



The Check Is in the Mail January 2009

GILLMORE HOEFDRAAD 2005 ELECTRONIC KNIGHTS CHAMPION



Gillmore Hoefdraad knows the globe a lot better than most. Born in Suriname in 1962, Gillmore learned chess when he was nine years old, eventually winning several junior titles and representing Suriname at the Luzerne Olympics. In 1992 he began working in Mexico as an economist for the Center of Monetary Studies for Latin America and the Caribbean. Then in 1999 he came to the United States where he found correspondence chess to be an ideal solution to a busy life style. Since 2008 Gillmore has been stationed with the International Monetary Fund in Beirut, Lebanon. Email chess has been the perfect solution for him to answer from any corner of the globe he has been in. The globe-trotting must do something for his game as he is our new 2005 Electronic Knights champion!

2005 Electronic Knights Standings

Gillmore Hoefdraad	39.60
Kenneth Coryell	39.00
John Menke	38.35
Dean Barclay	37.85
Patrick Ryan	35.05
Dennis Pope	32.35
Kenneth Coryell	30.00
Corky Schakel	28.90
William Turin	26.80
William Jemty	23.90
Mark Cheathem	22.30
Zachary Cohn	19.55
William Young	18.25
Grant Luckey	14.90

GAME OF THE MONTH

FRENCH DEFENSE (C03)

White: Gillmore Hoefdraad (2058)

Black: Mark Cheathem (2025)

2005 Electronic Knights Final

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 Be7 4.Ngf3 Nf6
5.e5 Nfd7 6.Bd3 c5 7.c3 Nc6 8.0-0 g5!?**

The Dagger in the Heart Variation, but whose heart ? The idea is clear and exciting: weaken White's grip on the center and create kingside play. But the kingside is White's domain.

9.dxc5!

The Nimzovichian axiom that a thrust on the wing is best met by a counterthrust in the center gets a Q.E.D. in this game Other counters have not fared as well.

**9...g4 10.Nd4 Ndx5 11.N2b3 Nxd3
12.Qxd3 e5 13.Nxc6 bxc6 14.Bh6!**

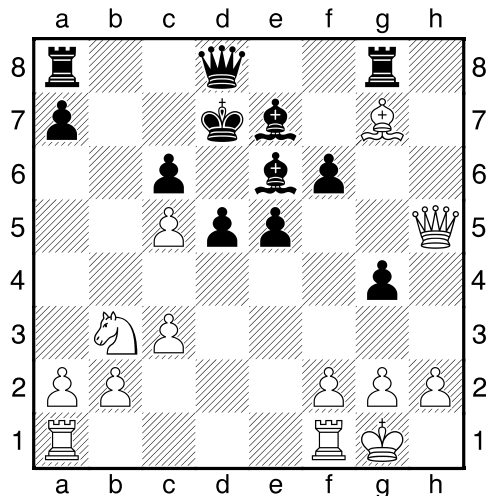
White still has to work hard in this position. Given some freedom the two

Bishops and solid center offer Black winning chances. His problem (other than Bg7 and Bxe5) is that his King has no safe haven.

14...f6 15.Bg7!?

This seems to be an improvement on Schuster-Arounopoulos, Rochade 5171, 2004 where Black almost fought back to equality after 15. c4 Be6 16. cxd5 Bxd5 17. Nd2 Bxc5 18. Rae1 Be7 19. Nc4 Qd7

15...Rg8 16.Qxh7 Be6 17.Qh5+ Kd7



The Black King seeks safety in its nest of friendly pieces and Pawns. The extra Pawn is not yet a factor. An argument here can be made for 17...Bf7 with chances to hold.

18.Qh7 Kc8 19.Qh6 Rb8

It isn't that Black's pieces are poorly placed, it is just that he can't move them to any new squares. Hoefdraad's accuracy now brings home the point.

20.f4!

White strikes at Black's strength, a sign the game belongs to White.

20...e4 21.f5 Bd7 22.Rad1 Rb7 23.Kh1 Bf8

With his King having no homeland, Black seeks solace in an endgame. It is a quantum of solace.

24.Bxf8 Qxf8 25.Qxf8+ Rxf8 26.Rd2 Rg8 27.Nd4

An extra Pawn, a good Knight against a bad Bishop, and Rooks that have some coordination, this is not a difficult endgame to finish.

27...Kc7 28.Re2 Rbb8 29.b4 Bc8 30.Re3 a5 31.a3 Ba6 32.Rf4 axb4 33.axb4 Bd3 34.h3 gxh3 35.gxh3 Ra8 36.Rg4 Rxg4 37.hxg4 Ra2 38.Kg1

There is little to do against White's Rook going to the h-file with c6 falling. **1-0**

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 chesskinetics@stny.rr.com

**Postcards from the Center:
Joan DuBois, 40 years at USCF!**



Joan DuBois is and has been an icon of USCF correspondence chess for forty years. In 1969 eighteen year old Joan was seeking a job in the medical field. She knew she had found the right place when she thought she heard, “Good morning, US Chest Federation”. She had – but didn’t find out it was the US Chess Federation until she showed up for the interview. They liked Joan’s smile and she was hired. She and Jack Straley Battell were the postal chess department, and then came the Fischer boom! The postal chess department swelled to five by 1973. Over the years this number has diminished, but not Joan’s activities at USCF. Today she is active with the USCF website, chess club relations, Director of Communications, and she handles Tournament Life Announcements for [Chess life](#) and [Chess Life for Kids](#). Joan’s twin sister Judy came to work in the Membership Department the next year. Since they were working at the USCF, Joan thought they should learn to play the game. Joan received lessons at the Newburgh Chess Club, but found the strong players there intimidating. She eventually discovered that her most desirable way to play chess was through the mail. Joan is like many who still prefer US mail. “There is something about getting a chess move in the mail that cannot be replaced,” Joan mused.

In 1971 Joan met her future husband James and his three children (all of whom would eventually learn to play chess). Joan married him in 1972, took a leave of absence from USCF for a year, and then returned. They were married for nearly thirty-five years before he died in 2007.

Through her work in the USCF Joan has met many famous players. Joan has also made many friends in the chess world, including some of her dearest personal friends; with many of them she enjoyed leisurely postal games filled with chatter and shared thoughts. Joan recalled especially playing with Pauline Dowling and Virginia Alverson using cassette tapes as they were both blind players. Joan was also playing a good friend, Thomas Hailey, who died during the early stages of the game, and she hasn’t picked up a chess piece since.

Has Joan any advice for CC players ? “Don’t do as I do,” Joan says, “Keep playing! Why not try it the old-fashioned way and enjoy the friendly chat with a chess friend. After Thomas [Hailey] passed, I found comfort in reading over all of our correspondence. We not only discussed chess but frequently threw in some politics and just everyday humor of everyday life!” Joan notes that “...chess and those involved in it have touched my life in so many wonderful ways. The processes of playing a chess game have instilled in me what it takes to get through the everyday challenges of life. Decisions have consequences but regardless of whether you are pondering your next move or pondering a challenge of everyday living...take your time...evaluate your options and pick the best move ... you usually will have made the right choice as I did in 1969!”

FOR THIS WE PLAY CHESS

Ted Brandhorst sends us this epic game profusely annotated as an embodiment of why we play chess.

GRUNFELD DEFENSE (D97)

White: Ted Brandhorst (2444)

Black: Lawrence Coplin (2414)

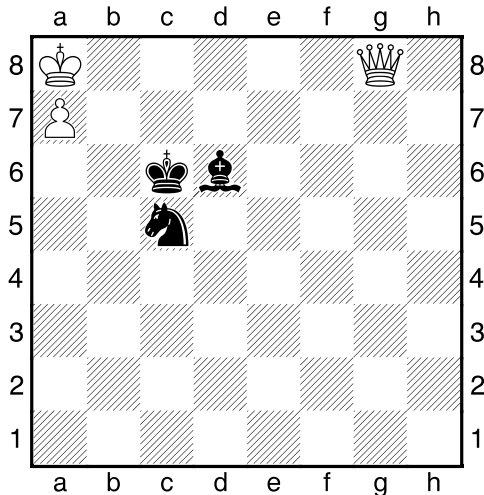
2006 Absolute

Notes by Ted Brandhorst

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Nf3 Bg7 5.Qb3 dxc4 6.Qxc4 0-0 7.e4 c6 8.Qb3 Nbd7 9.e5 The last book move **9...Ne8** [9...Nd5 10.Nxd5 cxd5 11.Be2=] **10.h4** Somewhat risky early attack before either side's forces are fully deployed. **10...Nb6 11.h5 Nc7 12.hxg6 hxg6 13.Bg5** Black has a cramped position. **13...Bf5 14.0-0-0** White has a very active position (14, Be2 Qd7 =) **14...Ncd5** [14...Qd7 15.Qa3 Nbd5 16.Nh4=] **15.Bd3 Bxd3 16.Rxd3 Nxc3 17.Qxc3 Qd5** [17...f6 18.Bd2 Qd5 19.Kb1] **18.Kb1 Qe4 19.Qc2** White's King attack begins to form. **19...Nd5 20.Rh4 Qf5 21.Bd2 f6 22.g4 Qe4 23.g5 Qf5 24.gxf6** Uncover that King! **24...exf6 25.Rh2 fxe5 26.Nh4 Qh5 27.Rg3** Pawns don't matter when the bet is an "all-in" attack. **27...exd4** [27...Nf4!?] **28.Rgg2± Qe2 29.Nxg6 Rf6 30.Nf4 d3 31.Nxd3** Worse is 31, Be2 dxc2+ 32. Kxc2 Re8 = **31...Qe4 32.Rg5 Re8 33.Rhg2 Re7 34.R5g4 Qf5 35.R2g3 Rfe6 36.Qd1 Qh7 37.Ka1** White must activate the Knight **37...Re4** [37...b6 38.Nf4 Nxf4 39.Rxf4] **38.Rg6 R4e6 39.R6g5 b6 40.Nb4 Nf6** Black's Knight is needed for the defense. **41.Bc3 Kf8** Black's King is exposed and will be chased. **42.Rg1** [42.Nxc6 Rxc6 43.Bb4 Rc5 44.Rxc5 bxc5 45.Bxc5 Ne8±] **42...a5** [42...Rd7 43.Qf3 Qe4 44.Qxe4 Rxe4 (44...Nxe4? 45.Rxg7 Rxg7 46.Bxg7+ (46.Rxg7 Nxc3 47.Rg1 Nb5)

46...Ke7 47.f4) 45.Nxc6 Ne8±] **43.Nc2 Rd7 44.Nd4 Red6 45.Qb3 Rxd4** A needed exchange sacrifice, but hard to see the resulting loss of Black's queenside Pawns. **46.Bxd4 Rxd4 47.Qxb6** 47. Rxg7 Qxg7 48. Rxg7 Kxg7 +- **47...Rd5 48.Qxc6 Rxc6 49.Rxc6 Qd3 50.a3 Nd7 51.Qc8+** 51. Rxa5 Bxb2+ 52. Kxb2 Qd2+ 53. Kb3 Qxa5 54. Qxd7 Qb6+ 55. Kc4 Qa6+ 56. Qb5 Qe6+ 57. Qd5 Qe2+ 58. Qd3 Qxf2 59. Qd8+ Kf7 60. Qd5+ Kg6 61. Qc6+ Kf7 +- **51...Kf7 52.Rxa5 Ke7 52...Be5 53. Qb7 Ke6 54.Ka2 +- 53.Qb7 Qd2 53...Bd4!?** Qb4+ Kd8 55. f4 +- **54.Qe4+ Kd8 54...Kf7 55. Rb5+ 55.Ra8+ Kc7 56.Qc4+ Kd6 57.Ra6+ Ke7 58.Re6+ Kd8 59.Re2 Qg5 59...Qd6 60. Ka2 +- 60.Ka2 60. f4** Seems even better 60...Qc5 61. Qxc5 Nxc5 +- **60...Bf8 61.b4** White can win only by advancing the queenside Pawns, but must be careful, as this exposes the White King along the way. **61...Qf6 61...Bf6 62. a4 +- 62.Rd2 Bh6 63.Rc2 63. Qg8+** makes it even easier for White **63...Kc7 64. Rc2+ Kd8 +- 63...Bf4 63...Bg7 64. Qc7+ Ke8 65. Qc8+ Ke7 66. Re2+ Ne5 67. Qb7+ Kf8 68. Qa8+ Ke7 69. Qd5 +- 64.a4 Qd6 64...Bd6 65. a5 +- 65.a5 Be5 66.Ka3 66. a3!?** keeps an even firmer grip **66...Qd1 67. f4 Bd4 +- 66...Qd1 67.Ka4 Bd6 68.Qg8+ Nf8 69.Qb3 Qa1+ 70.Qa3 Qd1 71.Qc1 Qg4 71...Qd4 72. Rc8+ Kd7 73. Qc6+ Ke7 74. Re8+ Kf6 75. Qf3+ Kg7 76. Re4 Qa1+ 77. Kb5 +- 72.Rc4 72. Qd2** seems even better **72...Qd7+ 73. b5 Ne6 +- 72...Qd7+ 73.b5 Ne6 74...Qf7 75. Qd2 Qd7 76. Qd5 Nc5+ 77. Rxc5 Bxc5 78. Qxc5 Qd1+ 79. Kb4 Qb1 80. Kc4 Qa2+ 81. Kd3 Qxa5 82. f4 +- 74.Qc3 74. a6** might be the shorter path **74...Be5 +- 74...Be7 74...Qf7 75. Qd2 Qd7 76. Qd5 Nc5+ 77. Rxc5 Bxc5 78. Qxc5 Qd1+ 79. b4 Qb1+ 80. Kc4 Qa2+ 81. Kd3**

Qxa5 82. f4 +- **75.a6 Ke8 76.Rc8+ Kf7 77.Qf3+ Kg7 78.Rc4 Kg6 79.Qg4+ Kf7 80.Qf5+ Ke8** 80...Bf6 81. Qh7+ Bg7 81. Qh5+ Kf8 83. Qf3+ Kg8 +- **81.Qh5+ Kd8 82.Qh8+ Bf8 83.Rc6 Qd2** 83...Qd5 84, Ka5 Kd7 85. Qh3 Qd2+ 86. Kb6 Qd4+ 87. Kb7 +- **84.Qh4+ Kd7 85.Qc4 Qd1+ 86.Ka5 Qd2+ 87.Kb6** Sacrificing the f-Pawn to advance the White King to the queening squares. **87...Qxf2+ 88.Kb7 Nc5+ 89.Ka8 Bd6 90.Qg8 Qf3 91.a7** A mistake. Permits black to sacrifice its Queen and set up a hard-to-anticipate "fortress" position that traps White's King in the corner. Either 91. Qc8+ or 91. Qh7+ were better. **91...Qxc6+** 91...Qe4 does not improve anything 92. Qb8 Qxc6+ 93. bxc5+ Kxc6 94. Qd8 +- **92.bxc6+ Kxc6** Diagram



The "fortress" -- Black's King just circles the two stationary Black pieces while the White Queen checks away, futilely trying to free its King. White contemplates conceding the draw. **93.Qc8+ Kd5 94.Qe8 Kd4 95.Qh5 Ke4 96.Qg5 Kd4 97.Qf5 Kc4 98.Qe4+**! The Queen sacrifice is the only way to free the White King. It results in an unusual endgame of Q vs. B+N, the only one of

the three kinds of two minor pieces endings that the Queen can win. If instead the Queen tries capturing the Knight, this permits the Bishop to capture the last White Pawn. If instead the Queen tries capturing the Bishop, this permits the Knight to reach c7 (via a6) to capture the Pawn queening on a8. **98...Nxe4** Forced. If 98...Kb5 then 99 Qb7+ Kc4 100. Qc6 Be5 101. Qxc5 and the Pawn queens, or 100...Be7/Bf8 and the White King escapes to b87 and the Pawn queens. **99.Kb7 Kb5 100.a8Q Nc5+** At this point, Black invokes the 50-move rule: White must either mate or capture a piece in 50 moves or less or the game is a draw. **101.Kc8 Kc4 102.Kd8 Kd4 103.Ke8 Bf4 104.Kf7 Be3 105.Kf6 Ne4+ 106.Kf5 Nd6+** 106...Nc3 does not win a prize 107. Qf3 +- **107.Ke6 Nc4 108.Qf3 Nd2** 108...Kc5 cannot change destiny 109. Qd5+ Kb4 110. Qh5 +- **109.Qd5+ Kc3 110.Qf5 Kd4** 110...Bb6 does not solve anything 111. Kd5 Ba5 112. Qc8+ Kb3 113. Kd4 +- **111.Qg4+ Kc3 112.Kd5 Kd3 113.Qh5!** The winning strategy (not found in any book in my library) ensures that White will win a Black piece in the ensuing few moves. **113...Bf2** 113...Bf4 is not the saving move 114. Qe8 +- **114.Qe8!** Black now foresees that White will win a piece (and the game) in the next few moves and decides graciously to resign. 114. Qe8 Be3 115. Qb5+ Kc3 116. Qe2 +- Once the Black King is separated from one or more of its pieces, the White Queen checks quickly win a piece. For example: A) 116. Qe2 Bf4 117. Qf2 Bh6 118. Qf6+ wins B) 116. Qe2 Bf4 117. Qf2 Bb8 118. Qf8 Bh2 110. Qh8+ wins C) 116. Qe2 Bh6 117. Qe6 Bg7 118. Qc6+ Kd3 119. Qg6+ wins D) 116. Qe2 Bb6 117. Qe5+ Kd3 118. Qf5+ Ke2 119. Qh5+ Kf2 120. Qh2+ Ke1 121. Qe5+ Kf1 122. Qa1+

Kg2 123. Qg7+ Kf1 124. Qh6+ wins E) 116. Qe2 Bd4 117. Qe7 Nb3 118. Qe1+ Kc2 119. Qe2+ Kc3 120. Qc4+ Kb2 121. Qb4 Bc3 122. Qb5 Kc2 123. Qa4 Kb2 124. Kc4 Na5+ 125. Kd3 Be1 126. Qc2+ Ka3 127. Qx1+ wins **1-0**

Quote: In this age of the internet, it may be hard to believe that proponents of playing chess through the mail still exist. -- Jon Edwards

DECEMBER TOURNAMENTS

Walter Muir

Steve Ross 08W07 5-1
Shawn Gillen 08W07 5-1
Patrick Walsh 08W30 5-1
Rejean Gagnon 08W39 5 ½-½

Swift Quad

Jeffrey Chrin 08SQ05 5 ½-½
Timothy Harris 08SQ04 4 ½-1 ½

John Collins

Gerard Soricelli 07C31 5-1
Charles Truax 07C08 6-0
Steven Fairbairn 06C45 5-1
Matthew Myers 07C16 4-2
Garry Tressler 07C16 4-2
Jason Percy 06C36 4 ½ -1½
Charles Cavaleri 06C44 6-0
Jacob Hayes 07C41 6-0
Crawford Daniels 07C05 5-1

Trophy Quad

Greg Whitlock 07Q01 5-1
Daniel Garnett 06Q07 5-1

2009 ABSOLUTE: Angels and Bids !

The 2009 Absolute is looking for some angels who would like to donate to the prize fund. At this time we have a few generous patrons. This is our strongest USCF correspondence tournament.

Why not make the purse a little richer for our best warriors? Donations can be sent to USCF, Att: Joan DuBois, PO Box 3967, Crossville,m TN 38557.

Now is also the time to send in your bids to play in the 2009 Absolute. The top rated 13 players will be accepted for battle. Send in your bid now!

HARRIS WINS 08SQ04

Harris	2280		==	=1	11	4½
Ballow	2203	==		==	=1	3½
Katzmarek	2006	=0	==		11	3½
Beres	2244	00	=0	00		½

Tim Harris finds his way to a winning endgame by carefully extracting the poison from Beres' planned attacks.

SICILIAN DEFENSE (B72)

White: Timothy Harris (2280)

Black: Juraj Beres (2244)

2008 Swift Quad

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6 9.0-0 d5 10.Nxc6 bxc6 11.exd5 Nxd5 12.Nxd5 cxd5 13.Qxd5 Qc7 14.Qc5 Qb7 15.b3 Bf5 16.Bd3 Rfc8 17.Qa5 Qc6 18.Bxf5 gxf5 19.c4 Qf6 20.Bd4 e5 21.Bb2 Qg5+ 22.Kb1 Re8 23.g3 Qe3 24.Rhf1 Re6 25.Qd2 Qxd2 26.Rxd2 e4 27.Rd5 Bxb2 28.Kxb2 e3 29.Re1 e2 30.f4 Rae8 31.Re5 Rxe5 32.fxe5 Rxe5 33.Kc3 f4 34.gxf4 Re4 35.Kd3 Rxf4 36.c5 Kf8 37.Rxe2 Rb4 38.c6 Rb6 39.Rc2 Rb8 40.Kc4 Ke7 41.Rd2 1-0