



The Check Is in the Mail

July 2007



Joop van Oosterom. Two-time Champion

Although all the results are not yet in, it is clear that Joop van Oosterom has won the World Championship with an unmatched $+7 =6 -1$ score. Thus van Oosterom repeats as 18th and 21st World Champion, only the second player ever to accomplish this rare double.

Born December 12, 1937 in Holland, he has had a spectacular career off and on the chessboard. He won the Junior OTB Championship of the Netherlands at Age 17. In 1966 Joop and his partner Mol founded the first Dutch software company, through which they became multi-millionaires. Today Joop is worth in the neighborhood of two billion dollars, a very ritzy neighborhood, indeed.

After his financial successes, Joop turned back to his first love, chess, with great success. He won the Dutch CC Championship in 1980-1, placed second in the 15th World Championship ($+8 -1 =6$) tied for first in the Korning

Memorial of 1998-2001, tied for first in the ICCF 50 Year Jubilee, won first place in the 18th World Championship ($+8 =6$) sponsored the famous Melody Amber OTB tournaments, reached #1 on the ICCF rating list (2770) and now has won clear first in the 21st ICCF World Championship.

GAME OF THE MONTH

You may wonder just what it would take to defeat a two-time world champion, a position held only by van Oosterom and Tonu Oim. The following game is van Oosterom's only defeat in World Championship #21. Beware! There are no misprints in this game. What you see borders on quantum physics and string theory applied to chess.

SICILIAN DEFENSE (B47)

White: Arno Nickel (2590)

**Black: Joop van Oosterom (2777)
21 World Championship, 2007**

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6
5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Ndb5**

Once thought to be a mistake, this line now has brought 5...Qc7 into question.

**6...Qb8 7.Be3 a6 8.Bb6 axb5 9.Nxb5
Bb4+ 10.c3 Ba5 11.Nc7+**

Normally the CC world leads in the investigation of such lines, but not here. My postal database only gives two examples here

11...Qxc7 12.Bxc7 Bxc7

This line has been scoring heavily for White -- 75% on my CC database in recent years.

13.Qg4

A probable improvement was Savchenko-Jefferson, ICC 2007: 13. Bb5!? Nf6 14. Qe2 d6 15. 00 h5 16. a4 Bd7 17. b4 h4 18. a5 h3 19. g3 Ke7 20. Rfd1 with White having a strong plus.

13...g6

And here 14...Kf8 has been tried with a fighting try for Black, though White is still better.

14.Qh4 Nge7 15.Bb5 f5 16.f3 0-0 17.0-0 d5

Black must stir up squares for his minor pieces before White can activate the heavy pieces.

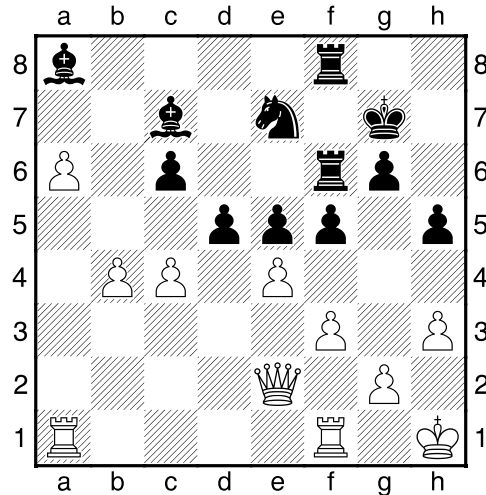
18.Kh1 Bd7 19.a4

And, of course, with a 3-to-1 majority on the queenside, White should concentrate his activities there and in the center.

19...Rf7 20.Qe1 Kg7 21.Rd1 Raf8 22.Qe2 Bc8?!

With this retreat the game takes on a new complexion -- the passed a-Pawn makes its appearance. But what is Black to do? Exchanging on e4 just leads to favorable exchanges for White.

23.Bxc6! bxc6 24.b4 e5 25.a5 Rf6 26.h3 h5 27.Ra1 Bb7 28.a6 Ba8 29.c4



White intends to blockade c5 when the a8 Bishop is sorely out of play. Black tries to invigorate his kingside and center action, but is basically playing with two passive minors against the active Queen.

29...d4 30.c5 g5 31.g3 Ng6 32.Rg1 Kh6 33.Raf1 h4 34.f4

What a position ! White, of course, doesn't mind a wholesale liquidation as the piece on a8 is only a decoration.

34...exf4 35.e5 d3 36.Qg2 hxg3

Black is desperate. After 36...Bxe5 37. gxh4 fxg4 38. Qd2 Rd8 39. Rf3 Rff8 40. Rxd3 the win is a matter of technique.

37.exf6 Nh4 38.Qd2 f3

Another amazing position -- isn't chess fun! But White can defang the attack.

39.Rxf3! Nxf3 40.Qxd3 Nxf1 41.Qd7

Black has a Rook and three minor pieces for the Queen -- half his army! but White threatens mate in two and two of his pieces while a8 remains but a tattoo.

**41...Rxf6 42.Kxg1 Be5 43.Qe8 Bc3
44.Qxa8 Bxb4 45.Qh8+ 1-0**

White will play his Queen to c4 and then win the Rook with his a-Pawn.

20TH World Championship

Some readers may have noticed that the 20th World Championship has not yet been decided. In a tournament still played by postal, it has lagged behind somewhat. In the most draw-filled CC tournament ever (!) three players have won a game or two to be tied for first. The USA's Alik Zilberberg still has some chances for first (He has won one game) if he can win his last two games.

CORRESPONDENCE PLAYERS IMPROVE WITH AGE

Correspondence players improve as the years advance, unlike OTB. Here is a breakdown of correspondence players by ten-year intervals and their average rating. Note that the average goes up right into their seventies. (Statistics supplied by Mike Nolan, but the interpretation is mine. Thanks, Mike!)

Age group	average rating
10-19	1251
20-29	1276
30-39	1441
40-49	1657
50-59	1763

60-69	1793
70-79	1818
80-89	1755
90-99	1762

JUNE WINNERS

Swift Quads

Wilbur Tseng 06SQ17 5 ½-½

John Collins

David Funston	05C32	6-0
James Ellis	06C05	6-0
Charles Truax	06C14	6-0
Philip De Augustino	05C31	6-0
David Greene	04CM53	6-0
James Benjamin	06C04	5-1
Franklin Castle	06C04	5-1

Walter Muir eQuads

A. J. Kain	06W24	5 ½- ½
Michael Howell	07W05	5 ½- ½
A. J. Kain	07W09	5-1
Tim Harris	07W03	5 ½- ½

Trophy Quads

Matthew Myers 05QC10 6-0

OBITUARIES

Clark R. Harmon was born on 18 October, 1942 and died April 12, 2007. Clark was a Master chess player, 10-time winner of the Oregon state OTB championship, and a top CC player. Clark finished a very strong second (score 12-2) two points ahead of the third place finisher in the Sixth US CC Championship and finished with a commendable 7-5 score in the 1988 Absolute Championship



Clark Harmon 1942-2007

PIRC'S DEFENSE (B07)

White: J. Franklin Campbell (1866)

Black: Clark Harmon (2346)

6th USCCC, 1983

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Bg5 h6
5.Bh4 Bg7 6.Be2 c6 7.f4 Qa5 8.Qd2 b5
9.e5 b4 10.exf6 bxc3 11.bxc3 exf6
12.Nf3 0-0 13.0-0 Be6 14.Bd3 Re8
15.f5 Bxf5 16.Bxf5 Qxf5 17.Rab1 Qd5
18.Rb3 Nd7 19.Qd3 Nb6 20.Nd2 f5
21.Bf2 c5 22.c4 Qc6 23.d5 Qc7 24.Rfb1
Qe7 25.Kf1 Qf6 26.Qh3 g5 27.Ra3 Rab8
28.Rab3 Rbd8 29.Ra3 Rd7 30.Qb3 Rde7
31.Nf3 f4 32.Qb5 Qf5 33.Rxa7 Nd7
34.Ne1 Bc3 35.Nd3 f3 36.gxf3 Qxf3
37.Kg1 Re4 0-1

James Nunnally born 4/20/24 died on 5/30/07. James, from Tyler Texas, was a Class C player who played a strong game. In the following game he fights well until a few moves before the end. "He was a very pleasant gentleman." – Robert Eisthen



James Nunnally 1924-2007

SICILIAN DEFENSE (B23)

White: R. Ruiz (1597)

Black: James Nunnally (1552)

2004 John Collins

1.e4 c5 2.Nc3 e6 3.g3 d6 4.Bg2 Nf6
5.Nge2 Be7 6.d3 0-0 7.0-0 Nc6 8.f3
Bd7 9.Be3 Qa5 10.Kh1 Rac8 11.g4 Ne8
12.Qd2 Nc7 13.Ng3 d5 14.exd5 exd5
15.Nce2 Rfe8 16.Qxa5 Nxa5 17.Bd2
Nc6 18.a3 Bf6 19.Bc3 d4 20.Bd2 Ne5
21.Ne4 Be7 22.N2g3 Nd5 23.h3 Rc6
24.f4 Ng6 25.Rae1 Bh4 26.Kh2 Nf8
27.Ng5 Rd6 28.Rxe8 Bxe8 29.Nf5 1-0

Quote: People are realizing that correspondence players are the ones to watch since half the time in OTB someone forgets the theory on the way to the crucial position. -- IM Malcolm Pein

PALCIAUSKAS TOURNAMENT

To speed up tournament assignments, the Palciauskas tournaments will now offer four divisions of play ratings: 0000-1399, 1400-1699, 1700-1999 and 2000+ This should speed up assignments in what otherwise has been a somewhat slow tournament. Entry fee is still \$25 with a prize of \$130 to the winner.

WEB WATCH

A two-game consultation match is being conducted at the ICCF web site, www.iccf.com/forum/. FIDE GM Amir Bagheri of Iran (2481) will be playing the two games against members of the ICCF forum, one with white and one with black on the UCCF webserver. The games will start on 20 June with a time limit of 10 moves in 100 days. The ICCF forum will be used to discuss the moves to be selected to be played. In case of a tie, two more voting days will be given the ICCF team. Participation is open to all players who register on the ICCF forum at any stage of the game. If you just want to watch, the games can be seen live at www.iccf-webchess.com

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@stny.rr.com

2007 ABSOLUTE TOURNAMENT

In order to bring about an agreement of the year of the Absolute Tournament and the year it actually begins, I will be taking bids for the 2007 Absolute which will begin in August of this year. The 2007 Absolute will be played by email only. I regret that a few strong players will thus be shut out the USCF's strongest tournament, but one, it is very few, and two, the world marches on. If you are a Master-rated player and are interested in participating in the 2007 Absolute, the entry is free and restricted to the top 13 rated players who apply before 21 July.

CC HISTORY

History of correspondence chess began in 1804 when W. de Mauvillon of Breda played three games with an anonymous officer friend at the Hague -- the first postal game of which we have the score -- Egbert Meissenburg

KING PAWN OPENING

White: W. Von Mauvillon

Black: Opponent

Netherlands corr, Game 3, 1804

Some sources given only two games by Mauvillon but John Elburg, who has consulted Diepstraten's history of Dutch CC says there were three games: "He played three correspondence games but we have to guess who had black or white." Mauvillon was based in s'Gravenhage (The Hague) and his opponent was probably a officer played by military courier services in Breda. Mauvillon was a German but from French origins because he had a French father who was on his turn a son of Jakob van Mauvillon who was military adviser from " Stadhouder"

{stadtholder} Willem V van Oranje. Friedrich Wilhelm van Mauvillon wrote a chess book in 1827 when he was pensioned as lieutenant colonel "Anweisung zur Erlernung der Schachs piels" which was translated in Dutch by Jan de Quack "Handleiding tot het leeren va het schaak spel" by Mensing and from Westreenen Rotterdam 1928/1830. In his introduction Mauvillon explains that he is no master in the chess. The following game confirms this.

1.e4 e5 2.d3 d6 3.f4 h5 4.Nf3 f5 5.fxe5 fxe4 6.dxe4 dxe5 7.Bc4 Qxd1+ 8.Kxd1 Nf6 9.Nc3 Ng4 10.Ke2 Bc5 11.h3 Nf2 12.Rf1 Nc6 13.Be3 Bxe3 14.Kxe3 Nxf3 15.gxf3 Bxf3 16.Rf2 Rf8 17.Nb5 0-0-0 18.c3 Na5 19.b3 a6 20.Na3 b5 21.Be2 Nc6 22.Ng5 Bd7 23.Rxf8 Rxf8 24.Bxf3 b4 25.Nb1 Rf4 26.Bf3 bxc3 27.Nxc3 Nd4 28.Rh1 Rf8 29.Be2 Kb7 30.Nf3 Nc6 31.Rh7 Rg8 32.Bc4 Rf8 33.Rxg7 Be8 34.Bd5 Bh5 35.Nxe5 Rf6 36.Bxc6+ Rxc6 37.Nxc6 Kxc6 38.e5 Be8 39.Kd4 Kb6 40.a3 c5+ 41.Kc4 Bb5+ 42.Nxb5 axb5+ 43.Kd5 Ka6 44.e6 c4 45.e7 1-0

White whistles and Black dances until he stumbles.

BIRD'S OPENING (A03)

White: Barry Walker (2039)

Black: Dennis Bullock (1845)

06N37, 2007

1.f4 g6 2.Nf3 Bg7 3.g3 d5 4.Bg2 Nf6 5.0-0 0-0 6.d3 b6 7.e4 dxe4 8.dxe4 Bb7 9.e5 Nfd7 10.Be3 e6 11.Nbd2 Qe7 12.Qe2 Rd8 13.Nd4 c6 14.Ne4 b5 15.Nd6 Nb6 16.Nxb7 Qxb7 17.Qxb5 Rd5 18.Qb3 Qc7 19.c4 Rxd4 20.Bxd4 N8d7 21.Rad1 Rb8 22.Qc2 1-0

Henry Ceeto shows some of the endgame skill it takes to be a USCF Expert by CC

SICILIAN DEFENSE (B96)

White: Brian MacLeish (0000)

Black: Henry Ceeto (2141)

2004 Electronic Knights semifinal

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Qc7 8.Bd3 Be7 9.Nf3 Qb6 10.Rb1 Nc6 11.Qe2 Nh5 12.g3 f6 13.Bh4 0-0 14.Qd2 g6 15.g4 Nxf4 16.Qxf4 g5 17.Qd2 gxf4 18.Qf2 Qxf2+ 19.Kxf2 Ne5 20.h3 b5 21.a3 Bb7 22.Nxe5 fxe5+ 23.Ke2 Rf4 24.Rhf1 Raf8 25.Rbe1 Bg5 26.Rxf4 Rxf4 27.Rf1 Rxf1 28.Kxf1 Bc1 29.Nd1 Kf7 30.Ke2 Kf6 31.Kf2 Kg5 32.Kf3 d5 33.c3 h5 34.gxf4 Kxf4 35.Bc2 Kg5 36.Bd3 Bc6 37.Bc2 Be8 38.exd5 exd5 39.Ne3 e4+ 40.Kf2 Bxe3+ 41.Kxe3 Bd7 42.Bb3 Bxf3 43.Bxd5 Bf5 44.Kf2 Kf4 45.Bb3 h3 46.Kg1 Kg3 47.c4 h2+ 48.Kh1 e3 0-1

Black follows a time-honored campaign: first he gains the edge on the queenside, swings that advantage to the center, and uses the center to conquer the kingside.

MODERN BENONI (A75)

White: Thomas LaBue (1955)

Black: Harry Ingersol (1994)

2007 Electronic Knights

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c5 4.d5 d6 5.Nc3 exd5 6.cxd5 g6 7.e4 a6 8.a4 Bg4 9.Be2 Bxf3 10.Bxf3 Nbd7 11.Bf4 Qe7 12.0-0 Bg7 13.a5 0-0 14.Re1 Rab8 15.Qc2 Ne8 16.Rab1 Nc7 17.Be2 b5 18.axb6 Rxb6 19.Na4 Rb4 20.Bd3 Ne5 21.Bf1 Nb5 22.Bd2 Nd4 23.Qd1 Rxa4 24.Qxa4 Ndf3+ 25.Kh1 Qh4 26.gxf3 Nxf3 27.h3 Qxf2 28.Bg2 Qg3 0-1