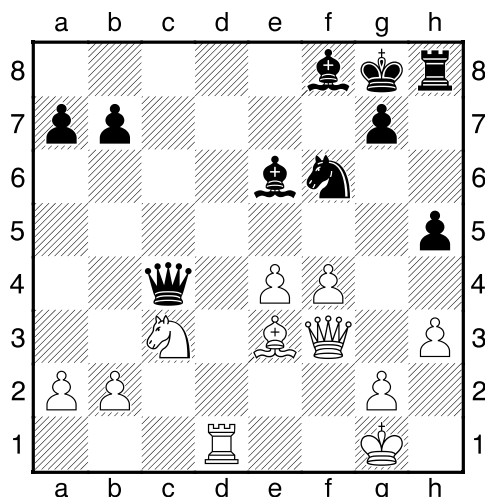
**12.0-0 h5** [ Hoping for ...Neg4!.]

**13.f4 Nxd3 14.cxd3 Qxd3 15.Qf3** [





15...Qc4! 16.Rfd1 Rxd1+ 17.Rxd1 [



]

17...Bd7! 18.Rd4 Qc6 19.Rd1 g6 20.Bxa7 Rh7N  
[Predecessor: 20...b6 21.e5 Bc5+ 22.Kh1 Ng4 23.Ne4 Rh7  
24.Rf1 Be7 25.Qb3+ Rf7 26.Nd6 Bxd6 27.exd60-1 Steffani,  
F-Corbat,P (2421) WS TT/5/22/4 email ICCF email 2022]

21.Bd4 Rf7 22.a3 Be6 23.b4 Bb3 24.Rc1 Bh6 25.Be3 Bf8  
26.Kh1 Be4 27.Bd4 Rd7 28.b5 [ Weighted Error Value:  
White=0.05 (flawless) /Black=0.01 (flawless) ]

28...Qd6 [28...Bxb5 29.Bxf6 Bxa3 30.Rd1 Rxd1+ 31.Qxd1±

0-1



**Tanti,Joe G. (2344) - Schulz,Günter (2467)**

**[C42]**

WSTT/5/22/S 2 ICCF, 01.03.2024

[Tactical Analysis 7.0]

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nxf7 Kxf7 5.Nc3 Be6 6.d4 [C42: Petroff Defence: 3 Nxe5 and unusual White 3rd moves.]

6...Kg8 7.h4 h5N [Predecessor: 7...Nbd7 8.f3 Be7 9.h5 h6  
10.Qe2 a6 11.Bd2 Bf7 12.g4 c5 13.d5 b5½-½ Corbat,P  
(2421)-Quigley,D (2091) WS TT/5/22/4 email ICCF email  
2022]

8.Bg5 [Black is better.]

8...Qe8 9.Be2 Bf7 10.f3 d5 11.e5 Nh7 12.f4 g6 13.0-0 Nc6  
14.Qd2 Nxe5 15.fxe5 [

]

15...Nxe5! 16.dxe5 [16.Nb5 Rd8]

16...Qxe5 17.Qf4 Bc5+ [17...Qxf4 simplifies 18.Rxf4 Bc5+  
19.Kh1 Bd6]

18.Kh1 Qxf4 19.Rxf4 Bd6 [19...Kg7 with more  
complications. 20.Bd3 Rae8 21.Raf1 Rhf8]

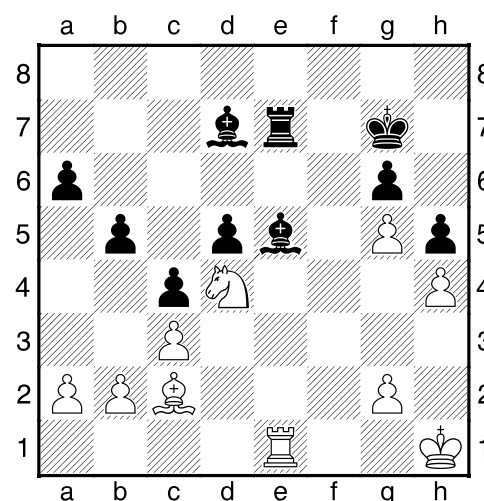
20.Rf3 Kg7 21.Bd3 Rae8 22.Raf1 Rhf8 23.Nb5 [Threatens  
to win with Nxd6!..]

23...Be5 [Strongly threatening ...c5.]

24.c3 a6 25.Nd4 c5 26.Ne2 b5 27.R1f2 Re7 28.Rf6 Ra7↑ [Black is in control.]

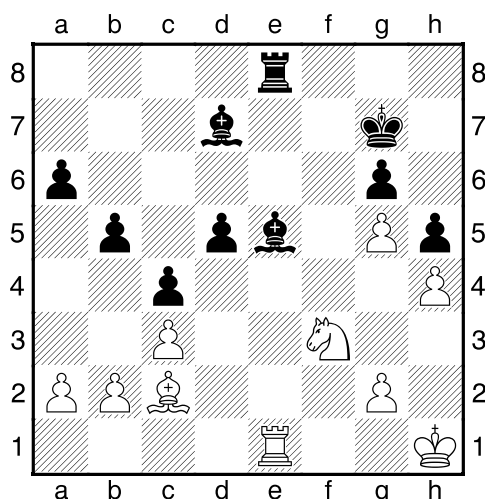
29.Rc6 Be8! 30.Rxf8 Bxc6 31.Rf1 c4 32.Bc2 Re7! 33.Nd4  
[33.a3♣]

33...Bd7!-+ 34.Re1 [



]

34...Re8! 35.Nf3 [



]

35...Bf4 36.Rxe8 Bxe8 [Endgame KBB-KBN]

37.b3 Bd7 38.Kg1 Bg3 39.Kf1 Bg4 40.bxc4 dxc4 41.Be4 a5  
42.Ke2 Bxh4 43.Kd2 Bg3 44.Bd5 Bf4+ 45.Kc2 Bf5+ 46.Kb2  
Be3 47.a4 bxa4 48.Bxc4 Be4 [ Wards off Bd5]

49.Be2 Bc5 [ A strong pair of Bishops.]

50.Ka2 Bd6 51.Kb2 a3+ 52.Ka2 Kf7 53.Bc4+ Ke7 54.Nh4  
Bf4 55.Nf3 Bc1 56.Be2 Ke6 57.Nd4+ Ke5 58.g3 Bd5+ 59.c4  
Be4 [ Not 59...Kxd4 60.cxd5 Bxg5 (60...Kxd5 61.Bd3±)  
61.Bb5±]

60.Nf3+ Kd6 61.Ne1 Bxg5 62.Kxa3 Kc5 [Black is clearly winning.]

63.Nf3 Be7 64.Ka4 Bd6 65.Kxa5 Bxg3 66.Ka4 [ Weighted  
Error Value: White=0.15 (very precise) /Black=0.05 (flawless)  
]

66...h4

0-1



**Thau, Oliver (2300) - Schulz, Günter (2467)**  
[C42]

WSTT/5/22/S 2 ICCF, 01.03.2024

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nxf7 Kxf7 5.Nc3 Be6 6.d4 [C42: Petroff Defence: 3 Nxe5 and unusual White 3rd moves.]

6...Kg8 7.Bd3 c5 8.dxc5 [Black is better.]

8...Nc6 [8...dxc5 9.e5 Nc6 10.exf6±]

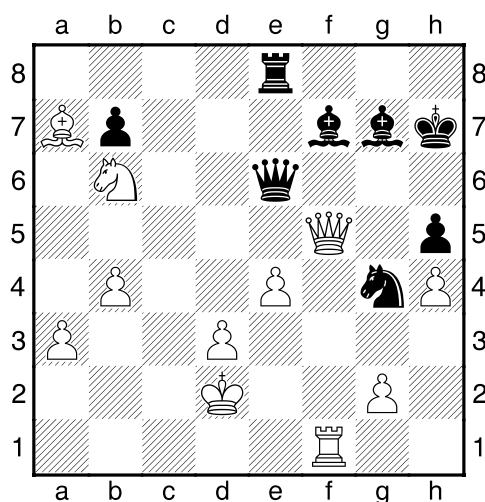
9.cxd6 Bxd6 10.h3N [ Dodges Ng4]

[Predecessor: 10.0-0 Ng4 11.h3 h5 12.Qd2 Rc8 13.Nd5 Bh2+  
14.Kh1 Bb8 15.Bc4 Bf7 16.f3 0-1 Richter, F (1749)-Chan, M  
WS TT/5/22/2 email ICCF email 2022]

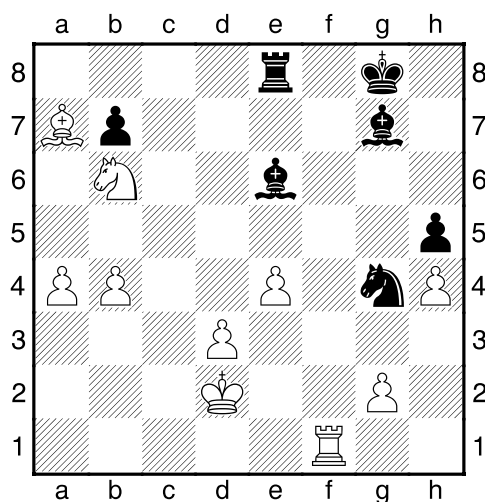
10...h6 11.Be3 g5 12.Qd2 Qe7 13.0-0-0 Rd8! 14.f3 Bb4

15.h4 g4 [ Black has more active pieces.]

16.a3 Ba5 [16...Bxa3 keeps more tension. 17.Bxh6 Bxb2+  
18.Kxb2 Qb4+] 17.Qe1 Bf7 18.Rf1 Ne5 19.b4 Nxd3+  
20.Rxd3 Rxd3 21.cxd3 Bc7 22.Qe2 Qd7 23.fxg4 Nxd4  
24.Nd5 Be5 25.Bxa7 h5 [25...Bxd5?! 26.exd5 Kg7 27.Qe4=]  
26.Qd2 [ Strong Square Black (g4)] 26...Kh7 [ Black has  
strong compensation.] 27.Qg5 Re8 [ and ...Bg6! would now  
be decisive] 28.Kd2 Bg7 [ This pair of bishops is nice.] [28..  
Bxd5?! 29.Qxh5+ Nh6 30.exd5=] 29.Nb6 Qe6 [ (-> ...Qa2+)]  
30.Qf5+]



30...Kg8! [ Some like it hot] 31.Qxe6 Bxe6 [31...Rxe6  
32.Nd5±] 32.a4 [32.Nc4± was worth a try.] 32...Bh6+-+  
33.Kc3 Bg7+ 34.Kd2 [



34...Bh6+! 35.Kc3 Ne3↑ 36.Rh1 [36.Rf6? Bg7 37.e5 Bxf6  
(37...Nxd2? 38.Rf2+-) 38.exf6 Nxd2+-; ♠36.Rg1] 36...Rf8  
[36...Nxd2 37.a5] 37.b5 [♠37.Kd4] 37...Bg7+ 38.d4 Rd8  
39.Nd5 Rc8+ [39...Nxd2 40.Bc5+-; Less strong is 39...Bxd5  
40.exd5 Nxd5+ 41.Kc4±] 40.Kb4 Nc2+ [40...Nxd2 41.Ne7+  
Kh8 42.Nxc8 Bxc8 43.a5+-; 40...Nxd5+ 41.exd5 Bxd5  
42.Bc5+-] 41.Kb3 Nxd4+ [ Don't play 41...Bxd4 42.Bxd4  
Nxd4+ 43.Kb4+-] 42.Bxd4 Bxd4 43.Kb4 [ aiming for Ne7+.]

43...Rc2 44.Rd1 Bc5+ 45.Kb3 Rxd2 46.Rc1 46...Rg3+

0-1

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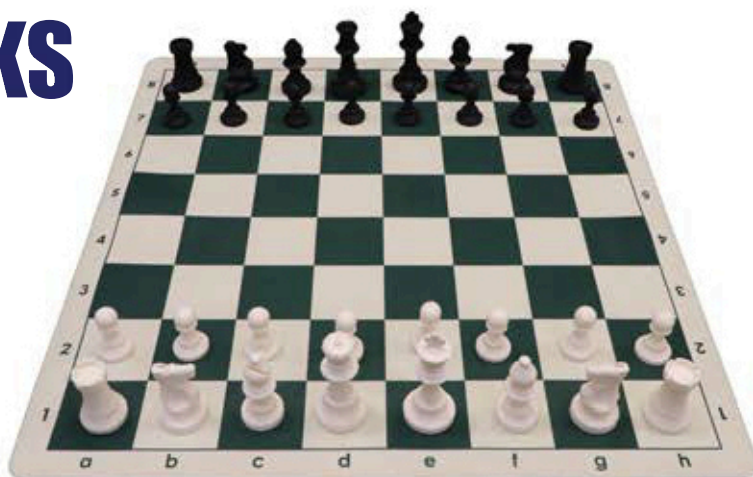
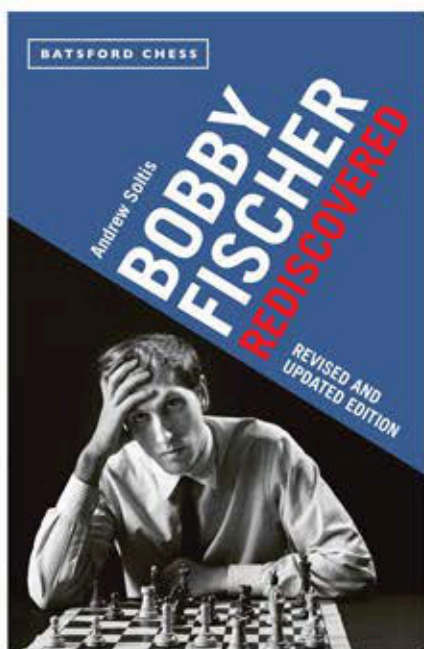


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