



## The Check Is in the Mail

August 2006

I will be out of the office August 14-18, teaching a chess camp in Rochester, New York. I will answer all the emails after I get back.

### CHECKS AND BALANCES (EDITORIAL)

By Alex Dunne

This would seem to be a critical time for correspondence chess. I had to ask myself the question *why?* More people seem to be playing chess now. The internet offers chess opportunities I could not have even dreamed of when I was growing up in an isolated community. There are chess publications, books, web sites – everywhere chess seems to be growing. I was about to write “except in correspondence chess,” but I don’t believe that is true. I think correspondence chess has grown, too, but it has evolved. It is not your grandfather’s cc. Correspondence chess has taken wings.

When I first went on-line in 1985, email chess was played by very few people. You posted your move on a bulletin board, and a few days later you (probably) had a reply. Email chess was played with hundreds of participants. Then thousands. More and more chess-playing sites popped up that allowed email or had email delivered directly to your e-mailbox.

Today, I believe email is the dominant form of correspondence chess. But it is still correspondence chess. I realize the Internet statistics will favor email, but here is Google - Correspondence chess: 1,480,000 hits, email chess: 17,6000,000 hits, chess server: 8,550,000 hits

The USCF first offered email chess in the beginning of 1997. Seven years later (2004) it offered the Electronic Knights Tournament. It needs to do more to serve the huge electronic chess community. The USCF was founded as a service organization. We need a webserver for playing correspondence chess. Why should email chess have a charge for rating games when a webserver can rate them for “free” when they finish. Why should possibly the most dedicated chess players outside of the professional ranks be so neglected? The USCF must remember its postal and email players. More time, money, space, and energy need to be put into correschess to bring these players back under the umbrella.

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### NEWS FLASH FROM USCF

Within the week the rating system should be up-to-date. Unrated players, Chess Life labels, website ratings should be correct. Crosstables for newly started events (and gradually, moving backwards, recently started ones) will be online.

More on this as I find out more!

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I am using a .pdf attachment starting with this issue. Please let me know if that solves the problem of being unable to print the diagram.

As I will have more space to work with, I will be interested in receiving games annotated by the players. Here is an example of enterprising play sent in by Leopold Lacrimosa who annotates this month's game.

## GAME OF THE MONTH

After an initial flurry putting Black under great pressure, White spots a Rook in the corner and captures it. After that, Black's remaining army is just too much for White.

### NIMZOVICH DEFENSE

White: Brian Stewart (2221)

Black: Leopold Lacrimosa (2122)

2006 Electronic Knights

Notes by Leopold Lacrimosa

### 1.Nf3 Nc6 2.e4 f5

The Colorado Defense

### 3.exf5 d5 4.Bb5 Bxf5 5.Ne5 Qd6 6.d4 Nf6

[6...e6 Raof 7.c4 (7.c3 a6; 7.Nc3 Nge7 8.Bf4 Qb4; 7.Bxc6+ bxc6 8.g4?) 7...Qb4+ (7...dxc4 8.Qa4 Qb4+ (8...Nge7 9.0-0 Bd3 10.Re1 Bf5 11.-- ...Ng6±) 9.Qxb4 Bxb4+ 10.Bd2 Bxd2+ 11.Nxd2 Nge7 Raof 12.Ndxc4 a6 13.Bxc6+ Nxc6 14.Nxc6 bxc6 15.f3 Ke7 16.Rc1 Rhb8 17.b3 -- ...18.Ne5±) 8.Nc3 Nge7 9.a3 Qd6 10.c5 Qd8 11.Qa4±]

### 7.0-0

[7.c3 Nd7 8.Bf4 Nxe5 9.Bxe5 Qg6; 7.Qf3!? Bd7 (7...Bxc2 8.Na3 Be4 9.Qc3 Bxg2? 10.Rg1 Be4 11.Nxc6 a6 12.Ne5+ axb5 13.Nxb5 Qb6 14.Nxc7+ Kd8 15.Nf7+- -Bucker) 8.-- (8.0-0 Nxd4 9.Bxd7+ Nxd7 10.Qf7+ Kd8 11.Nxd7

Qxd7 12.Nc3 Nxc2 13.Rb1 e6) ...8...Nxe5 (8...Nxd4; or 8...Qb4+ ) ]

### 7...Nd7 8.Qf3?!

Out of Book. Either my opponent made a slight mistake allowing me to win a pawn, or I'm about to get crushed with a prepared line. [8.Bf4 Ndx5 9.Bxe5 Qg6 (9...Qb4 10.Bxc6+ bxc6 11.b3 e6 transposes to the Bucker note.) 10.Bxc7 e6 11.Nc3 Be7 12.Ne2 0-0 1/2-1/2 Tal-Youngquist, simul. exhib. Anaheim, California 1988; 8.Bxc6 bxc6 9.Bf4 Nxe5 10.Bxe5 Qb4! Bucker 11.b3 e6!?!÷]

### 8...Nxd4

[8...e6]

### 9.Bxd7+ Bxd7 10.Qf7+ Kd8 11.Bf4 [

11.Nxd7 Qxd7]

11...Be8

[11...Nxc2 12.Nd3 Qe6 13.Bxc7+ Kxc7 14.Qxe6 Bxe6 15.Rc1 Bf5 16.Rxc2+ Kd8 17.Rd2 Bxd3 18.Rxd3 e6; 11...Ne2+ 12.Kh1 Nxf4 13.Qxf4 Kc8]

12.Nc3

[12.c3 Qe6!]

12...c6

[12...Qxe5 13.Qxe8+ Kxe8 14.Bxe5]

13.Rad1 Qc5

[13...Qxe5 14.Qxe8+ Kxe8 15.Bxe5 Nf5; 13...Qb4; 13...Qe6 With this move I get to retain the two bishops. 14.Qxe6 Nxe6 15.Bg3 g5]

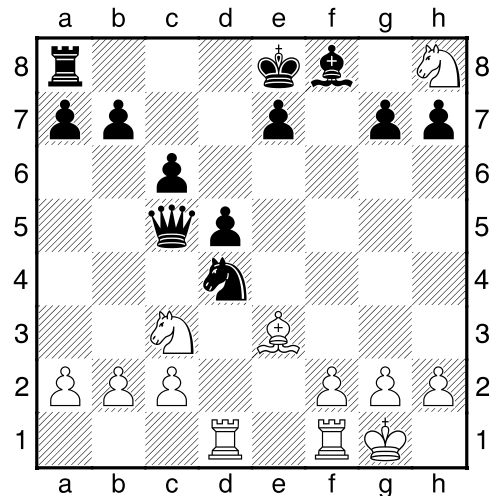
14.Be3

[14.Nd3 Qxc3 15.Qxe8+ Kxe8 16.bxc3 Ne2+]

14...Bxf7 15.Nxf7+?!

[15.Bxd4 Qxd4 16.Rxd4 Bg8 17.Re1 g6]

15...Ke8 16.Nxh8?



I believe that this is the losing move.  
[16.Bxd4 Qxd4 17.Rxd4 Kxf7 18.Re1 g5 19.h4 h6]

**16...e5 17.Rd2**

[17.Bxd4 exd4 18.Rfe1+ Kd7 19.Ne2 Re8]

**17...Qb4?!**

[17...Be7 18.Rfd1 (18.f4 Qb4 19.fxe5 Ne6 20.Nf7 d4) 18...Bf6 19.Ne2 Nxe2+ 20.Rxe2 Qf8 21.c4 Qxh8]

**18.Nxd5!**

This move shows what was wrong with my last move.

**18...cxd5 19.c3 Qc4**

[19...Nf3+ 20.gxf3 Qe7]

**20.cxd4 Bb4**

I finally free my bishop.

**21.Rdd1**

[21.b3]

**21...Qxa2**

[21...e4]

**22.dxe5 Ke7**

[22...Kf8 23.e6! Allows the knight to escape.]

**23.Rc1**

[23.Bg5+ Ke6; 23.Ra1 Qxb2 (23...Qb3) 24.Rfb1 Qc3 25.Rxa7 Rxa7 26.Bxa7 Qxe5 27.Be3 (27.Rxb4 Qe1#) ]

**23...Rxb8**

Black could safely resign here -- Dunne

**24.Rc7+ Ke6 25.Rxb7**

[25.Bd4 b6 26.Rc6+ Kf5 27.e6 Re8 28.Bxg7 d4 29.Bxd4 Qd5; 25.Rxb7 a5; 25.f4 Qxb2]

**25...a5 26.Rxg7 Qxb2 27.Ra7 d4 28.Bh6**

[28.Ra6+ Kxe5 29.Bg5 Re8 30.Ra7 d3 31.Rxh7 d2 32.Rh3 Kf5 33.Be3 Rd8 34.Rh5+ Ke4; 28.Bf4 d3 29.Rd1 (29.Ra6+ Kf5 30.Rf6+ Ke4 31.Rf7 Rf8 32.e6 Rxf7 33.exf7 Kxf4) 29...d2]

**28...d3 29.Bg7 Rc8 30.Ra6+ Kd5 31.Bf6 Rc1**

[31...Qe2]

**32.g4**

[32.g3 Rxf1+ 33.Kxf1 Qe2+ 34.Kg2  
Qe4+ 35.f3 Qe2+ 36.Kh3 d2]

**32...Rxf1+ 33.Kxf1 Qe2+ 34.Kg2  
Qxg4+ 35.Kh1 d2**

[35...d2 36.Rd6+ Bxd6 37.exd6 d1R#]  
**0-1**

Tournaments I would like to fill this month. All of these tournaments need just one more player to make a full section. No guarantees – everything is on a first enter, first assigned basis.

Express Tourney Class C/D  
Postal Match 2 games – Class D  
John Collins Master/Expert  
Postal Match 4 games Class D  
John Collins Class D  
Postal Match 4 games Class C  
Walter Muir Class A  
Postal Match 4 games Class A  
Walter Muir Master/Expert  
Swift Quad – Class D/C  
Palciauskas Prize Class C  
Palciauskas Prize Class B  
Trophy Quad – Class C  
Lightning Match 4 games Class D  
Lightning Match 2 games Class C  
Trophy Quad – Class A  
Lightning Match 2 games Class B  
Lightning Match–2 games Master/Exp.

## July Winners

### John Collins Tournament

John Steele 04CA28 4 ½- 1 ½  
Jack Maxfield 04CM25 4 ½-1 ½  
Kenneth Chaney 05CC15 5-1  
Douglas Walls 04CM47 6-0

### Walter Muir Quad

Joseph Hoffman 05W01 5 ½-½  
John Wolf 06W03 6-0

### Swift Quad

Kendrick Aung 06SQ03 6-0  
Michael Quirk 06SQ04 6-0

### Trophy Quads

Peter Swan 04QM12 5 ½-½  
David Spencer 04CA48 5 ½-½  
Frank Spooner 03QCD7 6-0  
David Donnelly 05QB01 5 ½-½  
Joe Synowicz 05QD08 5 ½-½  
Joe Synowicz 05QD05 5-1

## 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)

## BOOK REVIEW:

CORRESPONDENCE CHESS  
MATCHES BETWEEN CLUBS 1823-  
1899 Volume 4 by Carlo Alberto  
Pagni, 2006, published by Scacchi e  
Scienze Applicate, Venezia.

This is Volume 4 in Pagni's work to restore the records of early correspondence chess between clubs. It is meant, of course, as a reference work, not a book of general interest, but there are some interesting games in the collection – the battle between the Café de la Regence and Cercle de Echecs when an illegal move was made requiring the penalty of a King move. The dispute led to four games from the critical position, only Lionel Kieseritzky moving his King (and also winning). There are some amusing brevities -- London - Athens [C20] 1897 cc, 1.e4 e5 2.Ne2 Nc6 3.Nbc3 Bc5 4.Ng3 d6 5.d3 Nf6 6.Bg5 Be6 7.Nh5 0-0 8.Nd5 Nxe4 9.Bxd8 Bxf2+ 10.Ke2 Bg4# 0-1 ; there is also a Blackmar Gambit played in 1896

This is an important book for the history of early correspondence chess, and I give thanks to Signor Pagni for researching and publishing it.

## ICCF TOURNAMENT

ICCF's newest member, Burkino Faso, has sent this invitation out to all lady players.  
2nd SPORT FOR ALL Invitational  
(2nd SFAI) for ladies players

It's a pleasure to be able to invite ladies

players to participate in this correspondence chess event, which will be played at the ICCF server, [www.iccf-webchess.com](http://www.iccf-webchess.com), to promote female chess.

Many things will depend on the number of players, who will participate, but these are the goals for now:

Level: Group A Category Tournament  
(Rated players, max. 25% P-rated)

Group B (Unrated and new players)

Players: Minimum 9 players.

Maximum 14 games for each player.

Prizes: Medals to first three in each group, sponsored by SPORT FOR ALL.

Eventually book prizes, certificates to all participants.

Entry fee: NO entry fee as it is a promotion tournament.

The sponsor: SPORT FOR ALL (SFA) is an NGO working in West African countries to develop sports activities mostly for the people at risk (caused by e.g. poverty, illness, social problems, lack of job etc.). SFA is cooperating with local governmental authorities like Sports Councils and is also helping sports club structures and training leaders and coaches.

Starting date: 1 September 2006

Registration: By email to:

[wachess@gmail.com](mailto:wachess@gmail.com) not later than: 22 August 2006

Let me hear from you – I need criticism, both positive and negative. I need to know what I can do to serve the cc community. This column can be shaped by the readers as well as the author.

IECG World Championship – scoring 9 ½-4 ½, without loss of a game, Anatoli Sirota of Australia won the 2003 IECG World Championship. The lone US participant Stephen Valentine finished seventh with a 7 ½-6 ½ score.

#### SICILIAN DEFENSE

White: Anatoli Sirota (2339)

Black: Karlheinz Weber (2251)

IECG 2003 World Championship

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 d6 6.Bg5 e6 7.Qd2 a6 8.0-0 h6 9.Nxc6 bxc6 10.Bf4 d5 11.Qe3 Qa5 12.Be2 dxe4 13.Qg3 Qf5 14.Kb1 Nd5 15.Nxd5 cxd5 16.f3 exf3 17.Bd3 Qf6 18.gxf3 Bd7 19.h4 Bb5 20.Be5 Qe7 21.Rhe1 Rg8 22.f4 Bxd3 23.Rxd3 g6 24.f5 Rc8 25.Rxd5 exd5 26.Bf6 Qxe1+ 27.Qxe1+ Kd7 28.Qa5 Bc5 29.b4 Rc6 30.bxc5 Rxf6 31.c6+ Kd6 32.Qb4+ Ke5 33.Qe7+ 1-0

White's fourth move doesn't look very pugnacious, but pugnacity definitely follows.

#### FOUR KNIGHTS (C47)

White: William Boucher (2349)

Black: Richard Title (2443)

2005 Absolute Championship

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.a3 d5 5.Bb5 Nxe4 6.Nxe5 Qg5 7.Nxc6 Qxg2 8.Rf1 a6 9.Ba4 Nxc3 10.dxc3 Qe4+ 11.Qe2 Qxe2+ 12.Kxe2 Bd7 13.Bf4 Bxc6 14.Bxc6+ bxc6 15.Bxc7 Kd7 16.Bg3 g5 17.Kd3 Bg7 18.f3 Rae8 19.c4 h5 20.cxd5 cxd5 21.c3 h4 22.Bf2 Be5 23.h3 Bg3 24.b4 Rc8 25.Bc5 Bd6 26.Bxd6 Kxd6 27.f4 Rhg8 ½-½

Gardner Johnson died 23 May 2006. Gardner was a Master who was playing in his first Absolute. He had a fierce drive to win for a gentle man, sometimes playing out hopeless positions to mate on the off chance his opponent would let him get away. Irony has its way in this, one of Gardner's last games.

#### KING'S INDIAN ATTACK (A04)

White: Richard Brian (1997)

Black: Gardner Johnson (2360)

2004 Golden Knights

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.g3 g6 3.Bg2 Bg7 4.0-0 0-0 5.d3 c5 6.Nbd2 Nc6 7.Nb3 d6 8.c3 a5 9.a4 h6 10.Bd2 Qc7 11.Qc1 Kh7 12.Rb1 e5 13.Ne1 Be6 14.Qc2 Nd7 15.Be3 Nb6 16.Ra1 f5 17.Bd2 c4 18.Nc1 Rae8 19.Ra3 d5 20.b4 Qe7 21.Qb2 axb4 22.cxb4 d4 23.Na2 c3 24.Nxc3 dxc3 25.Bxc3 Nd5 26.Nc2 Nxc3 27.Qxc3 e4 28.d4 Rc8 29.Qb2 Rc7 30.e3 Rfc8 31.Raa1 Ne5 32.Ne1 Nc4 33.Qc3 Nb6 34.Qd2 Bc4 35.b5 Nd5 36.f4 Qd8 37.Rf2 Nxe3 38.Ra3 Ng4 39.d5 Rc5 40.Bxe4 fxe4 41.f5 Rxd5 42.fxg6+ Kxg6 43.Qf4 White 1-0 by Forfeit, Black: RIP

From The Write Move by Tim

Harding: "Keres believed that a player of correspondence chess can do without tournament chess and a player of tournament chess can do without correspondence chess but it is advisable to combine the two kinds of chess, as to some extent they are complementary."