



# check is in the mail

by FIDE Master Alex Dunne

## the reynolds challenge

Most people now think that the machines have arrived. Two tie matches between Kasparov and Deep Junior and Kramnik and Deep Fritz show that commercially available programs can hold their own with the best, OTB. What the computers have demonstrated is that even human GMs rated over 2700 make too many errors at OTB time limits. But the computers still have not met a challenge offered in 1987, nor are they likely to do so for quite a while.

The Reynolds Challenge was offered to an unhearing computer world. After all, it was "just" correspondence chess. Dr. Robert Reynolds, then ranked sixth on the ICCF rating list, proposed a match for a small stake against any computer playing at the standard 10 moves in 30 days. No computer team has accepted this challenge and for good, if surprising, reasons. At first consideration one might expect that a computer analyzing millions of moves a second would have a crushing advantage over a human. But the tree of possible moves grows nearly exponentially. If a computer could exhaustively analyze to a depth of seven ply (3½ moves) in three minutes, three days would typically give it only nine to ten ply, depending on the position. Except in positions where mate can be forced or where it can connect to an end-game tablebase, the extra three half moves would add little to its evaluation strength.

### GAME OF THE MONTH

Turn your computers loose on this one, readers. How many of the moves will be predicted? How far in advance? ICCM Robert Reynolds, born 1950, winner of the sixth USCCC, fourth in the 2002 OTB Senior Open, and a naturopathic physician in Santa Barbara, sends this game from the XV World Championship Finals.

Tony Cayford is the winner of the 1st USCCC. It is the only World Championship Finals game between two Americans. The game may also be the last world-class correspondence game played without computer assistance.

#### VERESOV OPENING

[D01]

W: Robert Reynolds (2479)  
B: Tony Cayford (2487)

XV World Championship Finals

Notes by Robert Reynolds

1. d4 Nf6 2. Nc3 d5 3. Bg5 h6 4. Bxf6 exf6 5. e3 c6 6. Bd3 Bd6 7. Qf3 0-0 8. Nge2 Re8 9. g4

Opening databases give 9. 0-0-0 b5 10. g4 b4 11. Na4 with advantage to White. With 9. g4 and 10. Ng3 I was trying to improve by allowing both knights to move to the kingside. In retrospect, the queen knight is required to defend the queenside and center.

9. ... b5 10. Ng3 Na6 11. 0-0-0 Nc7 12. h4 Ne6 13. Nf5 Bf8 14. Rdg1 a5 15. Ne2 g6 16. Neg3 b4 17. Nh5 gxh5 18. g5 Nxc5

If 18. ... fxc5, then 19. Qxh5 is too strong.

#### 19. Qxh5

Today I would play 19. hxg5 fxc5 20. Rxh5 Bxf5 21. Qxf5 Bg7 22. Rxh6 Bxh6 23. Qh7+ Kf8 24. Qxh6+ Ke7 25. Qxg5+ Kd7 26. Qf5+ Kc7 27. Qxf7+ when White has a slight material advantage.

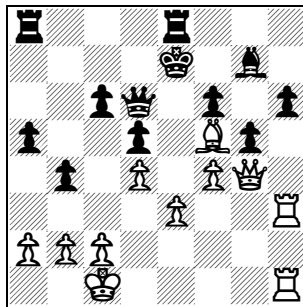
#### 19. ... Bxf5 20. Bxf5 Bg7 21. Rg3 Kf8

Also good for Black is 21. ... Qd6 22. Rhg1 Kf8 followed by ... c6-c5. Black's ability to play a timely ... c6-c5 is the problem with my strategem of moving the queen knight to h5.

#### 22. hxg5 fxc5 23. f4 Qd6 24. Qg4

This is a critical position. Black should open the center with 24. ... c5 25. fxc5 cxd4 26. exd4 hxg5 27. Qxg5 Qf6 28. Qxf6 Bxf6 29. Rhg1 Ke7. Instead, he mistakenly chooses to hunker down.

#### 24. ... f6? 25. Rgh3 Ke7



White now simplifies into a bishop plus pawn vs. rook ending that is winning even if the final *denouement* is beyond my analytical horizon.

26. Rxh6 Bxh6 27. Rxh6 Rh8 28. fxc5 Raf8 29. Qh3 Rxh6 30. gxh6 Qd8 31. h7 Rh8 32. Qg3 Kf8 33. Kd2 Qe7 34. c3 bxc3+ 35. bxc3 Kf7 36. a4 Kf8 37. Bd3 Qd8 38. c4 Qe7 39. c5 Qd7 40. Qf4 Kg7 41. Bf5 Qe7 42. Qg3+ Kf8 43. Qd6 Qxd6 44. cxd6 Kg7 45. d7 Kf7 46. e4 dxe4 47. Ke3 Ke7 48. Kxe4 Kd6 49. Kf4 Ke7 50. Kg4 Kf7 51. Kh5 Kg7 52. Bg6 Rd8 53. Be8 Kxh7 54. Kg4 Kg7 55. Kf5 Ra8 56. Ke6 Kf8 57. Bg6 Rd8 58. Be4, Black resigns.

Computer world: Long after the OTB world falls to silicon, the correspondence players will still be there. Isn't it about time the Reynolds Challenge is accepted?

Thank you to the many readers and chess players who comforted me in my recent sad days. Difficult times like these remind me of how wonderful chess and friends are.

My apologies to the Absolute players who sent me games in January and February. The scores were lost in the fire as were my databases after 2002. Could you please send them again? And Robert Hux, you promised to send me your Absolute games.

The U.S. team is battling for a place in the XIII Olympiad finals. The six remaining U.S. games will decide whether we qualify or not. Here is the last game finished as Daniel Fleetwood moves us one point closer to possible qualification by controlling the long dark diagonal.

#### MODERN BENONI

[A67]

W: Gisli Gunnlaugsson (2417)  
B: Daniel Fleetwood (2547)

XIII Olympiad, 2003

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 c5 4. d5 exd5 5. cxd5 d6 6. e4 g6 7. f4 Bg7 8. Bb5+ Nfd7 9. Nf3 a6 10. Bd3 b5 11. 0-0 0-0 12. f5 Ne5 13. Nxe5 Bxe5 14. Bf4 Bd4+ 15. Kh1 b4 16. Na4 Bd7 17. Rb1 Bb5 18. b3 Re8 19. Qd2 Be5 20. fxc6 fxc6 21. Bg5 Qc7 22. Nb2 Nd7 23. Nc4 Bd4 24. Qe2 Rf8 25. Be7 Bxc4 26. Bxc4 Rxf1+ 27. Rxf1 Ne5 28. Bg5 Nxc4 29. Qxc4 Qg7 30. Qe2 Be5 31. g3 Qd7 32. Kg2 Bg7 33. Bf4 a5 34. Bg5 a4 35. Rf2 a3 36. h4 Rf8 37. Rxf8+ Kxf8 38. h5 h6 39. Bd2 g5 40. g4 Qe7 41. Qf1+ Kg8 42. Qf5 Qe8 43. Qf3 Qe5 44. Bc1 Qf6 45. Qg3 c4 46. bxc4 Qd4 47. Qf3 Qxc4 48. Qf5 Kh8 49. Be3 Qxa2+ 50. Kf3 Qc4 51. Qe6 Qc7 52. Qe8+ Kh7 53. Qg6+ Kg8 54. Qe8+ Bf8 55. Qa4 Qc3, White resigns.

This is no quick draw. This is two gladiators slinging every weapon at their disposal at one another until they both drop, exhausted, and split the point.

#### DUTCH DEFENSE

[A83]

Staunton Gambit

W: George Ferroni (2067)  
B: Mike Belcher (2182)

CCLA E-mail Finals, 2002

1. d4 f5 2. e4 fxe4 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bg5 Nc6 5. d5 Ne5 6. Qd4 Nf7 7. Bxf6 exf6 8.

Nxe4 f5 9. Ng3 g6 10. 0-0 Bh6+ 11. f4 0-0 12. Nf3 b5 13. Bxb5 Rb8 14. Bc4 Bg7 15. Qxa7 Bxb2+ 16. Kb1 Rb7 17. Qa4 Bg7+ 18. Bb3 Qf6 19. Nd4 Qd6 20. Ngxf5 gxf5 21. Nxf5 Qf6 22. Nxg7 Kxg7 23. Rhe1 Nd6 24. Rd3 Rb6 25. g3 Rf7 26. Qd4 Ba6 27. Qxf6+ Kxf6 28. Rc3 Rb7 29. Kc1 h5 30. a3 Rg7 31. a4 h4 32. Kb2 hxc3 33. hxc3 Bc4 34. Ka3 Bxb3 35. cxb3 Nf5 36. Rg1 Ke7 37. g4 Kd6 38. g5 Kxd5 39. b4 Kd4 40. Kb3 d5 41. Re1 Re7 42. Rxe7 Nxe7 43. Rc1 Nf5 44. a5 Ke4 45. Ka4 Kxf4 46. g6 d4 47. Rf1+ Ke4 48. Re1+ Ne3 49. Rg1 Rb8 50. g7 Rg8 51. Kb3 d3 52. Kc3 Nd5+ 53. Kd2 Nf6 54. Rg6 Nd7 55. Rg4+ Kf3 56. Rg1 Ne5 57. a6 Ke4 58. Kc3 Nf3 59. Rg6 d2 60. Kc2 Kf5 61. Rg3 Kf4 62. Rg6 Kf5 63. Rg3 Ng5 64. a7 Rd8 65. Rg1 c6 66. Kd1 Kf4 67. Kc2 Kf5 68. Ra1 Ne4 69. g8=Q d1=Q+ 70. Rxd1 Rxc8 71. Ra1 Ra8 72. Kb3 Ke5 73. Ra5+ Kd6 74. b5 cxb5 75. Kb4 Kc6 76. Ra6+ Kb7 77. Re6 Rxa7 78. Re7+, draw.

White plays some Class A moves to bring down the always dangerous John Caligiure.

**FRENCH DEFENSE** [C02]  
 W: Harry Simon (1997)  
 B: John Caligiure (2148)  
*CCLA E-mail, 2002*

1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. c3 Nc6 5.

Correspondence chessplayers 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 is in the Mail during a given year. What better reason, then, to send your postal brilliancies to Alex Dunne?

Nf3 Qb6 6. Bd3 cxd4 7. cxd4 Bd7 8. 0-0 Nxd4 9. Nxd4 Qxd4 10. Nc3 Qxe5 11. Re1 Qb8 12. Nxd5 Bd6 13. Qg4 Kf8 14. Bd2 f5 15. Qf3 exd5 16. Bxf5 Bc6 17. Re6 Nf6 18. Rae1 h5 19. Bg6 Kg8 20. Rxf6 gxf6 21. Qxf6 Qc7 22. Qe6+ Kf8 23. Bc3 Rh6 24. Qf6+ Kg8 25. Qg5 Bf8 26. Bxh5+ Kh7 27. Qf5+ Kg8 28. Qg5+ Kh7 29. Re6 Be8 30. Rxh6+ Bxh6 31. Qf5+ Kg8 32. Qe6+ Kh7 33. Bxe8 Rxe8 34. Qxe8 Bg7 35. Qh5+ Kg8 36. Qxd5+ Kh7 37. Qh5+ Kg8 38. Qg6 Qd7 39. Qxg7+, Black resigns.

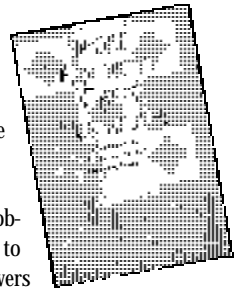
## SPREAD THE WORD TO FELLOW USCF MEMBERS!

This is an historic year for U.S. Chess Federation members! Any member whose membership is current through the end of July 2003, is 16 years of age or older as of June 1, 2003, and is a resident of the USA, can vote in the USCF Executive Board election. Each member in this category will receive his or her ballot in the July issue of Chess Life, mailed the beginning of June. Voting members not receiving Chess Life (i.e., Family Members, Economy Adult Members) may request a ballot from the USCF by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope before May 20, 2003. The voter must also furnish his or her date of birth. Remember, this is your Federation. Take an active role in its governance.

Vote and encourage other members to vote!

## More Fun with Chess Miniatures

by Robert Lincoln.  
 This is a wonderful compilation of composed mate-in-two problems. If these are your bag, you will indeed have many hours of fun. The problems are set out nine to a page, with the answers on the facing page.



540 problems, 128 pages. ©2000.

BG652LP \$17.95/\$11.95

A USCF PRESS PUBLICATION

Call 800-388-KING (5464)

Fax 845-561-CHES (2437)



KEY:  
LIST/MEMBERS

www.uschess.org



## 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.

## 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 EPO 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)

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 USCF ID# \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credit card # (Visa, MC, Discover, AMEX) \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. date \_\_\_\_\_

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



U.S. Chess Federation  
 www.uschess.org