



The Check Is in the Mail

November 2007

CHRIS O'CONNELL '97 CHAMP !

With a great last round effort (6-0!) Chris O'Connell of Dover, Delaware has become the 1997 Golden Knights Champion. O'Connell, who sports a hefty 2450 rating, plowed through a last round field averaging 2258 for a performance rating of 2700!

Born August 13, 1954, Chris specializes in Golden Knights play. Previously his best finish was a second through third tie in the 1987 Golden Knights. This time he was serious!

John Burton, who finished second, will be the winner of the 1999 Golden Knights, but there are a few games still left in that tournament.

Edgardo Limayo, the third place finisher, is better known for his international successes, sporting an IM title.

GAME OF THE MONTH

This is a delicate game for a long time. White's center aches to advance, but has to wait for a slip by Black.

QUEEN GAMBIT DECLINED (D36)

White: Chris O'Connell (2399)

Black: Alberto Prieto (2281)

1997 Golden Knights Final 2007

1.c4 e6 2.Nc3 d5 3.d4 Nf6 4.cxd5 exd5
5.Bg5 c6 6.Qc2 Be7 7.e3 Nbd7 8.Bd3 Nf8
9.Nge2 Ne6

In my postal database I have 14 games with this line, Black scoring a rather miserable seven losses and seven draws.

10.Bh4 g6 11.f3

Of the two main choices at this point, 11. 000 scored 60% while O'Connell's 11. f3 registers a hefty 88% for White.

11...0-0

Even 12...Bd7 fares little better with one draw in two games.

12.Rd1 Re8

Black varies from Rubio Dobias-Moles, Spain cc, 1992 which proceeded allegro with 12...Ng7 13. 00 Nfh5 14. Bf1 f5 15. e4 fxe4 17. fxe4 dxe4 18. Nbf3 Be6 19. Nf4 Bc4 20. d5!

13.0-0 a6 14.Bf2

Securing d4 in preparation of the center-opening e4.

14...Bd7 15.Kh1 b5

Black's queenside play looks rather heavy-handed, but what else can he do against the impending White center thrust?

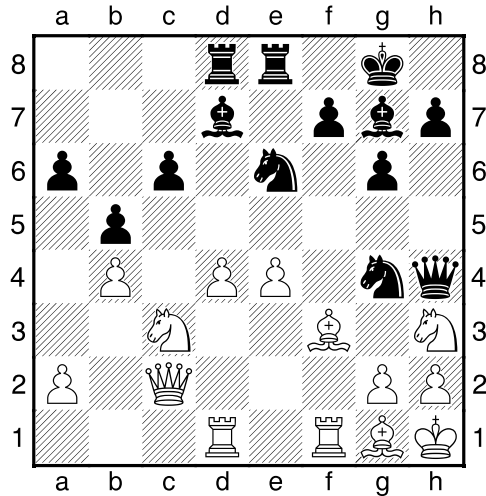
16.e4 dxe4 17.fxe4 Ng4

Black sees that 17...b4 is met by 18. d5! with advantage to White so he tries another tack, but the kingside is not his turf, and Black's forces become uncoordinated.

18.Bg1 Bf8 19.Nf4

The apparently strong 19. e5 is met by 19...c5!? with Black generating counterplay.

19...Qg5 20.Nh3 Qh4 21.Be2 Bg7 22.Bf3 Rad8 23.b4



White prevents the counterattack on his planned advanced e5 Pawn by this thrust. Black is not without counterchances in this position after 23...Nc7 to fight for d5.

23...Ng5?!

But this exchange gets rid of White's worst-placed piece and leaves d5 in White's control.

24.Nxg5 Qxg5 25.e5!

Suddenly White's position improves like the sun rising. Now 26. Ne4 is a major concern to Black.

25...f5 26.Ne2 Kh8 27.Rd3

“I felt that playing on from the final position against somebody who knew

how to play chess was a waste of time and postage.” – Prieto

White will target the c6 Pawn while Black's army is split in two. **1-0**

Final Standings 1997 Golden Knights

Chris O'Connell	44.10
John Burton	41.85
Edgardo Limayo	41.20
David Novak	38.35
Bleys Rose	36.15
Guido Stueber	35.65
Charles Van Buskirk	35.60
Corky Schakel	35.10
Wesley Green	35.00
Robert Chalker	34.50
Thomas Ashley	34.00
David Sogin	34.00
Lars Pedersen	33.95
Robert Rizzo	33.85
Robert Chalker	32.85
Cezary Posylek	32.75
Carl Siefring	32.75
Michael Calogridis	31.65
John Burton	31.60
Abe Wilson	31.60
Isay Golyak	31.10
Alberto Prieto	31.10
Guido Stueber	31.10
R. Scott Ireland	30.50
Michael Smith	30.50
Steve Fairbairn	29.60
Spencer Kell	29.50
Michael Lauterbach	29.50
Thomas Delehanty	28.85
Arnold Saslowsky	28.35
Edgardo Limayo	27.70
Norman Bissonette	24.85
Ronald Burnett	24.85
David Pronovost	24.35
Stephen Spaulding	23.85
James Fisher	22,15
Chuck Cadman	19.85

John Lutes	19.00
William Naff	18.75
Jeffrey Hunt	18.20
Hugo Garcia	17.00
Mark Filkins	14.90

WITHDRAWAL STATISTICS

Chris Bauman asks if I had any statistics on the number of CC games that are never completed because someone quits (as opposed to resigning). It is not, however clear just what this statistic means. There are many reasons people withdraw from cc play. Death, hospitalization, and old age are three. There are the unthoughtful whose positions are bad that just quit without notification. Sometimes players just lose track of one another. Boredom, divorce, misunderstanding; results not properly reported that end up recorded as withdrawals -- there are many, many explanations, but I will make it as simple as possible. To answer Chris, I will select two rating reports as typical – last week's and six months earlier. Here are the results:

Total games this week, October 2007: 94 of which 12 were forfeited or about 13%:

Total games third week April 2007: 113 games of which 17 were forfeited, or 15%.

This percentage also includes games which were never actually started because of communication problems or buyer's remorse.

As individuals sometimes forfeit a number of games, perhaps the percentage of forfeiters should be calculated. Only six out of 73 individuals forfeited games last week – that is 8% of the players with results.

WEB WATCH

Correspondence chess Site of Ken Goebel

Ken Goebel, a strong USCF Expert, has a web site of interest to all cc players. His website includes his ICCF games and world class championship games thoroughly analyzed. Located at <http://3mchess.kdgvwild.com> this is a must visit place for the cybertourist interested in chess.

OCTOBER WINNERS

Walter Muir Webserver

William Evans	07W28	5-1
William Evans	06W22	3 ½-2 ½
Thomas Haggard	06W22	3 ½-2 ½
William Evans	07W08	5-1
Joe Hoffmann	07W25	6-0
Marc Plum	07W17	5 ½-½

John Collins Tournament

John Reich	05CD10	5-1
Gregory Blasbalg	05CD10	5-1
Thomas Lynd	07C01	5-1
Ricky Clemons	06C25	5 ½-½

TROPHY QUADS

Antonio Romero	06Q01	4½-1½
Spencer Conklin	06Q11	5-1

PALCIAUSKAS TOURNAMENT

Tom Brochard	06P03	6-0
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Quote: Postcard chess will survive until everyone has affordable access to email -
- Glenn Shields

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 a.dunne@stny.rr.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor:

Is there still interest in the Golden Knights ? Or has everybody switched to email chess as comments seem to indicate ?

To me CC is convenient because: 1 – I do not have much free time to travel for over the board tournaments. 2 – It is a kind of hobby to work on labels, record keeping, stamps, etc. 3 – It gives me the opportunity to study theory, especially the openings. And 4 – It gives me the big motivation to do something physical – like walking to the post office.

-- Auro Bustillo

Hi, Auro !

The Golden Knights is still alive and healthy. The USCF is still more than 50% postal play. While it is true that email and webserver chess are gaining fast, postal play will be on for a long time yet. You should be able to enjoy those walks to the post office for many years yet.

OBITUARY

Richard M. Phillips of Indianapolis, Indiana, a strong Class C player, died this August.

Clark Montgomery, 62, of Waco, was born October 6, 1945 and died Saturday, Oct. 6, 2007.
Clark carried a 1650 rating



Call for Miniature Games

The December column is coming up soon (next month!) If you have a miniature game (20 moves or under) that you would like to see published, now is the time to send it to me!

22nd World Championship

The 22nd World Championship will start on the 31st of December and will be played on the ICCF webserver. The 23rd championship will start in 2008 and be played by post. The 24th will start in 2009 and be played by email. After that all world championship cc events will be played on the server. The postal event, at least at the very top levels, will be no more for international play

**ICCF-US Announces the
18th Postal and 2nd ICCF Server
U.S. CORRESPONDENCE
CHESS CHAMPIONSHIPS**

**U.S. CHAMPIONSHIP TROPHY
AND NOMINATION TO ICCF
WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP CYCLE**

REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTRY:
APCT, CCLA or USCF membership
Minimum rating: postal 2000 or
OTB 2100
Must be U. S. citizen or permanent
resident

Preliminary round sections: 7 players
on server, up to 15 players post,
balanced by rating. Winners advance.
Final round includes designated
champions of USPCF clubs and
former U. S. Champions.

**POSTAL ENTRIES CLOSE FEB.
15, 2008**

Start date Mar. 1, 2008

**SERVER ENTRIES CLOSE FEB.
15, 2008**

Start date Mar. 1, 2008

Dates may be extended until minimum of 70 entries
is received.

**SEND \$25 ENTRY FEE PAYABLE
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**ENTER BOTH EVENTS AT THE
SAME TIME \$40**

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www.iccfus.com**

**CORKY SCHAKEL POISED TO
WIN 2004 ABSOLUTE**

Pending a possible appeal of an adjudicated game, Corky Schakel is poised to be the sole winner of the 2004 Absolute tournament. Corky, who shared first place with Ted Brandhorst, is claiming a win in his final game. His opponent has indicated he may dispute the claim. More on this game and the tournament as events develop. Until then, we all must wait until the situation is resolved. Ted Brandhorst, who is not involved in the dispute, will finish at least second, and may yet tie Corky for first place.

The home analyst will have fun with this game that looks like it was played in the Check Republic.

BLACKMAR GAMBIT (D00)

White: F. Toenies

Black: R. Ruiz

Poverty Postal Chess League, 2007

1.d4 d5 2.e4 dxe4 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.f3 Bf5
5.g4 Bg6 6.g5 Nd5 7.Nxe4 e6 8.c4 Bb4+
9.Kf2 Nb6 10.Be3 Be7 11.Qb3 Nc6
12.c5 Nd5 13.Qxb7 Ne5 14.dxe5 Bxe4
15.Qc6+ Kf8 16.fxe4 Nxe3 17.Kxe3
Bxg5+ 18.Kf3 Qd2 19.Qxa8+ Ke7
20.Qb7 Rd8 21.Be2 Qf4+ 22.Kg2 Rd2
23.Qxc7+ Ke8 24.Qc6+ Kf8 25.Qa8+
Ke7 26.Qxa7+ Kf8 27.Qb8+ Ke7
28.Qb4 Qg4+ 29.Kf1 Rxe2 30.Qb7+
Kf8 31.Qb8+ Ke7 32.Qc7+ Kf8
33.Qd6+ Ke8 34.Qc6+ Ke7 35.Nxe2
Qf3+ 36.Ke1 Qxh1+ 37.Kf2 Qxh2+
38.Kf3 Qh5+ 39.Kg3 Qxe2 40.Qd6+
Ke8 41.Qd4 h5 42.Qa4+ Ke7 43.Qa7+
Ke8 ½-½

White conducts a model attack with pieces coming from all directions on the board to attack the Black King.

NIMZOINDIAN DEFENSE (E43)

White: John Ballou (2173)

Black: Robert Beavan (2038)

Walter Muir Quad 2007

1.d4 e6 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e3 b6
5.Bd3 Bb7 6.Nf3 0-0 7.0-0 d5 8.cxd5
exd5 9.Ne5 Bd6 10.b3 Nbd7 11.f4 a6
12.Qf3 Bb4 13.Bb2 Bxc3 14.Bxc3 Ne4
15.Qh3 Ndf6 16.Rac1 a5 17.Be1 Qd6
18.Bh4 Bc8 19.Qf3 Nd2 20.Qe2 Nxf1
21.Rc6 Nxe3 22.Bxf6 Qb4 23.Qxe3 gxf6
24.Rxf6 1-0

This game may be an illustration for the importance of having a unified plan in the beginning of the game. After White flails about a bit, Black takes over and eventually dominates the position.

C3 DUTCH (A04)

White: Ronald Canada (1951)

Black: Barry Walker (2039)

2006 Golden Knights

1.Nf3 f5 2.c3 Nf6 3.d4 d6 4.g3 c6
5.Nbd2 g6 6.Qc2 Bg7 7.a4 0-0 8.a5 Qc7
9.e3 Kh8 10.h4 e5 11.b4 Be6 12.Bh3 e4
13.Ng5 Bg8 14.Bg2 Nbd7 15.c4 c5
16.b5 cxd4 17.exd4 b6 18.Bb2 d5
19.Ra3 dxc4 20.Nh3 bxa5 21.Nf4 a6
22.bxa6 Rxa6 23.h5 Nxh5 24.Nxh5 gxh5
25.Rxh5 Qb6 26.f3 exf3 27.Nxf3 Nc5
28.Ne5 Nd3+ 29.Nxd3 cxd3 30.Rxd3 a4
31.Ba3 Re8+ 32.Kf1 Qa5 33.Kg1 Qe1+
34.Bf1 Rg6 35.Qf2 Bc4 36.Rf3 Qd1
37.Rhxf5 Bxd4 0-1

Richard Aiken shows a sharp finish with a short, direct attack in this World Cup game.

SEMI-SLAV DEFENSE (D48)

White: Richard Aiken (2183)

Black: G, Demharter (1900)

16 World Cup, 2007

1.Nf3 d5 2.c4 c6 3.d4 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.e3
Nbd7 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5 8.Bd3 a6 9.e4
c5 10.d5 Qc7 11.0-0 Bb7 12.b3 h6 13.Bb2
Be7 14.dxe6 fxe6 15.e5 Nxe5 16.Nxe5
Qxe5 17.Bg6+ Kf8 18.Re1 Qg5 19.Be4
Bxe4 20.Nxe4 Qd5 21.Qf3 Kf7 22.g4 Kg6
23.Rad1 Qc6 24.Bxf6 gxf6 25.Rd6 Qxd6
26.Nxd6 Bxd6 27.Rxe6 1-0

Of theoretical value to Shevshnikovites -

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SICILIAN DEFENSE (B33)

White: A. Soley (2297)

Black: F. Vidalina (2349)

IECG, 2006

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4
Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3
b5 9.Nd5 Be7 10.Bxf6 Bxf6 11.c3 Bg5
12.Nc2 Ne7 13.Ncb4 0-0 14.a4 bxa4
15.Rxa4 a5 16.h4 Nxd5 17.Nxd5 Bh6
18.Bc4 Bd7 19.Ra2 Kh8 20.Qe2 a4
21.g4 Bc1 22.Qd1 Bf4 23.Nxf4 exf4
24.Qxd6 Bxg4 25.Qxd8 Rfxd8 26.Bd5
Ra6 27.c4 Bf3 28.Rh3 Bxe4 29.Bxe4
Re8 30.b3 Rxe4+ 31.Kd2 a3 32.Rd3 h6
33.f3 Re7 34.b4 g5 35.hxg5 Rb6 36.Kc3
hxg5 37.c5 Rg6 38.Rxa3 Kg7 39.Rb3
Rc7 40.Kd4 g4 41.b5 g3 42.b6 1-0