



## The Check Is in the Mail

DECEMBER 2006

This month I honor a 25-year old tradition of featuring miniature games in “The Check”. You may find it surprising that miniature games can happen to all ranks of chess players. They do, and here is the proof. The February issue of Chess Life will also contain some of these snowflakes, little wonders of nature.

There are more tactics in this mini than you will find in three regular-sized games.

### RUY LOPEZ (C70)

White: Nowden

Black: Kristensen

Correspondence 1933

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Bc5  
5.c3 b5 6.Bc2 d5 7.d4 exd4 8.cxd4 Bb6  
9.0–0 Bg4 10.exd5 Qxd5 11.Be4 Qd7  
12.Qe1 0–0–0 13.Bxc6 Qxc6 14.Ne5  
Qe6 15.Qe4 c6 16.Qxg4 f5 17.Qxg7  
Bxd4 18.Bf4 Bxb2 19.Nc3 Bxa1 20.Qa7  
1–0

Two amateurs distill the essence of the Grandmaster draw.

### FRENCH DEFENSE (C02)

White: Theo Pool (700)

Black: Niall O’Riordan (507)

IECG 2002

1.e4 d5 2.e5 e6 3.d4 Nc6 4.Nf3 Bb4+  
5.c3 Be7 6.g3 Bd7 7.Bd3 ½–½

Counted among the mysteries that I just do not understand...

### PHILIDOR’S DEFENSE (C41)

White: Matthew Ross (800)

Black: Paul Rellias

IECG 2005

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 f6 4. Bc4 Ne7 5.  
dxe5 fxe5 6. 00 Bg4 7. Nxe5 Rg8 8.  
Bxg8 h6 9. Bf7 mate

Sometimes postal chess is an easy game – you just follow book for 10 to 15 moves or so, and when your opponent thinks for himself, you’ve got ‘em!

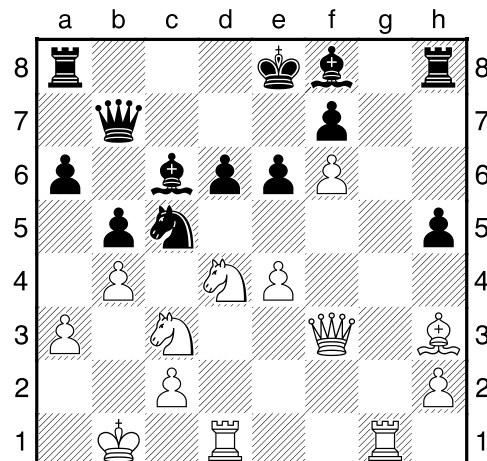
### SICILIAN DEFENSE (B99)

White: Olita Rause (2720)

Black: Vladimir Hefka (2574)

18th World Championship, 2003

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6  
5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7  
9.0–0–0 Nbd7 10.g4 b5 11.Bxf6 Nxf6  
12.g5 Nd7 13.f5 Nc5 14.f6 gxf6 15.gxf6  
Bf8 16.Rg1 h5 17.a3 Bd7 18.Kb1 Bc6  
19.Bh3 Qb7 20.b4 1-0



After 20...Nd7 21. Bxe6 wins.

Chalk it up to an over-ambitious opening: Danny tries and tries to get an initiative going, but at too great a cost.

TORRE ATTACK (A46)  
White: Danny Kopec (2447)  
Black: Julio Flores (2371)  
NATT5, 2001

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.Bg5 c5 4.e3 Qb6  
5.Nbd2 Qxb2 6.c4 Nc6 7.Rb1 Qxa2  
8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.Be2 cxd4 10.exd4 Bb4  
11.d5 Nd4 12.0-0 a5 13.Bd3 f5 14.Nxd4  
Qxd2 15.Qf3 Qg5 16.Nxf5 exf5 0-1

FRENCH DEFENSE (C14)  
White: G. Peli  
Black: M. Christoffel  
Switzerland cc 1989

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Be7  
5.e5 Nfd7 6.h4 c5 7.Bxe7 Kxe7 8.f4  
cxd4 9.Qxd4 Qb6 10.Qd2 Nc6 11.0-0-0  
Nc5 12.Nf3 Bd7 13.f5 Rag8 14.a3 a5  
15.Qxd5 1-0

Quiz: On Move 17 what square on the board does the Rook on h8 seek to dominate? If you answered a1, you may be a chess genius.

GRUNFELD DEFENSE (D80)  
White: I. Schuett (2547)  
Black: W. Zugrav (2535)  
Christoffel Memorial Section Blue 2002

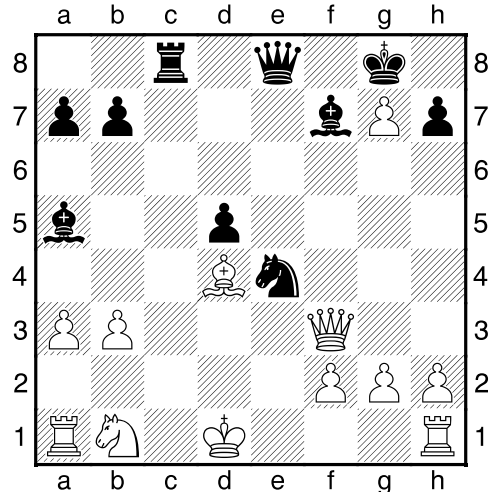
1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bg5 Ne4  
5.Nxe4 [5.Bf4] 5...dxe4 6.Qd2 Bg7 7.0-0-0?!  
8.d5 h6 9.Bf4 Qb6 10.e3 Na6  
11.Ne2 Nb4 12.Nc3 g5 13.Bg3 Bg4

14.Re1 Qa5 15.Kb1 Nxa2 16.Nxe4 Nb4  
17.Nc3 h5 18.h3 Rh6  
Black wins after 19.d6 Rd8 20.hxg4  
Rhxd6 21.Bxd6 Rxd6 0-1

Two Absolute Champions (2003 vs. 1976) clash and for once, youth does not triumph!

PONZIANI OPENING (C44)  
White: Corky Schakel (2405)  
Black: Robert Jacobs (2391)  
USCF 2004 Absolute championship

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 Nf6 4.d4 exd4  
5.e5 Ne4 6.Qe2 f5 7.exf6 d5 8.Nxd4  
Nxd4 9.cxd4 Kf7 10.fxg7 Bb4+ 11.Kd1  
Re8 12.Be3 Kg8 13.a3 Ba5 14.Qh5 Be6  
15.Bb5 Bf7 16.Qf3 c5 17.Bxe8 Qxe8  
18.b3 cxd4 19.Bxd4 Rc8 0-1



At the end of White's combination, Black will be curiously helpless against White's queening.

### QUEEN'S GAMBIT ACCEPTED(D20)

White: Darius Zagorskis (2512)

Black: Greg Morris (2343)

14 Olympiad, 2000

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.e4 e5 4.Nf3 exd4  
5.Bxc4 Bb4+ 6.Bd2 Bxd2+ 7.Nbxd2  
Nc6 8.0-0 Qf6 9.b4 a6 10.a4 Bg4 11.e5  
Qh6 12.Qb3 Bh5 13.e6 f6 14.b5 axb5  
15.axb5 Na5 16.b6 1-0

White pushes Black around, pushes him more, pushes him again; Black pushes back just once and White falls down the stairs.

### VIENNA GAME (C24)

White: Allan Savage (2409)

Black: Milos Kratochvil (2491)

19th World Championship, 1999

1.Nc3 Nf6 2.e4 e5 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.d3 c6  
5.Nf3 d6 6.h3 0-0 7.0-0 Nbd7 8.Bb3  
Bb6 9.d4 exd4 10.Nxd4 Nc5 11.Re1 Re8  
12.f3 d5 13.Be3 dxe4 14.fxe4 Nxb3  
15.axb3 a6 16.g4 h5 17.g5 Nh7 18.Na4  
Ba7 19.Kg2 h4 20.c4 Qc7 0-1

Suddenly White has three advancing passed Pawns – at Move 12 !

### POLISH DEFENSE (A40)

White: Achim Soltau (2621)

Black: Piotr Tkaczyk (2508)

21st World Championship, 2002

1.d4 b5 2.e4 Bb7 3.Nd2 Nf6 4.Bd3 c5  
5.dxc5 Qc7 6.Ngf3 e6 7.b4 Nc6 8.Rb1  
a5 9.a3 axb4 10.axb4 d6 11.e5 dxe5  
12.Bxb5 1-0

Black's attack is simple, straightforward, and effective !

### CARO-KANN DEFENSE (B12)

White: Hans Lassen (2407)

Black: Jose Barrios Troncoso (2507)

Mate Postal 25, 2000

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nc3 e6 5.h4  
h5 6.Be2 c5 7.Nf3 Nc6 8.Be3 Bg4  
9.Qd2 Bxf3 10.Bxf3 cxd4 11.Bxd4 Nge7  
12.Be2 Nf5 13.Bb5 a6 14.Bxc6+ bxc6  
15.f4 Rb8 16.0-0-0 Qa5 17.Rh3 Bb4  
18.Qd3 c5 19.Bf2 d4 0-1

White's resignation seems a bit premature here, but playing a Pawn down with no counter play is not a happy position.

### SICILIAN DEFENSE (B22)

White: Ignac Pospisil (2392)

Black: Jason Bokar (2418)

Mate Postal 25, 2000

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.c3 d5 4.exd5 exd5  
5.d4 Nc6 6.Be3 Qb6 7.Qd2 Nf6 8.Be2  
cxd4 9.Nxd4 Bc5 10.Nb5 0-0 11.Bxc5  
Qxc5 12.0-0 Qb6 13.Rd1 Re8 14.N1a3  
a6 15.Nd4 Nxd4 16.cxd4 Ne4 17.Qc1  
Bf5 18.Nc2 Nxf2 19.Kxf2 Rac8 0-1

Three minor pieces usually beat a Queen, but not when they stumble over their own feet.

### CATALAN OPENING (E04)

White: A. Magallon Minguez (2366)

Black: Andrzej Borowiec (2539)

Ross Miro Mem. 2004

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 d5 4.Nf3 dxc4  
5.Bg2 Nc6 6.Qa4 Bb4+ 7.Bd2 Nd5  
8.Bxb4 Ndx4 9.a3 b5 10.Qxb5 Nc2+  
11.Kd2 Bd7 12.Kxc2 Nxd4+ 13.Nxd4  
Bxb5 14.Nxb5 Rb8 15.Bc6+ Kf8  
16.N1c3 Rb6 17.Nxa7 Qb8 18.Ncb5  
Rxc6 19.Nxc6 Qxb5 20.Nd4 Qb7 0-1

I know, I know ... You saw this in the first week after learning how to play chess so here it is for nostalgia's sake.

#### SCHOLAR'S MATE (C20)

White: Salvatore Gargiulo (661)

Black: James Tabor (385)

IECG 2004

1.e4 e5 2.Qf3 Bc5 3.Bc4 d6 4.Qxf7  
mate

A little one-two punch and it's a TKO.

#### QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED (D37)

White: Henryk Buczinski (2311)

Black: N. Kagiya (2084)

14 Olympiad 2000

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Nf3 Be7  
5.Bf4 dxc4 6.e4 Nh5 7.Be3 Nd7 8.Bxc4  
0-0 9.0-0 c5 10.Rc1 Nhf6 11.dxc5 Nxc5  
12.e5 Nfe4 13.Nxe4 Nxe4 14.Qc2 Ng5  
15.Nxg5 Bxg5 16.Rfd1 Qe7 17.f4 Bh6  
18.Bd3 g6 19.Bc5 10

Finally, our Oops! Award for 2006 –  
Black calculates everything exactly  
except for:

#### QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED (D45)

White: Maurizio Sampieri, M (2514)

Black: Oystein Lorentzen (2439)

14 Olympiad 2000

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.Nc3 c6 5.e3  
Nbd7 6.Qc2 Bd6 7.Be2 0-0 8.0-0 Re8  
9.Rd1 Qc7 10.e4 dxe4 11.Nxe4 Nxe4  
12.Qxe4 e5 13.c5 exd4 14.Qxe8+ 1-0

## STOP ME IF YOU'VE HEARD THIS ONE BEFORE....

The ICCF now has a musical anthem.  
Composed by Dimitry Lybin of Belarus  
you can hear it at [www.iccf.com](http://www.iccf.com). Just  
the thing to put on your iPod for your  
next chess game !? Go to the ICCF  
website, then to ICCF downloads.

## RATINGS UPDATE

The USCF CC ratings remain log  
jammed at USCF Tennessee at this date.  
Nevertheless, there really is reason to  
believe that the log jam will be freed  
very shortly.

I have been told that the rating system  
will be flowing again when all the  
crosstables of active cc events have been  
keyed in to the system. As of the last  
week of November, I have keyed in all  
those crosstables from 1997 to 2006.  
We should have ratings once again very  
shortly.

## WEBSERVER FOR USCF EVENT

The future is so five minutes ago...

The USCF now has a webserver event.  
Thanks to the good people at ICCF, the  
Walter Muir e-Quads are now being  
played on a webserver. If you are not  
familiar with correspondence chess on a  
webserver, you are missing the future of  
cc play. Imagine all the positive aspects  
of postal play without the hassles of  
keeping track of the times, bookkeeping,  
and most important, recording errors.  
Yes, the webserver technology almost  
completely eliminates recording errors,  
the old bugaboo of correspondence  
chess. How does it work ?

After you sign up for a Walter Muir, you receive a message the tournament is started with a password in the message. You sign in to the web site, and you will see a chessboard on the screen in front of you. It is on this board you will send your move or receive your opponent's move. The system takes care of everything else. It is that easy (except for the thinking part about your move!) David Wright who is playing in the first USCF webserver Waleter Muir wrote: "Just letting you know I managed to send moves as White to all three players via the new method. Seemed fairly easy."  
"I just tried out the new server and I like it a great deal so far." -- Brian Newberry  
This is the future of correspondence chess, guys. Sign up for your section to see it in operation!

## **BOOK REVIEW**

Fernschach Die Kunst der Analyse  
By Rolf Knobel

This excellent book represents the Christoffel Memorial Chess Tournament played from 2002 to 2005. Published in 2005 in German, I was fortunate enough to buy this on eBay. The book is divided up into three tournaments, red, blue and gold. The gold was the "big" one, a Category 14 won by Marc Geenen and Robert Von Weizacker (no Americans were in any of the sections). The games presented are all annotated, with a special section covering the tactics involved. A chapter on the games of Martin Christoffel and another on Swiss Masters are of interest. The book comes with a CD-ROM. An excellent tourney book! I recommend it, if you can find it!

## **Classified Ads**

LEARN CHESS BY MAIL ! Lessons given by mail, telephone, ICC – many different ways. I specialize in players rated 800-2100 who would like to improve their game. Contact me for information. Alex Dunne, 324 West Lockhart St., Sayre, PA 18840 or [alex.dunne@cqservices.com](mailto:alex.dunne@cqservices.com)

Quote: "If you resign, then thank you for the game." -- Jon Edward's favorite if-move.

## **Tournaments I Would Like to Fill**

All of these tournaments need just one more player to be assigned. Shouldn't that one player be you ?

Walter Muir eQuad 1800-1999  
John Collins 1600-1799  
Trophy Quad 1800-1999



The History of Correspondence Chess in Canada

by Leonard Zehr and J. Ken MacDonald  
Available now from J. Ken MacDonald  
at [jkm@sympatico.ca](mailto:jkm@sympatico.ca) @ \$62 plus postage.\*

This book covers the period from 1841 to 1998 when Canada took the bronze medal in the ICCF World Olympiad XI team event.

No expense has been spared to make this a truly quality production. Published in a HC,

Smythsewn, with a sturdy, laminated dust-jacket, 253 pages, printed on acid-free paper.

Measurements are 7.5" x 10.25", a larger than normal format. Only 266 copies have been produced.

\* Go to

[http://www.canadapost.ca/personal/tools/rc/res/bin/rc\\_res-e.asp](http://www.canadapost.ca/personal/tools/rc/res/bin/rc_res-e.asp) and, using my postal code, M5E 1T4, and dimensions 40cm. x 30cm. x 6cm. with a packaged weight of

.825kg., you can calculate your postage. It will be extremely well padded!

## NOVEMBER WINNERS

### Swift Quads

Michael Scovile	04SQ02	5-1
David Fox	04SQ30	3 ½-2 ½\
Tim McKeen	04SQ30	3 ½- 2 ½
Ken Wood	05SQCD04	4-2
Gregory Flury	05SQCD04	4-2
David Fox	05SQ01	6-0
David Arp	04SQ05	4 ½-1 ½

### Express Tournaments

Patrick Cornacchio	04ET07	6-0
Peter Prigodich	06ET02	5-1
Axel van der Velden	06ET02	5-1

### Trophy Quads

Stephen Brosman	05QB14	5-1
Paul Castle II	04QB32	5-1
Joseph Daudish	04QB32	5-1
Antonio Romero	06Q01	5 ½-½
Joseph Daudish	05QA19	5-1

### Walter Muir eQuad

Anthony Ragan	06W11	5 ½- ½
Maziar Sayyedi	06W01	6-0