



The Check Is in the Mail

April 2007

TED BRANDHORST WINS THE X NAICCC

The thirteen top correspondence chess players from Mexico, the United States, and Canada were invited to play in the Tenth North American Invitational Correspondence Chess Championship. This year the championship was played on the ICCF webserver.

Although the tournament is not completed – second, third, and other positions have not yet been determined, first place has been decided. Wesley “Ted” Brandhorst has clinched clear first place with an unmatchable +7 -1 =4 score, just half a point shy of a Grandmaster norm. Undecided as of yet, but it looks like there is a fair chance for a 1-2-3 sweep by Americans Brandhorst, Bokar, and White, but Canadian IM Valer-Eugen Demian and American IM Michael Millstone may yet vault into a high position.

GAME OF THE MONTH

SEMI-SLAV DEFENSE

White: Valer-Eugen Demian (2420)

Black: Wesley Brandhorst (2421)

10th North American Invitational CCC

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6 4.Nf3 Nf6 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4 dxc4 7.e4 g5 8.Bg3 b5 9.Be2 Bb7 10.h4 g4

This is an improvement on the wild game O’Hare – Brandhorst, 2003 Absolute which continued 10...b4 11. hxg5 bxc3 12. bxc3 Nxe4 13. Be5 (Bokar-Demian, X NAICCC saw 13. Ne5 Nxc3 14. fxg3, later 0-1) 13...Nxc3 14. Qc2 Nxe2 15. Kxe2 Rg8 16. gxh6 Bxh6 17. Rxh6 Nd7 18. Qh7 with the initiative for White though later drawn.

11.Ne5 h5

Black ended up with the full point after 11. ...Rg8 12. Nxc4 Nxc4 13. Bxc4 Nd7 14. 0-0 Qb6 15. a4 a5 in Skeels-Demian, X NAICCC

The position after 11. ...h5 was very popular in the X NAICCC. Demian-Weisskohl played 12. f3 Rg8 13. fxg4 b4 and White won.

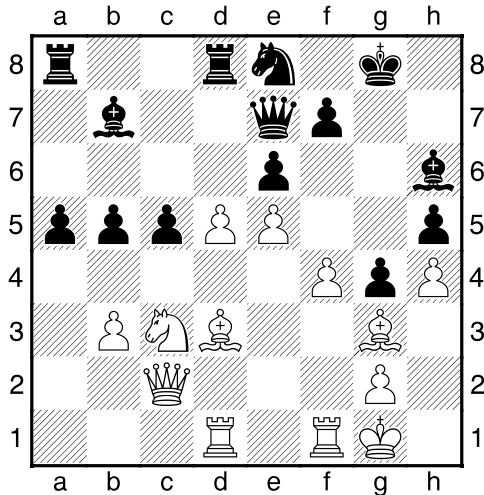
12.0-0 Nbd7 13.Qc2 Bh6

Bokar-Brandhorst, X NAICCC saw Brandhorst’s only loss in the tournament after 13...Rg8 14. Rad1 Nxe5 15. Bxe5 Nd7 16. Bg3 Qf6 17. d5 ! and White broke through the center.

Bokar-Weisskohl continued 13...Be7 14. Rad1 Qb6 15. Nxd7 Nxd7 16. d5 ! in similar fashion.

Skeels-Ruben, X NAICCC saw 13...Nxe5 14. Bxe5 Bg7 15. Bg3 0-0 16. e5 Nd5 later drawn.

14.b3 Nxe5 15.Bxe5 cxb3 16.axb3 0-0 17.Bd3 Qe7 18.Bg3 Rfd8 19.Rad1 Ne8 20.e5 a5 21.f4 c5 22.d5



This is the high water mark of White's attack. He engineers a central breakthrough, but Brandhorst is able to hold and beat back White's attack, simplifying into a winning endgame.

22...Bxd5 23.Bxb5 Nc7 24.Bc4 Bxc4 25.bxc4 Ne8!

A great defensive play -- the Knight is needed to keep h5 safe.

26.f5 Rxd1 27.Rxd1 exf5 28.Qxf5 Qe6 29.Qe4

Not 29. Qxh5? Be3+ 30. Bf2 Ng7 winning the Queen.

29. ... Rb8 30.Bf4 Bg7 31.Nb5 a4 32.g3 Bh6 33.Ra1 Bg7 34.Rd1 Kh8 35.Qd5

This seems inappropriate as Black's King seems more dangerously placed than White's and White is a Pawn down. Apparently Demian is hoping to draw the ending.

35. ... Qxd5 36.Rxd5 Ra8 37.Bc1 Kg8 38.Kf2 Bf8 39.Rd3 f6 40.e6

After 40. exf6 Nxf6, Black is just a Pawn ahead in the endgame with no counterplay for White.

40. ... Ra6 41.Ra3 Bd6 42.Be3 Be5

Black eyes both the e- and g-Pawns now.

43.Bxc5 Ng7 44.Nd4 Ra5 45.Bb6 Ra6 46.Bc5 Ra8 47.Bb6 Kf8 48.Bc5+ Ke8 49.Nb5 Nxe6 50.Bd6

Otherwise 50. Be3 Ng7 and ...Nf5.

50. ... Kd7 51.Rd3 Bd4+ 52.Ke2 Kc6 53.Ba3 Be5 54.Bb4 Nc5 55.Re3 Nb3 56.Kf1 Rd8 57.Kg2 Nd2 58.Ra3 Nxc4 59.Na7+ Kb7 60.Rxa4

White has eliminated the queenside Pawns but at the cost of his troops deserting the King. Now the Black pieces converge on the King and pick off the g-Pawn.

60. ... Ne3+ 61.Kh2 Nf1+ 62.Kg2 Nxc3 63.Be1 Ne2 64.Nb5 Rd1 65.Kf2 Nf4 66.Re4 Nd3+ 67.Ke2 Rxe1+ 68.Kxd3 Rb1 69.Kc4 g3 0-1

PROPOSED POLICY OF RATING FORFEITS

When you win a game by forfeiture, as the winner you will receive a stipend, two or three rating points usually. If the game has been going on for over a year, and your opponent withdraws, dies, or disappears, you will be given full rating points for the win.

When an opponent "disappears" through death or other causes before the one year time limit, you do not win the game "on time," nor will you receive full rating points if you delay reporting the silent withdrawal so that a year's time has passed. If you believe you have a winning position, the proper procedure is to submit the game for adjudication. A win by adjudication will produce full rating points for your win.

The forfeiture of two games in a section may lead to the forfeiture of any remaining games.

Finally, some players have suggested that if a player dies in a tournament, any draws or wins he previously had earned should be cancelled. I am of the school that believes we should let the dead keep what glories they earned while alive.

OBITUARIES

John Penquite came into the correspondence world like Halley's comet. John earned the highest correspondence rating ever attained. His 2939 rating was no fluke. He attained that rating by a 58-game winning streak, only halted by a draw against a strong Expert. John entered five sections of the 1990 Golden Knights and ended up tied for first with a perfect score, and had he been eligible, he also would have finished third, fourth, fifth, and sixteenth. John also finished second in the 1991 Absolute. Besides his astronomical USCF rating, he was the top-rated player in several other cc organizations.

Sometimes John made chess look awfully easy.

GRUNFELD DEFENSE (D88)

White: John Penquite
Black: R. Rittenhouse
Correspondence 1990

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Bc4 0-0 8.Ne2 c5 9.0-0 Nc6 10.Be3 cxd4 11.cxd4 Bg4 12.f3 Na5 13.Bxf7+ Rxf7 14.fxg4 Rxf1+ 15.Kxf1 Qd6 16.Kg1 Qd7 17.h3 b5 18.Qd3 Nc4 19.Bf2 Rf8 20.a4 a6 21.axb5 axb5 22.Rb1 e6 23.d5 Rd8 24.Nf4 exd5 25.Nxd5 h6 26.Bd4 Re8 27.Bxg7

Xxg7 28.Rxb5 Nd6 29.Rb4 Qa1+ 30.Kh2 1-0

James Fisher died 28 February, 2007, playing correspondence chess to the last. James was a Master player from Texas who specialized first in the Golden Knights and then the Electronic Knights, too. He also played in the Absolute Championship of 2003. His name can be found in many of the Final rounds of recent years. Always a gentlemen by postcard, his play could be fierce, however. Michael Calogridis supplied us with an excellent example of James' play, in this strong endgame from the 2003 Golden Knight Finals.

AMERICAN DEFENSE (D06)

White: Michael Calogridis (2272)
Black: James Fisher (2337)
2003 Golden Knights semifinal

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 d5 3.cxd5 Qxd5 4.Nc3 Qa5 5.Nf3 Nc6 6.Bd2 Qf5 7.e3 e6 8.Bb5 Bd7 9.Qe2 a6 10.Bd3 Qh5 11.Rc1 Be7 12.h3 g5 13.Ne5 Qxe2+ 14.Bxe2 Nxe5 15.dxe5 Ng8 16.Bf3 0-0-0 17.Rc2 h5 18.g3 Kb8 19.Bg2 f5 20.exf6 Nxf6 21.0-0 e5 22.Rfc1 g4 23.h4 Be6 24.Na4 Bd6 25.b4 Bf5 26.Rb2 Be4 27.Nc5 Bxg2 28.Kxg2 Rhe8 29.Be1 e4 30.a4 Kc8 31.Rbc2 Nd5 32.b5 axb5 33.axb5 Re5 34.Nb3 Nb6 35.Nd4 Nd5 36.Rc4 Nb6 37.R4c2 Nd5 38.Rc4 Kd7 39.Ra1 Nb6 40.Rc2 Rd5 41.Ra7 Rb8 42.Ra1 Ra8 43.Rac1 Ke7 44.Bd2 Kf7 45.Be1 Nd7 46.Rb1 Nb6 47.Rbc1 Nd7 48.Rb1 Ra4 49.Bd2 Ne5 50.b6 c6 51.Kf1 Nd3 52.Ne2 Rb5 53.Rxb5 cxb5 54.Nc1 b4 55.Nxd3 exd3 56.Rb2 Be5 57.Rxb4 Ra2 58.Rb5 Ke6 59.Bb4 Ra1+ 60.Kg2 Rb1 61.f4 gxf3+ 62.Kxf3 Bd6 0-1

Norval Turner, a solid Class A player of Murray, Utah, died on the 27th of February. Norval, a long-time CC player, took more than a few scalps along the way. Here he takes a high-ranking Expert to task.

FRENCH DEFENSE (C02)

White: Norval Turner (1805)

Black: D. Rabiner (2190)

Class A Correspondence 1995

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.c3 e6 4.d4 d5
5.e5 Qb6 6.Be2 cxd4 7.cxd4 Nge7
8.Nc3 Nf5 9.Bb5 Bb4 10.Bxc6+ bxc6
11.0-0 Ba6 12.Re1 0-0 13.a3 Bxc3
14.bxc3 c5 15.a4 cxd4 16.a5 Qc7
17.cxd4 Rfc8 18.g4?! Ne7 19.Ba3
Ng6 20.Bc5 Nf4 21.Re3 Bc4 22.Nd2
Bb5 23.Qf3 Ng6 24.Qg3 Rab8 25.h4
Qb7 26.h5 Nf8 27.Qf4 h6 28.Rb1
Qa6 29.Reb3 Nd7 30.Bd6 Rb7 31.g5
hxg5 32.Qxg5 f6 33.Qg4 1-0

WEB WATCH

The website of the 13th Correspondence World Champion, Mikhail Umansky is worthwhile checking out. There are many deeply annotated games on this site – www.murmansky.com which has dual language presentations in English and German. The English might be suspect – “In the department the analytic laboratory I might from time to time publish the analyses of the games, which in different time in OTB and correspondence chess tournament had played and the games, which will be still played,” but the chess and analysis is top rate. Games and annotations such as:

RUY LOPEZ (C)

White: Jurij Kutjanun

Black: Mikhail Umansky

USSR 1978

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. O-O Be7 6. Re1 b5 7. Bb3 d6 8. c3 O-O 9. h3 Nb8 10. d4 Nbd7 11. Nbd2 Bb7 12. Bc2 Re8 13. Nf1 Bf8 14. Ng3 g6 15. a4 c5 16. d5 c4 17. Bg5 Bg7 17... h6 18. Be3 Nc5 19. Qd2 h5 18. Qd2 Qe7 18... Nc5 19. Ra3 Qc7 20. Rea1 Rab8 21. Qe3 Nfd7 22. Bh6 Bh8 23. Nh2 Bc8 24. axb5 axb5 25. Ng4 Nf6 - Tal,M-Petrosian,T/Milano 1975 19. Nh2 Qf8 20. Rf1 20. Ng4 h5 21. Nh2 Nh7 22. Be3 Qe7 23. Nf3 Bf6 24. Nf1 Reb8 25. a5 Bc8 26. b3 cxb3 27. Bxb3 Qd8 28. Reb1 Nc5 29. Bc2 Qc7 Gutierrez,J-Khan,M/Dubai olm 1986/TD 86\02/ - (66) 20. Re2 Nc5 21. a5 Bc8 22. Rf1 h6 23. Be3 Nfd7 24. f4 exf4 25. Bxf4 Ne5 26. Nf3 Ncd3 27. Bxd3 Nxd3 28. Be3 Ne5 29. Nxe5 Rxe5 30. Ref2 Re7 31. Bd4 Bd7 32. Bf6 Rae8 33. Qf4 Bxf6 34. Qxf6 Rd8 35. Qxd6 Bxh3 36. Qxa6 Bd7 37. Rf6 Qe8 38. Qb6 h5 39. d6 Re6 40. Rxe6 Bxe6 41. e5 Bd5 42. Qd4 Qc6 43. Rf2 Qa8 44. Rd2 Be6 45. Ne4 Qxa5 46. Nf6+ Kg7 47. Qf4 b4 48. cxb4 Qa1+ 49. Kh2 h4 Kruszynski,W-Abramovic,B/Rubinstein mem 1983/MCD-r8/1-0 (66) 20. Ra3 Kh8 21. Rea1 Nc5 22. Be3 Ng8 23. axb5 axb5 24. Ra5 Bh6 25. Ng4 Bxe3 26. Nxe3 Rxa5 27. Rxa5 Ba6 28. Qd1 Ra8 29. Qa1 Qd8 Mchedlishvili,M-Yin Hao/WchJM-U14 1993/TD 93\05/ - (48) 20... Kh8 21. f3 21. f4!? exf4 22. Rxf4 h6 23. Rh4+/= 21... Ng8 22. Ng4 h5 23. Nh2 Bh6 24. f4 f6 25. h4 fxg5 25... exf4 26. Bxf4 Bxf4 27. Qxf4 Ne5 28. Nf3 Qe7= 26. fxg5 Qe7 26... Bxg5 27. Qxg5 Qh6 28. Nf3 Rf8= 27. gxh6 Qxh4 28. Rf7 Ndf6[] 28... Re7? 29. Raf1 Nc5 (29... Qxg3 30. R7f3 Qh4 31. Rh3) 30. h7 Rxf7 31. Rxf7 Qxg3 32. hxg8=Q+ Kxg8 33. Rf3 Qh4 34. Qh6+- 29. Ngf1 Re7 30. Rxe7 Nxe7 31. g3 Qh3 32. axb5 a5 32... axb5? 33. Rxa8+ Bxa8

34. Qf2+- **33. Qg5 Rf8 34. Re1**
 34. Rxa5 Nexd5 35. Ra7 (35. exd5
 Bxd5 36. Qd2 h4 37. gxh4 Ng4 38.
 Bf5 (38. Qxd5? Nxh2 39. Nxh2
 Qe3+-+) 38... Nxh2 39. Bxh3
 Nf3+ 40. Kf2 Nxd2+ 41. Ke2 Nb3
 42. Ra6 (42. Ra7 Bf3+ 43. Ke1
 Nc5 44. Nh2 Nd3+) 42... Bf3+ 43.
 Ke1 d5 44. Rxc6 Nc5 45. Rc6
 Nd3+ 46. Kd2 Nxb2 47. Rc8 Rxc8
 48. Bxc8 d4) 35... Qc8! (35... Nh7
 36. Qd2 h4 37. exd5 hxg3 38.
 Rxb7 gxh2+ 39. Nxh2 Qg3+ 40.
 Kh1 Rf2 41. Rb8+ Nf8 42. Rxf8+
 (42. Qxf2? Qxf2 43. b6 Qxc2 44.
 Rxf8+ Kh7 45. b7 Qd1+ 46. Kg2
 Qxd5+) 42... Rxf8 43. Qg2 Qh4
 44. Kg1 Qxh6 45. Nf1 Qf4 46.
 Bxg6 (46. b6 Rb8 47. Bxg6 Rxb6
 48. Qh3+ (48. Bb1 Qh6 49. Bf5
 Rb7 50. Be6 Rg7 51. Bg4 Qh4 52.
 Nh2 Qe1+ 53. Qf1) 48... Kg7 49.
 Qh7+ Kf6) 46... Rg8 47. Qh3+
 Kg7 48. Qh7+ Kf8) 36. exd5 (36.
 Rxb7 Qxb7 37. exd5 Qb6+ 38.
 Kg2 Qxb5 39. Qxg6 Qxd5+ 40. Nf3
 Qf7 41. Qxf7 Rxf7 42. N1d2 Rb7
 43. Nxc4 e4 44. Nh4 d5) 36...
 Qc5+ 37. Qe3 Qxd5 38. Rxb7
 Qxb7 **34... Qd7 35. Ba4 Nh7 36.**
b6 Qd8 37. Qe3 Nf6 38. Bc2 h4!
39. gxh4 Nexd5 40. exd5 Nxd5
41. Qg3 Qxb6+ 42. Ne3 Nf4 43.
Bxg6 Qxb2 44. Bc2 Rg8 45.
Qxg8+ 45. Nhg4 Qxc3 46. Kh2
Qd2+ 47. Kg1 c3+- 45... Kxg8
46. Rb1 Qxc3 47. h7+ Kh8 48.
Nhg4 Ne2+ 49. Kh2 Qd4 49...
 Nd4? 50. Rxb7 Nxc2 51. Nf6 Qd2+
 52. Ng2 Qb4 (52... Qh6 53. Rb8+
 Kg7 54. Rg8+ Kxf6 55. h8=Q+
 Qxh8 56. Rxh8 a4 57. h5 a3 58.
 h6 Kg5 59. h7 Kh6 60. Nh4 Kg7
 61. Ra8 Kxh7 62. Nf5 d5 63. Ra7+
 Kh8 64. Ne7) 53. Rxb4 axb4 54.
 h5+- Nd4 55. Nh4+- **50. Rf1 Nf4**
51. Rd1 Qb6 51... Nd3 52. Rb1 If
 52. Rg1 Qd8 53. Nf6 Bg2+- **52...**
Qd8 53. Nf5 Bd5 54. Ne7 Nd3
55. Nf6 Be4 56. Bd1 Nb4 57.
Nxe4 Qxe7 58. Ng5 Qf6 59. Bf3
d5 60. Ra1 c3 61. Bh5 Nd3 61...
 Nd3 62. Rxa5 Qf4+ 63. Kh3 Qf8+-

0-1 [Umansky]

make this a great site to visit. Umansky also gives lessons and trains. Also included on the site are photos, news, pictures of his diplomas, the Gambit Match with Gert Timmerman and information about how to play Umansky (simuls). Visit this site -- www.mumansky.com

ERRATTA: The game Ellis vs. Short of last issue mistakenly had the colors reversed. James Ellis had Black. Corky Schakel is not the 2004 Absolute champion. He is the 2003 co-Champion and strongly in contention for the 2004 slot.

FEEDBACK WANTED

The idea has been put forth by some members that they would like to play in a trophy Quad by email. We currently do not have such an event. I am taking an informal poll – are any readers interested in such an event? Let me know – it is not a binding commitment – I would just like to get some numbers. Projected event: 4 players (could be expanded slightly) \$10 entry fee, 12” trophy (approximately). Let me know!

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

Quote: In correspondence chess the personality of one’s opponent counts for little or nothing -- Graham Mitchell

MARCH WINNERS

Express Tournament

Nicholas Granell 06ET05 5-1

Walter Muir eQuads

Edmund Powers 06W15 6-0

Victor Palciauskas Tournament

Joseph Daudish 06P02 5 ½-½

John Collins

Philip Hinchman 04CC40 5-1
Carl Dolson 05CD17 5-1
Chris Sanjuro 05CA24 5 ½-½
Frank Spooner 04CB52 5-1

Trophy Quads

Walter Alberts 06Q03 5 ½-½

Swift Quads

Klaus Johnson 04SQ23 5 ½-½
Christopher Snell 04SQ24 4 ½-1 ½
Wilbur Tseng 06SQ13 5 ½-½

THE RATINGS ARE COMING! THE RATINGS ARE COMING!

As of 29 March, I have typed in all the back results from pre-June 2006 to 24 January 2007. I should be entirely caught up in the ratings by early April. And then ? When I find out more, I will let you know.

Here's a guideline on how to attack your opponent – keep pushing your f-Pawn.

ALEKHINE'S DEFENSE (B03)

White: William Nadolny (2033)

Black: Walter Brower (2390)

2006 Electronic Knights semifinal 2007

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 d6 4.c4 Nb6 5.exd6 cxd6 6.Nc3 g6 7.Be3 Bg7 8.Nf3 Nc6 9.Be2 0-0 10.0-0 d5 11.cxd5 Nxd5 12.Qb3 Nxe3 13.fxe3 b6 14.Rac1 Bb7 15.Rfd1 e6 16.a3 Rc8 17.Qa4 Bh6 18.Kf2 Ne7 19.g4 f5 20.g5 Bxf3 21.gxh6 Bc6 22.Bb5 f4 23.e4 a6 24.Bxc6 Nxc6 25.Qxa6 f3 26.Qf1 Nxd4 27.Qh3 Rc5 28.Rd3 Rh5 29.Qg3 Rg5 0-1

You should always look both ways before sticking your head into a lion's mouth. Apparently Expert Jack Shaw looked only one way.

CARO-KANN DEFENSE (B15)

White: Raymond Kremen (1686)

Black: Jack Shaw (2035)

2006 Golden Knights

1.d4 g6 2.e4 Bg7 3.Nc3 c6 4.f4 d5 5.e5 h5 6.Bd3 Nh6 7.Nf3 Bg4 8.0-0 e6 9.Ne2 Nd7 10.b3 Bf8 11.c4 dxc4 12.bxc4 Nb6 13.Qb3 Qd7 14.a4 Rb8 15.a5 Na8 16.Ba3 Nf5 17.Bxf8 Bxf3 18.Bc5 Bxe2 19.Bxe2 b6 20.d5 cxd5 21.cxd5 Qxd5 22.Bb5+ 1-0

What we must always remember -- chess, sometimes, is fun !

SICILIAN DEFENSE (B71)

White: W. Watts

Black: R. Pierce

USA Correspondence 1946

1.e4 c5 2.Ne2 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.f4 Bg7?! 7.e5 dxe5 8.fxe5 Nd5 9.Bb5+ Kf8 10.Rf1 Bxe5 11.Qf3 Nf6 12.Bh6+ Kg8 13.Nde2 Nc6 14.Rd1 Bxc3+ 15.Qxc3 Bd7 16.Rxf6 exf6 17.Rxd7 Qa5 18.Bxc6 Qxc3+ 19.Nxc3 bxc6 20.Ne4 Re8 21.Rd8 1-0