



check is in the mail

by FIDE Master Alex Dunne

patience

Correspondence chess is not for the impatient. An e-mail chess game usually takes several months or more. Games played by regular mail average nine months to a year. To play and complete a tournament of several rounds may take many years. But all this is acceptable. After all, postal players are gifted with patience — most of us.

The 1994 Golden Knights began as usual, with hundreds of hopefuls, some newbies and some veterans. One of the veterans was Robert Ilderton. Robert, born on December 16, 1930, had plenty of experience in Golden Knight play. Once it was even officially announced that he had won the Golden Knights with a near-perfect 17½-½ score, only to discover that at the end of the tournament an 18-0 score rolled in. But that was many years ago. Robert had lots of patience.

At the end of 1999 Robert Ilderton wrote me a letter and sent along a game from his 18-0 finish in the 1994 Golden Knights. This time he knew he would at the very least tie for first. He had finished relatively early (only five years!) and knew that he might have a long wait to see if anyone could tie him. Robert moved from Maryland to Bradenton, Florida.

At long last the 1994 Golden Knights ended this year, 2003. No one tied him. He finished all alone in first place, the reward of patience. But there was no celebrating. Robert Ilderton died on March 6, 2001, the 1994 Golden Knights champion.

Correspondence chess players are a patient bunch.

GAME OF THE MONTH

It seems a shame to have but a single example of Ilderton's correspondence skills. Again I make an appeal to the postal audience: If you have played Robert Ilderton, send me a copy of the game for the historical record.

OWEN'S DEFENSE [B00]

W: Michael Chapla (2469)
B: Robert Ilderton (2550)

1994 Golden Knights

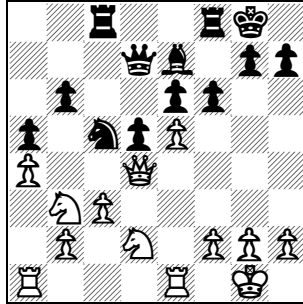
1. e4 b6 2. d4 Bb7 3. Bd3 Nf6 4. Qe2 e6 5. Nf3 c5 6. c3 Be7 7. 0-0 d5

Black plays for a favorable French-like formation with White's center already under assault.

8. e5 Nfd7 9. Be3 a5
Now the d3 bishop will disappear.
10. Nbd2 Ba6 11. a4 Bxd3 12. Qxd3 Nc6 13. Rfe1 cxd4 14. Bxd4 Rc8 15. Nb3?!

White's Knight is passive here — White needs to stir up play on the kingside.

15. ... 0-0 16. Nfd2 Nc5 17. Qh3 Qd7 18. Qg4 Nxd4 19. Qxd4 f6



Black opens up the f-file when suddenly White's center and kingside crumble.

20. Re3 fxe5 21. Qxe5 Rf5 22. Qd4 Rcf8 23. Re2 Qe8 24. g3 Qh5 25. Qe3 Rf3!

A little surprise — now White's game fails.

26. Nxf3 Rxf3 27. Qe5 Qxe5 28. Rxe5 Nxb3

With two pieces for the rook, Black has a simple technical win.

29. Rae1 Nc5 30. Kg2 Rd3 31. R5e2 Kf7 32. f3 d4 33. cxd4 Rxd4 34. b3 Rb4 35. Re3 Bf6 36. Rb1 Nxa4 37. Re4 Rxe4 38. fxe4 Nc3 39. Re1 Bd4 40. Rf1+ Ke7 41. Rf4 Bf6 42. h4 b5, White resigns.

Jason Bokar has earned a SIM norm on Board 5 in NATT V and should receive his SIM title at the next ICCF Congress. Congratulations, Jason!

Correspondence players alert! An excellent new product has just come to my attention — *MegaCorr 3*. No, it is not the latest Schwarzenegger movie, it is a correspondence database from Chess Mail. With 520,000 correspondence games (30,000 of them annotated), 58 Chess Mail magazines onscreen, crosstables, Olympiads, photographs, and a connection to a website, this is the most complete correspondence database ever. And yes, it does have exactly one Robert Ilderton postal game.

The following three games can also be found on *MegaCorr 3* (CBW129 \$45/\$40). Buy this CD! Contact U.S. Chess at 1-800-388-5464 or www.shopuschess.org/

John Elburg is known for his aggressive play. In the following game he is completely out-aggressed!

DUTCH DEFENSE [A81]

W: James Monacell (2473)
B: John Elburg (2306)

ICCF, 2002

1. d4 f5 2. g3 Nf6 3. Bg2 g6 4. Nh3 Bg7 5. Nf4 Nc6 6. Nc3 0-0 7. h4 d6 8. d5 Ne5 9. h5 Bd7 10. e4 fxe4 11. Nxe4 Nxf5 12. Ng5 Nxf4 13. gxf4 Nf7 14. Nxh7 Re8 15. Be3 Bxb2 16. Be4 c6 17. Rg1 Bc3+ 18. Bd2 Bg7 19. Rxc6 e5 20. Qh5 exf4 21. 0-0-0 Re5 22. Rxc7+, Black resigns.

Double-rook endgames are notorious draws, but Harry Ingersol shows us rooks can have victory dances, too.

NIMZO-INDIANDEFENSE [E42]

W: Harry Ingersol (2290)
B: Ron Oortwijn (2197)

ICCF, 2002

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e3 c5 5. Ne2 cxd4 6. exd4 0-0 7. a3 Be7 8. Nf4 d5 9. cxd5 Nxd5 10. Nxd5 exd5 11. Bd3 Nc6 12. 0-0 Bf6 13. Be3 g6 14. Rc1 Bg7 15. Rc5 Ne7 16. Qb3 b6 17. Rc3 Qd6 18. Qb4 Qxb4 19. axb4 Bf5 20. Ba6 Bc8 21. Bb5 Nf5 22. Rd1 Be6 23. Nxe6 fxe6 24. Bd7 e5 25. Be6+ Kh8 26. Bxf5 exd4 27. Bxd4 Bxd4 28. Rxd4 Rxf5 29. Rc7 Rff8 30. f3 Rfd8 31. Kf2 a6 32. Rc6 Rab8 33. Ke2 Rb7 34. Kd3 a5 35. b5 Kg8 36. h4 Kg7 37. b3 Kh6 38. Rf4 Re8 39. Rff6 Rbe7 40. Rxb6 Kh5 41. g3 Re3+ 42. Kd4 Rxb3 43. Rb7 h6 44. Rg7 Rb4+ 45. Kc5 Rb8 46. b6 Rc8+ 47. Rc7 Rb8 48. Rcc6 Rg8 49. Rfe6, Black resigns.

This is one of the all-time great correspondence games. Readers who would like to see thorough annotations should consult *64 Great Chess Games* by Tim Harding (BC832HP \$19.95/\$17.95).

SICILIANDEFENSE [B89]

W: Victor Palciauskas (2580)
B: Vytautas Andriulaitis (2582)

U.S. vs. Lithuania, 1999

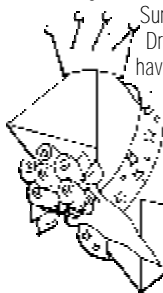
1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nc6 5. Nc3 d6 6. Be3 Nf6 7. Bc4 Be7 8. Qe2 a6 9. 0-0-0 Qc7 10. Bb3 0-0 11. Rhg1 Nd7 12. g4 Nc5 13. Nf5 b5 14. Bd5 Bb7 15. g5 Rfc8 16. Rg3 Bf8 17. Nh6+ Kh8 18. Ng4 b4 19. Nf6 h6 20. gxh6 g6 21. Bxc6 bxc3 22. Bxb7 cxb2+ 23. Kb1 Qxb7 24. Bd4 e5 25. Bxc5 Rxc5 26. Nd5 Rac8 27. Rb3 Qa7 28. c3 Rb5 29. h4 Bxh6 30. h5 Rxd5 31. Rxd5 Rc6 32. hxg6 fxg6 33. Qxb2 Qf7 34. Rh8+ Kh7 35. Qb7 Rc7 36. Qb6 Bg7 37. Rd3 Qc4 38. Rh3+ Bh6 39. Qe3 g5 40. Rxh6+ Kxh6 41. Qh3+ Kg6 42. Qf5+ Kg7 43. Qxg5+ Kf7 44. Qg8+ Kf6 45. Rf8+ Rf7 46. Rxf7+ Qxf7 47. Qxf7+ Kxf7 48. Kc2 Ke6 49. Kd3 d5 50. exd5+ Kxd5 51. c4+ Kc5 52. Ke4, Black resigns.

Correspondence chess players are invited to send their comments, questions and correspondence games (with or without annotation). Because of the volume of mail, submissions cannot be returned, and personal replies are not possible. Send your letters to: Alex Dunne • Chess Life • 3054 US Route 9W • New Windsor, NY 12553

e-mail: alex.dunne@cqservices.com

POSTAL BEAUTY CONTEST

Is it right that beauty is so often only its own reward? Surely not! And thanks to the generosity of Dr. Ronald Hames, the scales of justice have become more evenly balanced between how one wins and the hard fact of victory. For now in Chess Life the players who conduct scintillating games will receive the Hames Correspondence Game of the Year Awards. Resident postal editor Alex Dunne is the judge of a contest with prizes of \$100 for the best game by a master and \$100 for the best game by a non-master to appear in Check in the Mail during a given year. What better reason, then, to send your postal brilliancies to Alex Dunne?



GM Alek Wojtkiewicz

photo by brian killigrew

CHECK OUT USCF'S CORRESPONDENCE CHESS RATED EVENTS

CORRESPONDENCE CHESS MATCHES (TWO PLAYERS)

\$5 entry fee per person with two, four or six game options.

WIN A CORRESPONDENCE CHESS TROPHY

Four player, double round-robin with class-level pairings. Entry fee: \$10. 1st place winner receives a trophy.

VICTOR PALCIAUSKAS PRIZE TOURNAMENTS

Seven-player class-level pairings, one game with each of six opponents. Entry fee: \$25. Players must have a USCF CC rating to enter. 1st place winner receives \$130 cash prize and a certificate signed by Victor Palciauskas.

JOHN W. COLLINS MEMORIAL CLASS TOURNAMENTS

Four-player, double round-robin with class-level pairings (unrateds welcome). 1st place winner receives a John W. Collins certificate.

Entry fee: \$7.

E-MAIL RATED EVENTS (NEED E-MAIL ACCESS):

LIGHTNING MATCH Two players with two, four or six game option. Entry fee: \$5 per person. **Swift Quads** Four player, double round-robin format.

Entry fee: \$10. 1st place prize merchandise credit of \$30.

Express Tournament

Seven-player events, one game with each of six opponents. Prizes: 1st place \$30 merchandise credit, 2nd place \$20 credit. Entry fee: \$15.

NOTE: Except for Lightning Matches, Swift Quads and Express Tournaments, players will use post office mail, unless opponents agree to use e-mail.



U.S. Chess Federation
www.uschess.org

USCF's 56th ANNUAL

2003 Open Correspondence Chess Golden Knights Championship

\$1,500 First Prize

(plus title of USCF's Golden Knights Champion and plaque)

• 2nd place \$800 • 3rd place \$600 • 4th place \$400 • 5th place \$200 • 6th thru 10th place \$100 each. Entry fee: \$25.

The entry deadline is November 30, 2003.

These USCF Correspondence Chess events are rated and open to all USCF members who reside on the North American continent, islands, or Hawaii, as well as those USCF members with an APO or FPO address. USCF members who reside outside of the North American continent are welcome to participate in e-mail events. Your USCF membership must remain current for the duration of the event, and entry fees must be paid in U.S. dollars. Those new to USCF Correspondence Chess, please estimate your strength: **Class A:** 1800-1999 (very strong); **Class B:** 1600-1799 (strong); **Class C:** 1400-1599 (intermediate); **Class D:** 1399 and below (beginner level). Note: Prize fund guaranteed (based on 400 entries) and will be increased or decreased proportionately per number of entries assigned.

To Enter: 800•388•KING (5464) Fax 845•561•CHES (2437)

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Check here if you do not wish to have an opponent who is incarcerated.

Sending a check? Make it payable to U.S. Chess and mail to: 3054 US Rt. 9W, New Windsor, NY 12553

2003 uscf grand prix summary

The following point totals reflect all rated event information received and rated through July 23 for the 2003 Grand Prix. For more information about the Grand Prix, see page 47 of this issue.

2003 USCF Grand Prix events included for this update:

2003 USCF Grand Prix Standings

Name	State	GP Pts.
1 G M Alek Wojtkiewicz	MD	154.56
2 G M Jaan Ehvest	NY	135.96
3 G M Alexander Stripunsky	NY	108.97
4 G M Ildar Ibragimov	CT	102.09
5 I M Jay Bonin	NY	90.23
6 G M Sergey Kudrin	NJ	86.89
7 G M Hikaru Nakamura	NY	70.71
8 G M Alexander Shabalov	PA	65.47
9 G M Alexander Goldin	KY	59.42
10 G M Alexander Ivanov	MA	59.40
11 G M Pavel Blatny	NY	51.93
12 Dmytro Kedyk	NY	47.63
13 G M Igor Novikov	NY	45.75
14 G M Julio Becerra	NC	42.33
15 I M Rashid Ziatdinov	FL	42.28
16 I M John Donaldson	CA	35.40
17 I M Benjamin Finegold	MI	34.85
18 I M Ronald Burnett	NY	33.83
19 F M Ilye Figler	NY	33.16
20 I M Enrico Sevillano	NY	32.33
21 G M Ilya Smirin	ISR	30.00
22 I M Melikset Khachiyani	CA	28.00
23 I M Varuzhan Akobian	CA	26.00
F M Todd Andrews	TN	26.00
25 G M Yury Shulman	TX	25.46

Events not received as of 7-23-2003

Event Name	End Date	State	GP Points
Westfield Grand Prix	05/04/2003	NJ	6
Polgar CC Grand Prix	06/07/2003	NY	10

Event Name	End Date	State	GP Points	Winners
Valentine Grand Prix	02/28/2003	NY	6	Alexander Stripunsky
Polgar Chess March Grand Prix	03/26/2003	NY	6	Jay Bonin
2003 Arizona G/60 Championship	03/29/2003	AZ	6	Levon Altonian
2003 Arizona G/30 Championship	03/30/2003	AZ	6	Vaishnav Aradhyula
Queens May Open	05/30/2003	NY	6	Jay Bonin
Los Angeles County Open	05/11/2003	CA	10	Timothy Taylor, Michael Casella
Texas State and Amateur Champ.	05/26/2003	TX	15	Babakouly Annakov, Mark Diesen
Chicago Open	05/26/2003	IL	150	Alexander Shabalov
72nd Massachusetts Open	05/26/2003	MA	15	Alexander Ivanov, William Paschall
2nd Koltanowski Memorial	05/26/2003	CA	6	Michael Aigner, James MacFarland
Rutherford County Open 2003	05/31/2003	TN	6	Todd Andrews
2003 Orlando After Memorial Open	06/01/2003	FL	30	Rashid Ziatdinov
Marshall CC Late Spring Grand Prix	06/01/2003	NY	6	Jay Bonin, Boris Privman
14th DC Action Championship	06/07/2003	DC	15	Stanislav Kriventsov
Joshua Tree Summer Open 2003	06/07/2003	CA	6	Alex Gojich
CCA International	06/08/2003	VT	150	Jaan Ehvest
Vermont Spring Open	06/08/2003	VT	10	Grant Spraggett, Mark Gaudreau
2nd NY June Game/50 Open	06/14/2003	NY	20	Michael Rohde, Jay Bonin, Dmytro Kedyk, Igor Schneider, Alex Lenderman
Cleveland Open	06/15/2003	OH	20	Stanislav Kriventsov
Emory/Castle Grand Prix	06/15/2003	GA	80	Julio Becerra, David Vest
National Open	06/15/2003	NV	200	Jaan Ehvest, Alexander Shabalov, Alek Wojtkiewicz, Ildar Ibragimov, Hikaru Nakamura, Sergey Kudrin, Gregory Serper
2003 South Jersey Open	06/15/2003	NJ	50	Alexander Onischuk
City of Oaks Chess Challenge	06/21/2003	NC	10	Jonathan Schroer, John Bidwell, Mark Brodie
Marshall CC Saturday Action GP	06/21/2003	NY	6	Yevgeniy Gershov
Northeast Open	06/22/2003	CT	30	Hikaru Nakamura, Sergey Kudrin
16th Thursday Action Championship	06/26/2003	NY	15	Dmytro Kedyk