



# check is in the mail

by FIDE Master Alex Dunne

## professional correspondence chess

There is a new game in town. It is an attempt to elevate correspondence chess to a professional level. Reimund Lutzenberger of Germany has established a website dedicated to correspondence chess with large class and place prizes. There are a number of GMs (both FIDE and ICCF) along with an annotated game shop where you can both buy and sell annotated games. An e-magazine, two-game matches, and correspondence simul games for a fee against GMs make for an ambitious program.

These GMs also offer their services, at a price, for training the correspondence player. The yearly dues of 120 euros (about \$138) is steep, but as an investment in quality play, it will be worth it to some players. ChessFriend.com (CFC) members can subscribe to an opening theory website at a discount. And, of course, there are tournaments for the e-mail player. Set up by rating classification, there are seven-man and 13-man events with first prizes of 130 and 75, and 200, 125, and 75 euro prizes respectively.

The championship tournament features a first prize of 30,000 euros and other places down to 25th. The class prizes include 10 prizes starting at 2,500 euros for Under 2200 ELO and 10 prizes starting at 1,500 euros for Under 1800 ELO. So there is a bit of cash being talked about here.

This attempt to set up money prizes for postal players is not new. APCT under Helen Warren has been doing this successfully for many years. Richard Weiss' Chess Connection was a phenomenal failure some years ago. Will CFC fail or succeed? Time will tell us. Those interested in learning more should contact [www.chessfriend.com/](http://www.chessfriend.com/)

### GAME OF THE MONTH

Mikhail Umansky has been called the first professional correspondence chess player. Here is an example of his skill in one of the CFC simuls. It would appear that Klaus Mueller certainly got his money's worth!

<b>QUEEN'S GAMBIT ACCEPTED</b> [D20]
W: Mikhail Umansky (2654)
B: Klaus Mueller (2362)
<i>CFC e-mail, 2003</i>

1. d4 d5 2. c4 dxc4 3. e4 e5 4. Nf3

exd4 5. Bxc4 Bb4+ 6. Nbd2 Nc6 7. 0-0 Nf6 8. e5 Nd5 9. a3 Be7 10. Qb3 Na5 11. Qa4+ Nc6 12. Nxd4 Nb6 13. Nxc6 Nxa4 14. Nxd8 Bxd8 15. f4

The opening is over and White has a bit more space and a slight advantage.

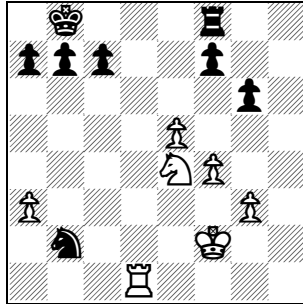
15. ... Nb6 16. Bd3 g6 17. Ne4 Be7 18. Be3 Bf5 19. Rac1 0-0-0 20. Bb1 Kb8 21. g3 h5

Black needs to get his queenside pawns moving. This is the wrong side of the board.

22. Bc5 Bxc5+ 23. Nxc5 Bxb1 24. Rxb1 h4

Black's kingside foray only helps White's majority in the endgame.

25. Rfd1 hxg3 26. hxg3 Nc4 27. Ne4 Rxd1+ 28. Rxd1 Rf8 29. Kf2 Nxb2



Umansky diagnoses this move as the losing one, allowing a decisive infiltration by the White army.

30. Rb1 Na4 31. Kf3 Nb6 32. Kg4 Rh8 33. Ng5 Rf8 34. Rh1 c5 35. Ne4 c4 36. Kg5 Nd5 37. Nf6 Nb6 38. Kh6 Rh8+ 39. Nh7 c3 40. Kg7 Rc8 41. Kxf7 Nc4 42. Ng5 Nxa3 43. e6 Nb5 44. Kxg6 Nd6 45. Nf7

White wins clearly now with his further-advanced pawns. This was a well-played endgame by Umansky.

45. ... Ne8 46. Ne5 b5 47. Nf3 b4 48. Nd4 a5 49. f5 Rc4 50. Rh8 Kb7 51. f6 Nxf6 52. Nb3 c2 53. Kxf6, Black resigns.

The 18th World Correspondence Chess Championship Final has started. The tournament is a category XV (average rating 2614). America's Dan Fleetwood will be competing in this final — good skill, Dan!

Here are the contestants in rating order: Hagen Tiemann, Germany (2513); Dan Fleetwood, USA (2546); Patrick Spitz, France (2548); Heinz-Erich Kempen, Germany (2554); Milan Mraz, Czech Republic (2559); Vladimir Hefka, Slovakia (2574); Vittorio Piccardo, Italy (2574); Achim Soltau, Germany (2618); Manfred Nimtz, Germany (2634); Guillermo Toro Solis de Ovando, Chile (2636); Mikhail Umansky, Russia (2654); Wolf

ram Schon, Germany (2664); Hans-Marcus Elwert, Germany (2693); Olita Rause, Latvia (2720); Joop Van Oosterom, Netherlands (2725).

Dan Fleetwood's tactical play can leave an opponent's head spinning. Here is an example from the 13th Olympiad where our team is fighting for a spot in the finals.

<b>SICILIANDEFENSE</b> [B66]
W: Daniel Fleetwood (2546)
B: Miroslav Erdeljan (2385)
<i>XIII Olympiad, 2002</i>

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 d6 6. Bg5 e6 7. Qd2 a6 8. 0-0-0 h6 9. Be3 Be7 10. f4 Nxd4 11. Bxd4 b5 12. Kb1 b4 13. Na4 Nxe4 14. Qxb4 d5 15. Qe1 Bf6 16. Bd3 Nd6 17. Be5 0-0 18. g4 Bh4 19. Qe3 Be7 20. g5 hxg5 21. fxc5 Bxc5 22. Qg3 Ne8 23. Rhg1 f6 24. Bd4 e5 25. Bc5 Rf7 26. Bg6 Be6 27. Qf3 Bh6 28. Bxf7+ Bxf7 29. Nb6 Rb8 30. Nxd5 Qa5 31. Ne7+ Kh8 32. Ba3 e4 33. Qh3 Rb5 34. Nc6 Qb6 35. Qd7 Bh5 36. c4 Rg5 37. Rxc5 Bxc5 38. Qh3 g6 39. Qc8 Bxd1 40. Qxe8+ Kh7 41. Bf8, Black resigns.

Black's provocative handling of the French Defense provokes a strong handling of the attack by ICCM Craig Jones.

<b>FRENCH DEFENSE</b> [C16]
W: Craig Jones (2430)
B: Allan Savage (2389)
<i>North American Finals, 1992</i>

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e5 b6 5. Qg4 Bf8 6. Nf3 Qd7 7. Be2 Nc6 8. 0-0 Bb7 9. Nd1 0-0-0 10. c3 f5 11. Qh3 h6 12. b4 g6 13. a4 Rh7 14. a5 g5 15. Nd2 h5 16. Qd3 g4 17. Nb3 Qf7 18. Nb2 Nge7 19. Bd2 Ng6 20. axb6 axb6 21. Na4 f4 22. f3 Rg7 23. Kh1 Be7 24. b5 Nb8 25. c4 Nd7 26. Rfc1 gxf3 27. Bxf3 Nh4 28. Nxb6+ cxb6 29. cxd5+ Kb8 30. Qb1 Nxf3 31. Qa2 Nc5 32. Nxc5 bxc5 33. Qa7+ Kc8 34. d6 Nxd2 35. Rxc5+ Kd7 36. Rc7+ Ke8 37. Qxb7 Bg5 38. Rxf7 Rxf7 39. Qc6+ Kf8 40. d5 Nb3 41. dxe6 Nxa1 42. exf7 Kxf7 43. Qd5+ Kg7 44. e6, Black resigns.

Other GMs play postal chess for a fee. Here GM Gurevich discovers postal players can get as well as give.

<b>KING'S INDIAN ATTACK</b> [A04]
W: Peter Vlahos
B: GM Dmitry Gurevich
<i>Correspondence, 1987-1990</i>

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. g3 Nc6 4. Bg2 g6 5. 0-0 Bg7 6. d3 Nf6 7. Nbd2 0-0 8. a4

**Bd7 9. Nc4 Rc8 10. Nh4 Na5 11. f4 Nxc4 12. dxc4 Bc6 13. Qe2 e6 14. Ra3 Qe7 15. Bd2 Nd7 16. Bc3 Bxc3 17. Rxc3 Bxa4 18. Ra3 Bc6 19. Rxa7 Ra8 20. Rfa1 Rxa7 21. Rxa7 Rb8 22. Qd2 e5 23. f5 Kg7 24. Bf3**

**h6 25. Qe2 Qg5 26. Ra1 Qf6 27. Qd2 g5 28. Ng2 h5 29. Ne3 Rh8 30. Rf1 Kg8 31. g4 h4 32. c3 Kg7 33. Ra1 Nb6 34. b4 Ra8 35. Rxa8 Nxa8 36. Qa2 Qd8 37. Qa7 Qb6 38. f6+ Kg6 39. Qxa8 cxb4 40. Kf2 Kxf6**

**41. Qf8 Ke6 42. cxb4 Qd4 43. c5 dxc5 44. bxc5 Bb5 45. Bd1 Kd7 46. Qxf7+ Kc6 47. Qd5+ Qxd5 48. Nxd5 Kxc5 49. Ke3 Bc4 50. Nf6 b5 51. Nh7 b4 52. Nfg5 b3 53. Nf3, Black resigns.** ♔

**JOHN W. COLLINS MEMORIAL TOURNAMENT WINNERS**

Robert A. Eisthen	98CA188	4 - 2
Richard C. Lenhart	98CA189	5 - 1
Doris Schieckel	98CA192	5 - 1
Steve A. Wallington	98CD195	5½ - ½
William Eugene Young	98CC199	5½ - ½
Leo Strull	98CB209	5 - 1
Studart B. Megaughey	98CC210	5½ - ½
Dan Easley	98CA213	4½ - 1½
Reginald Durston	98CM214	4½ - 1½
Brian Scott	98CC220	4½ - 1½
John Lachky	98CD220	5 - 1
James Clancey	98CC224	5 - 1
Fred Wild	98CD223	5 - 1
Feliz A. Monterrey	99CD51	6 - 0
Leo Strull	99CB57	5 - 1
P. Johnson	99CD62	4½ - 1½
Karly Frye	99CD64	4½ - 1½
Clark F. Smith	99CD69	4½ - 1½
James E. Nunnally	99CB74	4½ - 1½
Jose Gallardo	99CB79	5 - 1
Scott gru-Bell	99CD8	5½ - ½
Robert G. Foxx	99CM95	4 - 2
Gerald Steffen	99CC99	5½ - ½
Gerbrand van Duk	99CA1	3½ - 2½
Matthew F. Haws	99CA1	3½ - 2½
Dennis J. Giannola	99CA3	4 - 2
Ronnie Munsterman	99CC8	4 - 2
Michael A. Gray	99CC9	4 - 2
David W. Cromer	99CD12	5 - 1
John L. Moen	99CD23	6 - 0
Joseph S. Slawinski	99CB26	5 - 1
Robert K. MacNeal	99CM28	4½ - 1½
John A. Steele	99CA30	6 - 0
Richard Johnston	99CB32	4½ - 1½
Lem H. Rainwater	99CB34	5½ - ½
Thomas J. Singura	99CD36	5 - 1
Thomas A. Kuge	99CC47	6 - 0
Reinhard Rottner	99CC48	4½ - 1½
Phillip R. Bangs	99CC48	4½ - 1½
Thomas Noble	99CC49	5 - 1
Ted A. McGinnis	99CC101	4 - 2
Joseph M DePrizio	99CC101	4 - 2
John Jankite	99CC102	5 - 1
Ingrid Smyer	99CD103	5 - 1
Samuel B. Chittenden	99CD104	5 - 1
Daniel E. Parks	99CD105	4½ - 1½
David Parker Zimmerman	99CD106	5 - 1
Richard C. Menning	99CM107	4½ - 1½
Jorge R. Guerra	99CB110	4½ - 1½
Donnie Cox	99CB110	4½ - 1½
Paul T. Osmond	99CD114	5 - 1
Paul Ross Troup	99CA118	4 - 2
Emanuel Kelmenson	99CB119	5½ - ½
Paul T. Osmond	99CD121	5½ - ½
F. Jeffery Schmidt	99CD122	5 - 1
Roman A. Dubov	99CD122	5 - 1
Steven Fairbairn	01CM50	3½ - 2½
Dan Easley	01CM50	3½-2½
Del McClure	99CM126	5½ - ½
Stephen J. Huber	99CA127	4½ - 1½
John Flanagan	99CB129	4 - 2
Raymond C. Sollars	99CC130	5 - 1
Myron Greene	99CA133	4½ - 1½
Garry Tressler	99CB135	4½ - 1½
David Schwaller	99CC136	5 - 1
Garry Tressler	99CC143	5 - 1
Leo Strull	99CC143	5 - 1
Brian S. Lange	99CB144	6 - 0
Thomas Noel	99CC145	5 - 1
Kenneth Farr	99CC145	5 - 1
Reginald Durston II	99CM148	6 - 0
Lem Rainwater	99CC149	4½-2½
Mark S. McMillan	99CA150	4 - 2
Daniel Schoolcraft	99CC151	4 - 2
Kenneth D. Farr	99CC153	5 - 1
Raul A. Alva	00CA002	5 - 1
Leo Strull	00CD3	6 - 0
Robert G. Foxx	01CM3590	4½-1½
Gregg Guffrey	01CAB70	6 - 0
Timothy Burrirt	01CCD73	6 - 0
Robert G. Foxx	02CM31	5 - 1
Andrew Westhead	01CD17	6 - 0
Richard L. Willis	01CAB45	5 - 1

Gary J. Jastraub	01CAB79	6 - 0
Timothy M. Grassel	01CC53	5 - 1
Dawn Rideout	01CB58	5½ - ½
Timothy Burrirt	01CD59	6 - 0
Peter Becker	01CC60	5½ - ½
Pat Lee	00CB95	4 - 2
Peter Evans	00CA111	6 - 0
Melvin A. Schwartz	00CB83	6 - 0
Titus Sgro	00CD6	5½ - ½
John F. Barnes	00CA9	5½ - ½
Daniel Thomas Arcure	00CB12	5 - 1
William Lems	00CC13	5½ - ½
Scott Popejoy	00CB15	4 - 2
Phillip R. Hiatt	00CB18	4 - 2
Clark F. Smith	00CD20	4½ - 1½
Kenneth D. Farr	00CD20	4½ - 1½
James Stephens	00CD22	5 - 1
Kristopher Kline	00CD22	5 - 1
Donnell Wallace	00CB29	4 - 2
Stephen Paine	00CB29	4 - 2
Gregg Guffrey	00CB30	4 - 2
Mark Schoen	01CC56	6 - 0
Mark Osburn	00CC53	6 - 0
G.R. Donaghy	00CD34	5½ - ½
Daniel Mikell Johnson	00CD35	4½ - 1½
Darrin Hansen	00CM39	4½ - 1½
Mike Cronin	00CA40	4 - 2
John R. Davis	00CB43	4 - 2
Grigory Burtayer	00CB43	4 - 2
Mark Schultz	00CD47	4½ - 1½
John McLaren	00CD47	4½ - 1½
Laverne E. Gildner	00CC55	4½ - 1½
Clark R. Smith	00CC55	4½ - 1½
Jorge R. Guerra	00CB71	4½ - 1½
Marshall Whitecotton	00CD72	6 - 0
Dave Ferguson	00CD73	5 - 1
Derrick R. Jones	01CC38	5 - 1
Joseph H. Crump	01CC38	5 - 1
Christopher Mulligan	01CA33	5 - 1
Robert G. Foxx	01CM26	4 - 2
Dawn I. Rideout	01CAB67	6 - 0
Raul A. Alva	01CAB68	6 - 0
Henry Ceeto	01CA85	6 - 0
John Flanagan	02CB22	5 - 1
Ricardo R. Ruiz	02CC50	4 - 2
Phillip J. Lorenz Jr.	02CC50	4 - 2
Carleton Jay Lindgren Jr.	02CC50	4 - 2

<b>TROPHY</b>	<b>QUAD FIRST PLACE</b>	<b>WINNERS</b>
Michael Marshall	01QC15	5 - 1
Constance A. McClendon	01QC15	5 - 1
Charlie K. Leach	02QCM10	4½ - 1½
Charles A. Jacobs	01QM28	5½ - ½
Wilfred Ching	01QCD20	6 - 0
Michael A. Newton	01QAB23	6 - 0
Charles Buehner	01QAB27	5 - 1
Rocky Balducci	02QAB15	6 - 0
Timothy Burrirt	01QCD26	6 - 0
Russell Nast	01QC12	5½ - ½
Morry Simon	01QC19	5½ - ½
John Lovrovic	00QB6	4 - 2
William Corner Jr.	99QD22	5 - 1
Steven Gary Fugett	99QD22	5 - 1
Phillip L. DeAugustino	99QB23	4½ - 1½
Louis Jones	00QD03	5½ - ½
Paul G. Snider	99QA23	4½ - 1½
James E. Rhodes	99QA25	6 - 0
Gerald Steffen	00QB2	4½ - 1½

<b>HANS BERLINER FIRST PLACE WINNERS</b>		
Scott gru-Bell	00D002	6 - 2
Todd Summers	99D4	7½ - ½
Roddy Davis	01D3	7 - 1
Peter Evans	01D12	8 - 0
Lyle A. Cherner	00D10	8 - 0

<b>RATINGS TOURNAMENT FIRST &amp; SECOND PLACE WINNERS</b>			
Stephen Spaulding	99RT22	5½ - ½	1st place
Matthew Katrein	99RT22	5 - 1	2nd place
Robert Miehm	00RT8	5 - 1	1st place
Stephen Jacobs	00RT8	4½ - 1½	2nd place
Joel Levine	00RT9	5 - 1	1st place
Matthew R. Katrein	00RT9	4 - 2	2nd place
Jeffrey Baffo	00RT6	4 - 2	2nd place

Dan Easley	00RT6	4 - 2	2nd place
Thomas Babcock	00RT6	4 - 2	2nd place

**VICTOR PALCIAUSKAS PRIZE TOURNAMENTS FIRST PLACE WINNERS**

Gordon T. Everett	00UM3	5 - 1	Co-winner
Lars M. Pedersen	00UM3	5 - 1	Co-winner
Walter J. Brower	99UM3	4 - 2	Co-winner
Terry Tuchy	99UM3	4 - 2	Co-winner
Frank A. Niro III	99UA4	5½ - 1½	
Beamon B. Hill	99UA7	5 - 1	
N Eric Pedersen	99UA8	4½ - 1½	Co-winner
Lars M. Pedersen	99UA8	4½ - 1½	Co-winner
Charlie K. Leach	01UM2	5 - 1	Co-winner
David A. Scott	01UM2	5 - 1	Co-winner
Michael Marshall	02UAB2	6 - 0	
Michael Marshall	01UAB11	6 - 0	

<b>AL HOROWITZ TOURNAMENT FIRST PLACE WINNERS</b>			
Ed Sytnik	00H002	12½ - 1½	1st place
Z.L. King	00H002	12 - 2	2nd place

<b>JOHN COLLINS OPEN FIRST PLACE WINNERS</b>			
Donald E. Randolph	00I001	7½ - 1½	

<b>SWIFT QUAD FIRST PLACE WINNERS</b>			
William Nadolny	02SQ18	6 - 0	
Al Herrera	02SQ24	4½ - 1½	
Jon R. Fortune	02SQ33	6 - 0	
Carl Palmateer	02SQ28	5 - 1	
Jon K. Fortune	02SQ29	5 - 1	
Vytautas J. Vitkauskas	02SQ31	6 - 0	
Allan Jung	02SQ19	6 - 0	

<b>EXPRESS TOURNAMENTS FIRST AND SECOND PLACE WINNERS</b>			
Chris Cendrowski	02ET9	6 - 0	1st place
D. Bell	01ET7	6 - 0	1st place
Paul Romero	01ET7	4½ - 1½	2nd place
Sebastian Fernandez	01ET7	4½ - 1½	2nd place

<b>MASTER CERTIFICATE WINNERS</b>		
<b>Name</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Category</b>
Jeff Grimes	2287	Master
Thomas Hoffman	2287	Master
Jon Fortune	2241	Master
Alex Herrera	2210	Master
David Sogin	2210	Master
James Osborne	2209	Master
Arnold Saslowsky	2208	Master
Robert G. Foxx	2207	Master
Russell Gustafson	2202	Master
William Jemphy	2201	Master
Roger D. Pahl	2084	Candidate Master
Elliot Lilien	2069	Candidate Master
Dennis Fees	2030	Candidate Master
Bob Blauner	2021	Candidate Master
Richard McManinon	2018	Candidate Master
Norman Furse	2011	Candidate Master
Stephen Paine	2010	Candidate Master
Frank Zuckerman	2009	Candidate Master
Robert Beaver	2006	Candidate Master
Loren Delaney	2006	Candidate Master
John Hagerty	2005	Candidate Master
Raul A. Alva	2003	Candidate Master
William Nadolny	2001	Candidate Master
Dawn I Rideout	2001	Candidate Master
Clyde Blanke	2000	Candidate Master
Brian Stewart	2000	Candidate Master

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@ccsqservices.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?