



Check is in the Mail

by FIDE Master Alex Dunne

SIMply wonderful

The International Correspondence Chess Federation has created a new title to identify those players who are midway between an International Correspondence Master and a Correspondence Grandmaster. The title is bestowed on those players who have achieved two or more Senior International Master (SIM) norms in a minimum of 24 games. The SIM norm (linked to ratings) requires the player to play at 2500 strength in appropriate tournaments. This year the recipients of the SIM title were Tim Runting, Australia; Michael Freeman, New Zealand; Kiyotaka Sakai, Japan; Junior Tay, Singapore; and an explosion of US players: Jason Bokar, Jon Edwards, John Knudsen, Robin Smith, Jerry Weisskohl, and Max Zavanelli. Congratulations, gentlemen!

GAME OF THE MONTH

The US team has fought hard in the 13th Olympiad. At the moment there are only three games left for the USA and qualification (or lack of) depends upon the outcome of those three games. SIM Jon Edwards won the fourth of the four games being played to qualify. Here is his final contribution to the team's push toward the finish.

FRENCH DEFENSE

[C11]

W: Jon Edwards (2550)
B: Momir Milovanovic (2430)

13th Olympiad 2003

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Bg5 dxe4 5 Nxe4 Be7 6 Bxf6 Bxf6 7 Nf3 0-0 8 Qd2 Be7 9 0-0-0 Nd7 10 Bc4 An experiment that has not been repeated was Kasparov-Bareev, Sarajevo 2000, 10 Qc3 Nf6.

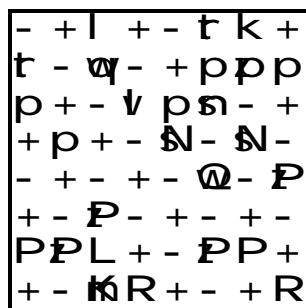
10...a6 11 Bb3 Anand-Bareev, Wijk aan Zee, 2003, a drastically premature draw, saw 11...a5 12 Bc4 c6 13 Kb1 Qc7 14 h4 ½-½.

11...c6 12 Qf4 b5 13 h4 Ra7 14 Neg5 Nf6 15 c3 Qc7 16 Ne5 c5 17 Bc2 cxd4 18 Qxd4 Bc5 19 Qf4 Bd6 (see diagram)

20 Rxd6! A remarkable conception: Edwards sacrifices the exchange for agile minor piece play against clumsy rooks.

20...Qxd6 21 Rd1 Qc7 22 Qe3 Rb7 23 f4 b4 24 c4 Qa5 25 Nc6 Qc7 Black can't pocket the a-pawn after 25...Qxa2 26 Bb3 Qa1+ 27 Kc2 when White is winning.

26 Ne5 Qa5 27 Kb1!? Edwards has



after 19...Bd6

ice water running through his veins: He appraises his position as superior, though behind the exchange, and rejects the draw.

27...Rd8 28 Bd3 Re8 Passive is 28...Rf8, but White would still have to figure out a breakthrough.

29 g4 g6 30 h5 b3 31 a3 Rc7 32 Nxf7 Rxf7 33 hxe6 Rg7 34 g5 Nd7 35 gxh7+ Kh8 36 Ng6+ Rxe6 37 Bxe6 Re7 38 Ka1! A neat defensive play that avoids back rank mates and in some cases an awkward check at f5.

38...e5 39 Bb1 Qd8 40 f5 Qf8 Black runs into a sockdologer after 40...Rxb7 41 Qxe5+!

41 Rg1 Rg7 42 f6 Nxf6 43 Rf1 Re7 44 gxf6 1-0

At the ICCF Congress at Ostrava, SIM Max Zavanelli was elected Deputy President and Development Director, the principal deputy to the ICCF President, responsible for presentation of the rules, the establishment and operation of the appeals commission, and Internet usage. Congratulations, Max! I am sure the US will be well represented in ICCF.

As with all great players, SIM Jason Bokar makes it look SIMple.

ENGLISH OPENING

[A39]

W: Jason Bokar (2509)
B: Axel Mendez

15th Olympiad, Board 3, 2003

1 Nf3 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 Nc3 Nc6 4 g3 g6 5 d4 cxd4 6 Nxd4 Bg7 7 Bg2 0-0 8 0-0 Nxd4 9 Qxd4 d6 10 Qd3 Qc7 11 Bg5 Be6 12 b3 h6 13 Be3 Qd7 14 Bd4 Bh3 15 Rad1 Bxe2 16 Kxe2 Rfc8 17 f4 Qc6+ 18 e4 e6 19 Rf3 Rd8 20 f5 gxf5 21 Bxf6 Bxf6 22 exf5 Kg7 23 Ne4 Be5 24 f6+ Kg8 25 Qe3 Kh7 26 Ng5+ hxg5 27 Qxg5 Bxf6 28 Qxf6 Rg8 29 Rd4 Rg7 30 Rh4+ Kg8 31 Qh6 f6 32 Qxf6 Re8 33 Qh6 1-0

White's two bishops leave claw marks across Black's kingside in this fine attacking game.

NIMZO-INDIAN DEFENSE

[E51]

W: John Knudsen (2480)
B: Luis Lamarche Rodriguez (2431)
2nd E-mail Team Tournament ICCF 2002

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 e3 0-0 5 Nf3 d5 6 a3 Bxc3+ 7 bxc3 c5 8 Bb2 Nc6 9 Rc1 dxc4 10 Bxc4 Qc7 11 Bd3 e5 12 Qc2 h6 13 0-0 Rb8 14 dxe5 Ng4 15 c4 Nxe5 16 Nxe5 Nxe5 17 Bh7+ Kh8 18 f4 Ng4 19 Rfe1 f5 20 Bg6 Qc6 21 Bh5 Nf6 22 Bf3 Ne4 23 Be5 Ra8 24 e4 Re8 25 Rcd1 Qg6 26 Kh1 Ng5 27 Bd5 Nf7 28 Bb2 Kh7 29 gxf5 Bxf5 30 e4 Bg4 31 Rd3 Nd6 32 Rg1 1-0

White's 11th move sets Black problems he fails to solve. After that, there are no more questions.

DUTCH DEFENSE

[A86]

W: Jerry Weisskohl (2486)
B: R. Brooke (2177)

13th USCCC 1997

1 d4 f5 2 c4 Nf6 3 g3 g6 4 Bg2 Bg7 5 Nh3 0-0 6 Nf4 d6 7 d5 c6 8 Nc3 Qe8 9 0-0 e5 10 dxe6 Bxe6 11 Nb5 cxb5 12 Bxb7 Bxc4 13 Bxa8 Nc6 14 Bxc6 Qxc6 15 a4 a6 16 axb5 Bxb5 17 Ne6 Re8 18 Nd4 Qe4 19 Nxb5 axb5 20 Qxd6 Re6 21 Qb8+ Ne8 22 Qxb5 Qxe2 23 Qxe2 Rxe2 24 Ra8 1-0

CORRESPONDENCE CHESS PLAYERS

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 or 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?



CORRESPONDENCE CHESS TOURNAMENT UPDATES FOR DECEMBER 2003

MASTER CERTIFICATE WINNERS

Thomas Halfpap 2241
 Danny E. Benkert 2225
 Seth D. Rothman 2208
 Harold W. Boege 2204
 Paul S. Motta 2202
 John K. Menke 2200

SWIFT QUAD TOURNAMENT 1ST PLACE WINNERS

NAME	SECTION	SCORE
Shai Peled	03SQ14	5-1 cowinner
Jon S. Leisner	03SQ14	5-1 cowinner

EXPRESS TOURNAMENT 1ST & 2ND PLACE WINNERS

Ruth Storey	03ET6	4-2 2nd
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TROPHY QUAD WINNERS

Clark W. Haywood	02QCD6	6-0
Randy C. Crawford	03QD6	6-0
Mike D. Pickel	02QAB7	5-1
Cory Bernard	01QM17	5½-5
Marshall Whitecotton	02QCD06	5½-5

TROPHY QUAD WINNERS

Brian K. Stewart	03QAB2	6-0
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JOHN COLLINS MEMORIAL CLASS TOURNAMENT WINNERS

NAME	SECTION	SCORE
George H. Agnew	02CCD16	4½-1½
Claude Corbett III	02CM80	5-1
Michael Celauro	02CD11	6-0
Thomas Delehanty	02CM05	4-2
Andrew Westhead	02CCD37	5-1
Douglas D. Walls	02CM30	6-0
David F. Greene	02CM72	5½-½

RATINGS TOURNAMENT 1ST & 2ND PLACE WINNERS

NAME	SECTION	SCORE
Michael J. Horvath	00RT13	5½-½ cowinner
William K. Evans II	00RT13	5½-½ cowinner
David B. Leber	00RT11	4-2 2nd
James Mullen	00RT11	4-2 2nd
Roberta Millett	00RT12	4-2 2nd
Rich McNanimon	00RT12	4-2 2nd
Robert Miehm	00RT14	5-1 1st
Lawrence Crittenton	00RT14	4½-½ 2nd

VICTOR PALCIAUSKAS PRIZE TOURNAMENT WINNERS

Robert Hughes	02UAB10	6-0
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USCF COMPUTERIZATION FUND

YOUR CHESS FEDERATION

has long struggled to function with highly inadequate computer systems. This problem has seriously impaired office efficiency and hindered promotional efforts. An upgrade is essential, but funding is limited, largely because our obsolete systems have held us back financially.

CAN YOU HELP US TO GET OUT OF THIS ZUGZWANG?

Please give whatever you can afford to the new USCF Computerization Fund. Make check payable to "USCF," write "Computerization Fund" on it, and send to Computerization, c/o USCF, 3054 US Route 9W, New Windsor, NY 12553.



CHECK OUT USCF'S CORRESPONDENCE CHESS RATED EVENTS

USCF's 57th ANNUAL 2004 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, 2004.

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 FPO 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.

CORRESPONDENCE CHESS MATCHES (TWO PLAYERS)

\$5 entry fee per person with two, four or six game options.

WIN A C CORRESPONDENCE CHESS TROPHY

Four-player, double round-robin with class-level pairings. 1st place winner receives a trophy. **Entry fee: \$10.**

VICTOR PALCIAUSKAS PRIZE TOURNAMENTS

Seven-player class-level pairings, one game with each of six opponents. Players must have a USCF CC rating to enter. 1st-place winner receives \$130 cash prize and a certificate signed by Victor Palciauskas. **Entry fee: \$25.**

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. 1st-place prize merchandise credit of \$30. **Entry fee: \$10**

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.**

Please circle event(s) selected.



U.S. Chess Federation
www.uschess.org

USCF's 1st ANNUAL

2004 E-mail Correspondence Chess Electronic Knights Championship (Seven-player sections, one game with each of six opponents.) **\$1,500 First Prize**

(plus title of USCF's Electronic 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, 2004.

These USCF Correspondence Chess event is rated and open to all USCF members with e-mail access. Your USCF membership must remain current for the duration of the event, and entry fees must be paid in U.S. dollars. Maximum number of tournament entries allowed for the year for each player are ten.

Note: Prize fund guaranteed (based on 400 entries) and will be increased or decreased proportionately per number of entries assigned.

NOTE: Except for Lightning Matches, Swift Quads and Express Tournaments, players will use post office mail, unless opponents agree to use e-mail.

To Enter: 800•388•KING (5464) Fax 845•561•CHES (2437)

Name	_____
USCF ID#	_____
Address	_____ City _____
State	_____ ZIP _____ Phone _____
E-mail	_____
Credit card # (VISA, MC, Discover, AMEX)	_____ Exp. date _____
If using VISA, need V-code	_____
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	