



Check is in the Mail

by FIDE Master Alex Dunne

For Buddy

Once a year this column takes a look at miniature chess games, little sparks of light that brighten our lives. These short shorts can happen to anyone, master or neophyte or inbetween. I hope playing over these charmers brings a smile to your chess life.

*In small proportions we just beauties see
And in short measures life may perfect be.*
— Ben Jonson

White's fourteenth move looks like a wasted knight until Black resigns.

FRENCH DEFENSE [C10]

W: Peter Lim (2115)
B: Harry Ingersol (2262)

IECC 1998

1 e4 Nc6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 e6 4 Nf3 Bb4 5 e5 Nge7 6 Bd3 Qd7 7 0-0 Bxc3 8 bxc3 Na5 9 Ng5 h6 10 Qh5 g6 11 Qh4 b6 12 Ba3 Nf5 13 Bxf5 gxf5 14 Nh7, Black resigns.

SICILIAN DEFENSE [B33]

W: William Joyner (2008)
B: Naor Wallach (2271)

2 USCCC e-mail 2003

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e5 6 Ndb5 d6 7 a4 Be6 8 Bg5 a6 9 Na3 Qb6 10 Nc4 Qb4 11 Qd3 Nxe4 12 Qxe4 d5 13 Qc3 f6 14 Nxe5 fxe5 15 Qd2 h6 16 Na2 Qxa4, White resigns.

ENGLISH OPENING [A29]

W: John Mousessian (2247)
B: Edward Limayo (2339)

USCCC 2001

1 c4 Nf6 2 Nc3 e5 3 Nf3 Nc6 4 g3 d5 5 cxd5 Nxd5 6 Bg2 Be6 7 0-0 Be7 8 d4 Nxc3 9 bxc3 e4 10 Nd2 f5 11 e3 0-0 12 c4 Na5 13 Qc2 c6 14 g4 fxd4 15 c5 Qe8 16 Ba3 Qf7 17 Bxe4 Qh5 18 Rfb1 Bh4 19 Rf1 Bxf2+, White resigns.

White uncorks a stunner with 11 Bg5! And then follows it up with even stronger plays.

URUSOV GAMBIT [C24]

W: James Kelly (1843)
B: Marvin Kornhauser (1892)

Golden Knights 2003

1 e4 e5 2 Bc4 Nf6 3 d4 Nxe4 4 dxe5 Qe7 5 Qe2 Nc5 6 Nc3 Ne6 7 Be3 Nc6 8 Nf3 b6 9 0-0 Bb7 10 Nd5 Qd8 11 Bg5 Be7 12 h4 Nxe5 13 Nxe5 Bxe5+ 14 hxe5 Qxe5+ 15 f4 Qd8 16 Qh5 Rf8 17 Rhe1 Qc8 18 e6 Kd8 19 exf7, Black resigns.

DÉJÀ JEUX?

DUTCH DEFENSE [B01]

W: Jason Percy (1824)
B: Dale Hagen (1884)

USCF Berliner 2002

1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Nf6 3 d4 Bg4 4 f3 Bf5 5 c4 e6 6 dxe6 Nc6 7 exf7+ Kxf7 8 Be3 Bb4+ 9 Nc3 Re8 10 Kf2 Rxe3 11 Kxe3 Bc2 12 Qd2 Ng4+ 13 Kf4 Bd6+ 14 Kxg4 Bf5+ 15 Kxf5 Qh4 16 g4 Re8, White resigns.

Everybody knows that in the Muzio White sacrifices a piece or two for the attack. Apparently no one told Black.

KING'S GAMBIT [C37]

W: David Larsen (2011)
B: Mark Capron (1826)

2002 Golden Knights

1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Nf3 g5 4 d4 g4 5 Bc4 gxf3 6 Qxf3 d5 7 Bxd5 Nf6 8 Bxf7+ Kxf7 9 e5 Qxd4 10 exf6 Qe5+ 11 Kf2 Bc5+ 12 Kf1 Re8 13 Bd2 b6 14 c4 Bb7 15 Qd1 Bxg2+ 16 Kxg2 Qe4+ 17 Kh3 Qd3+ 18 Kh4 Bf2+, White resigns.

MAX LANGE ATTACK [C55]

W: Paul Kolis (2060)
B: Mark Woida (2171)

Golden Knights semifinal 2000

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 d4 exd4 5 0-0 Bc5 6 e5 d5 7 exf6 dxc4 8 Re1+ Be6 9 Ng5 0-0 10 fxd7 Kxg7 11 Rxe6 Qd7 12 Qh5 Rh8 13 Qh6+ Kg8 14 Nxf7 Qxf7 15 Qg5+ Qg7 16 Qxc5 Qg4 17 Qd5, Black resigns.

SICILIAN DEFENSE [B30]

W: Joerg Simons (2342)
B: Siegmund Pasierb (2397)

ICCF e-mail,

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 e6 4 0-0 Nge7 5 Re1 Nd4 6 Nc3 Ng6 7 Nxd4 cxd4 8 Ne2 a6 9 Ba4 b5 10 Bb3 d3 11 cxd3 Bb7 12 a4 Qh4 13 g3 Qh3 14 Nd4 f5 15 axb5 Bc5 16 bxa6 0-0 17 Nxf5 Rxf5 18 axb7 Rxf2 19 bxa8(Q)+ Nf8, White resigns.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT DECLINED [D32]

W: Luis Henrique Silva (2002)
B: Alex Dunne (2332)

ICCF 50 Jubilee e-mail 2002

1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 c5 4 dxc5 Nf6 5 Nf3 Bxc5 6 Qc2 d4 7 Na4 Bb4+ 8 Bd2 Bxd2+ 9 Qxd2 Nc6 10 b4 e5 11 Qg5 0-0 12 Nxe5 Nxb4 13 Rb1 Qa5 14 Qd2 Nc2+ 15 Kd1 Qxe5 16 Qxc2 Bf5 17 Qb2 Bxb1 18 Qxb1 Ne4 19 Ke1 Qa5+, White resigns.

Black's defense is based on the bishop on g5. If it exchanges or moves, Black holds. But if it stays?

VIENNA GAME [C26]

W: Zeljko Ivanovic (2369)
B: Anna Ryvova (2256)

ICCF e-mail 2001

1 e4 e5 2 Nc3 Nf6 3 Bc4 Bc5 4 d3 d6 5 Na4 Bb4+ 6 c3 d5 7 exd5 Bd6 8 Be3 0-0 9 Nc5 b6 10 Ne4 Be7 11 Qf3 Bd6 12 Bg5 Nbd7 13 Bb5 h6 14 h4, Black resigns.

CARO-KANN DEFENSE [B18]

W: Mauro Carvalho (1186)
B: Mason Jones (1560)

IECC 2001

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Bf5 5 Ng3 Bg6 6 Nf3 Nf6 7 Ne5 Nbd7 8 Nxe6 hxe6 9 Bd3 e6 10 Bd2 Qc7 11 0-0 Bd6 12 f4 0-0-0 13 Qe1 Nd5 14 Ne2 g5 15 Qg3 Rh5 16 c4 Nxf4 17 Nxf4 Rdh8 18 Qe1 Rxh2, White resigns.

Jim Marfia translates a gambit into a quick win.

MORRA GAMBIT [B21]

W: Jim Marfia (1952)
B: Jacob Amir (1391)

e-mail 2001

1 e4 c5 2 d4 cxd4 3 c3 dxc3 4 Nxc3 Nc6 5 Nf3 d6 6 Bc4 e6 7 0-0 a6 8 Qe2 Nf6 9 Rd1 b5 10 Bb3 Be7 11 e5 Nd5 12 Nxd5 exd5 13 Bxd5, Black resigns.

The Oops! Award for 2003 goes to this game played in international notation. Black certainly meant 2433.

FRENCH DEFENSE [C16]

W: Jason Bokar (2486)
B: Jozef Pucelj (2493)

15 Olympiad e-mail 2003

1. 5254 5756 2. 4244 4745 3. 2133
6824 4. 5455 7857 5. 1213 2413 6. 1113,
Black resigns.

KING'S GAMBIT [C39]

W: Kari Elison (2295)
B: Dannell Roberts (2201)

ICCF 50 Jubilee 2001

1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Nf3 g5 4 h4 g4 5
Ng5 h5 6 Nxf7 Kxf7 7 Bc4+ Kg6 8 d4 Bh6
9 Nc3 c6 10 Ne2 b5 11 Bd3 d5 12 Nxf4+
Bxf4 13 exd5+ Kf7 14 0-0 Qxh4 15 Bxf4
Nf6 16 g3 Qh3 17 Be5 Nbd7 18 Rxf6+
Nxf6 19 Bf1, Black resigns

FRENCH DEFENSE [C13]

W: Luiz Da Costa, Jr (2200)
B: Corky Schakel (2415)
VIII Pan American Team Tournament 2003

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Bg5 Be7
5 e5 Nfd7 6 h4 Bxg5 7 hxc5 Qxc5 8 Qd3
g6 9 Nf3 Qe7 10 Qe3 a6 11 0-0-0 c5 12
dxc5 Qxc5 13 Qf4 Nc6 14 Bd3 Qf8 15
Be4 Qg7 16 Bxd5 exd5 17 Nxd5 0-0 18
Nf6+ Nxf6 19 exf6 Qh8 20 Rh6, Black
resigns.

Is this the oldest postal miniature?

BISHOP'S OPENING [C42]

W: City of Magdeburg
B: City of Berlin

Interclub Match 1833-4

1 e4 e5 2 Bc4 Nf6 3 Nf3 Nxe4 4 Nxe5
d5 5 Bb3 Be6 6 d4 Nd7 7 Nxd7 Qxd7 8
f3 Nf6 9 Be3 Bd6 10 a3 b6 11 Nc3 0-0 12
Bg5 Nh5 13 Nxd5 Bxd5 14 Bxd5 Rae8+
15 Kf2 Qf5, White resigns.

DUTCH DEFENSE [A97]

W: Heinz Kuthe
B: Charles Hiber (1957)

World Cup II, 2002

1 d4 f5 2 c4 e6 3 g3 Nf6 4 Bg2 Be7 5
Nf3 0-0 6 0-0 d6 7 Nc3 Qe8 8 Re1 Ne4 9
Qc2 Qg6 10 Nxe4 fxe4 11 Nd2 e3 12 Be4
exf2+ 13 Kf1 fxe1(Q)+ 14 Kxe1 Qh5 15
Nf3 Nc6 16 a3 Rxf3 17 exf3 Nxd4 18 Qd1
e5 19 h4 Bf5 20 Kf1 Bxe4, White resigns.

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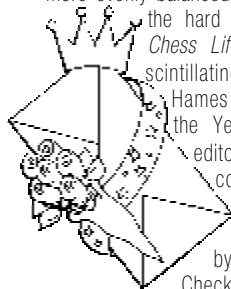
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Correspondence chess players are invited to send their comments, questions and correspondence games (with or without annotation). Because of the volume of mail, submissions cannot be returned, and personal replies are not possible. Send your letters to: Alex Dunne • *Chess Life* • 3054 US Route 9W • New Windsor, NY 12553

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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?



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