



check is in the mail

by FIDE Master Alex Dunne

50th iccf anniversary world champion jubilee

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of ICCF, a golden collection of all the living correspondence world champions was assembled. To tempt the champions to play, a prize fund of 25,000 Euros (roughly \$29,000) was established. From the fifth world champion, Hans Berliner, who came out of 25 years of retirement, to the 15th and current world champion, Gert Timmerman, all accepted.

A champion of champions has emerged. Mikhail Umansky has won the star-studded ICCF 50 Year World Champions Jubilee Tournament with a phenomenal 7-1 score (two draws).

While all of Umansky's games are finished, the rest of the field is battling it out for place and show, with the USA's Victor Palciauskas having strong chances for a second-place finish. Mikhail Umansky showed great power with both White and Black, and scored many points in the endgame, as follows.

GAME OF THE MONTH

Facing eight of the world's best, Umansky played for the win in every game. Here is how he defeated the Number 1 world-ranked Hans Berliner.

KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE [E62]

W: Mikhail Umansky (2633)

B: Hans Berliner (2763)

50th World Champions Jubilee Tournament, 2003

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. g3 Bg7 4. Bg2 0-0 5. Nc3 d6 6. Nf3 Nc6 7. 0-0 e5 8. d5 Ne7 9. e4 Nd7 10. Ne1 b6

Of U.S. players, Hans Berliner is second only to Frank Marshall in the introduction of opening innovations. Black's 10. ... b6 is designed to slow down White's queenside counterplay.

11. Nd3 Nc5 12. f4 exf4 13. Bxf4 h6 14. Nf2 g5 15. Be3 f5 16. Bd4 Bxd4 17. Qxd4 f4 18. b4 f3!?

A pawn sac to exploit the e5-square, but Umansky is well prepared.

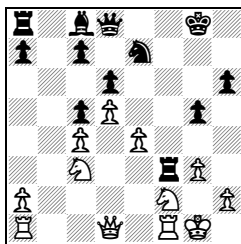
19. Bxf3 Rxf3

20. bxc5 bxc5 21. Qd1 (diagram)

21. ... Qf8

Black cannot capture the knight, since after

21. ... Rxc3 22. Qh5 Rxc4 23. Nd1 Rxe4 24. Rf6 Nf5 25. Qg6+ Ng7 26.



after 21. Qd1

Rf7 Re1+ 27. Kg2 Re2+ 28. Nf2 White is winning.

22. e5!

This is the refutation of Black's ingenious concept.

22. ... Ng6 23. e6 Ne5 24. Nce4 Ba6 25. Nd2 Bxc4 26. Nxc4 Nxc4 27. Ng4 Rxf1+ 28. Qxf1 Qxf1+ 29. Rxf1 Kg7 30. Nf6

Proceeding directly to win the Exchange on e8 and then the game.

30. ... Ne5 31. h4 Rc8 32. h5 c4 33. Kg2 a5 34. a4 g4 35. e7 Kf7 36. e8=Q+ Rxe8 37. Nxe8+ Kxe8 38. Kf2 Ke7 39. Ke3 c6 40. Ke4 Nf3 41. Rc1 c5 42. Kf5 Ne5 43. Rc2!

Black finds out the power of the rook as *Zugzwang* now forces an entry into Black's position, first by rook and then by king.

43. ... Kf7 44. Rb2 Nd3 45. Rb7+ Kf8 46. Kf6 Ke8 47. Ke6 Kf8 48. Rf7+ Kg8 49. Rf1, Black resigns.

The 15 World Correspondence Chess Champions: 1. Cecil Purdy (Australia) 2. Vacheslav Ragozin (USSR) 3. Alberic O'Kelly de Galway (Belgium) 4. Vladimir Zagorovsky (USSR) 5. Hans Berliner (U.S.) 6. Horst Rittner (Germany) 7. Jacob Estrin (USSR) 8. Jorn Sloth (Denmark) 9. Tonu Oim (USSR) 10. Victor Palciauskas (U.S.) 11. Fritz Baumbach (Germany) 12. Grigory Sanakoev (Russia) 13. Mikhail Umansky (Russia) 14. Tonu Oim (Estonia) and 15. Gert Timmerman (Netherlands).

GIUOCOPIANO [C54]

W: Grigory Sanakoev (2597)

B: Victor Palciauskas (2558)

50th World Champions Jubilee Tournament, 2003

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. c3 Nf6 5. d3 a6 6. Bb3 d6 7. Nbd2 0-0 8. h3 Ba7 9. Nf1 d5 10. Qe2 dxe4 11. dxe4 Nh5 12. g3 Nf6 13. g4 Nd7 14. Bg5 Qe8 15. Be3 Nc5 16. Bd5 Ne7 17. 0-0-0 c6 18. Bxc5 Bxc5 19. Bb3 Ng6 20. Ne3 b5 21. h4 Nf4 22. Qc2 a5 23. a3 Be6 24. Bxe6 Qxe6 25. Kb1 Rfb8 26. Ng5 Qe8 27. a4 b4 28. cxb4 Bd4 29. b3 Rxb4 30. Ka2 Rab8 31. Rb1 Bxe3 32. fxe3 Ng2 33. Qxg2 c5 34. Rb2 c4 35. Rc1 Rxb3 36. Rxb3 cxb3+ 37. Kb2 Qxa4 38. Ra1 Qb4 39. Qe2 a4, White resigns.

Jon Edwards scored an unbeaten 4½-1½ to win the 1995 North American Pacific Zone tournament over Wang Mong Lin (Singapore), Wayne Conover, and Rene duCret (U.S.), who all scored 4-2. Congratulations, Jon!

Stephen Barbre has clinched the 2002 Warren Cup e-mail Championship of APCT. He thus becomes the first repeat Warren Cup Champion.

After establishing a viable queenside majority, Jon Edwards shows how to use that queenside to break through on the kingside.

MODERN BENONI [A60]

W: Rene duCret (2589)

B: Jon Edwards (2559)

NAPZ, 1995

1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. g3 c5 4. d5 exd5 5. cxd5 b5 6. Bg2 Bb7 7. e4 d6 8. Nf3 Be7 9. 0-0 0-0 10. Nh4 Re8 11. Re1 Nbd7 12. a4 a6 13. Na3 Nb6 14. b3 b4 15. Nc2 a5 16. Nf5 Bf8 17. f3 Nfd7 18. Bb2 g6 19. Nfe3 Ba6 20. Bf1 Qc8 21. Rc1 Bxf1 22. Rxf1 Qa6 23. Re1 Rac8 24. Kg2 c4 25. Nxc4 Nxc4 26. bxc4 Rxc4 27. Rb1 Bg7 28. Nd4 Qb6 29. Nc6 Qc5 30. Bxg7 Kxg7 31. Rc1 Rxc1 32. Qxc1 Qxc1 33. Rxc1 Ra8 34. g4 Nc5 35. Ra1 f5 36. exf5 gxf5 37. gxf5 Kf6 38. f4 Re8 39. Rb1 Re4 40. Nxa5 Kxf5 41. Kf3 Rxf4+ 42. Ke3 Re4+ 43. Kd2 Rh4 44. h3 Nxa4 45. Nc6 Nc3 46. Rxb4 Rxb3 47. Rd4 Ne4+ 48. Ke2 h5 49. Rb4 Kf4 50. Kf1 Rg3 51. Rb8 h4 52. Ne7 h3 53. Rf8+ Kg4, White resigns.

Usually prisoners are not allowed to play correspondence chess with other prisoners. Here is a prison postal game with a TN on Move 16. Analysts can decide how Black is lost after the better 19. ... Qe7.

SICILIANDEFENSE [B81]

W: Richard Sullivan

B: Daryl Dimit

Prison CC, 2003

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Be3 e6 7. g4 h6 8. f4 b5 9. Bg2 Bb7 10. g5 hxg5 11. fxe6 b4 12. Na4 Nxe4 13. Qg4 d5 14. Bxe4 dxe4 15. 0-0-0 Bd5 16. Nxe6 fxe6 17. Nb6 Nd7 18. Nxd5 exd5 19. Qe6+ Be7 20. Qg6+ Kf8 21. Rhf1+, Black resigns.

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