



# Check is in the Mail

by FIDE Master Alex Dunne

## Spotlight on: Tim Harding

Recently, there have been some excellent books written whose main theme is correspondence chess. "Check is in the Mail" would like to spotlight Ireland's Tim Harding who is responsible for a number of those excellent books. Some of the titles include the collection *The Games of the World Correspondence Chess Championships I-X*, *Winning at Correspondence Chess*, *Startling Correspondence Chess Miniatures*, *Red Letters* (with Sergey Grodzensky) *64 Great Chess Games* and now another excellent book to add to these, *50 Golden Chess Games*. Every one of these volumes would make a handsome addition to your correspondence chess library.

Tim Harding was born in London, England, on May 6, 1948. His first postal games were played around 1964 in matches for his school. Later, Tim attended Oxford where he gained a degree in philosophy, politics and economics, and a post-graduate degree in philosophy. While there he discovered the Bodelian Library which has the chess collection of Harold Murray who wrote *A History of Chess*. He spent many hours looking at old chess books. After Fischer-Spassky 1972, there was suddenly a big demand for chess literature; IM Bob Wade asked Harding to edit the official ICCF history book, *The Games of the World Correspondence Chess Championships I-VII*, with all the games that could be found, plus crosstables of the preliminaries. He later brought out a second edition that brought the series up to the tenth championship in the 1980s. In 1994 Tim finished *Winning at Correspondence Chess*, a mixture of practical advice, history, pen-pictures, and lightly annotated games. He has been thinking of writing a sequel *Secrets of Correspondence Chess*, but with servers and rule changes, he has postponed that idea until 2005 or 2006. Tim thinks it will be his last CC book. *Winning at Correspondence Chess* made Tim more disciplined about his own play—he was awarded the ICCM title in 1997. *Startling Correspondence Chess Miniatures* came out in 2000, received great reviews, and is still in print. It was *64 Great Chess Games*

published in 2002 that showed the OTB world the depths of correspondence chess. With brilliant reviews, it quickly sold out, though there may be a reprinting sometime down the line. *Red Letters*, 2003, with Sergey Grodzensky, is the history of the 21 CC championships of the USSR with photographs and a CD with more photos and a games database. Finally, this year saw the publication of *Fifty Golden Chess Games*, another top-flight production of Tim Harding.

Besides books, Tim Harding has also published correspondence chess CDs, the latest of which is MegaCorr3 with over 500,000 cc games. And, of course, he publishes the premiere cc magazine for international players, *Chess Mail*. Tim has contributed much to high-quality cc literature. I wish him great and continued success. Readers who would like to obtain these works can contact [www.chessmail.com](http://www.chessmail.com), Chess Mail Ltd., 26 Coolamber Park, Dublin 16, Ireland, ICCF/US, or Chess Café.

### GAME OF THE MONTH

#### CATALAN OPENING [E04]

W: IM Timothy Harding (2436)

B: IM George Livie (2395)

15 Olympiad e-mail 2003

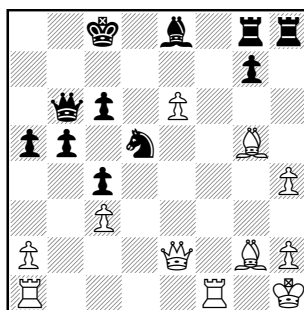
**1 d4 Nf7 2 c4 e6 3 g3 d5 4 Bg2 dxc4 5 Nf3 a6 6 0-0**

White makes a real gambit out of it: 6 Ne5 would regain the pawn.

**6...Nc6 7 e3 Bd7 8 Nc3 Bd6 9 Qe2 b5 10 e4 e5 11 dxe5 Nxe5 12 Nxe5 Bxe5 13 f4 Bxc3 14 bxc3 c6 15 Ba3**

Black has retained the gambit pawn but at a high cost. There is a bull's-eye around that piece on e8.

**15...Qb6+ 16 Kh1 h5 17 f5 0-0-0 18 Be7 Rdg8 19 e5 Nd5 20 e6 fxe6 21 fxe6 Be8 22 Bg5 h4 23 gxh4 a5**



after 23...a5

Material is even, Black's position is disorganized, and White's two bishops rule the board. The winning

plan is clear: Open up more and more lines against the Black king.

**24 Qe1 b4 25 Qe2 Qc5 26 cxb4 axb4 27 Rfc1 Nc3 28 Rxc3 bxc3 29 Qd1 c2 30 Qxc2 Rf8 31 Qa4 Qb5 32 Qa8+ Qb8 33 Qa6+ Qb7 34 Qxc4 Rf2 35 Qd3 Bg6**

There is no other way to free Black's rook.

**36 Qxg6 Rxxg2 37 e7 Re2 38 Qf5, Black resigns.**

• How soon we forget—in my September column on ICCM David Novak—I neglected to mention that David had won the 1999 Absolute Championship. Sorry, David!

• An ongoing cc match—Russia vs. the Rest of the World can be found on [www.mychessweb.com](http://www.mychessweb.com)

• "I have often noticed that sitting over key reference works going through openings and variations is a very boring business. Yet the sort of practical lively study involved in postal play was very interesting and I heartily recommend it to all beginners." —Alexandr Ilyin-Genevsky

• From *50 Golden Chess Games* comes this masterpiece of attacking play. The ending is diamond.

#### RUY LOPEZ [C92]

W: IM Aleksander Marcinkiewicz (2401)

B: Werner Zundel (2283)

ICCF e-mail 2002

**1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 0-0 Be7 6 Re1 b5 7 Bb3 d6 8 c3 0-0 9 h3 Bb7 10 d4 Re8 11 Nbd2 Bf8 12 a4 h6 13 Bc2 exd4 14 cxd4 Nb4 15 Bb1 c5 16 d5 Nd7 17 Ra3 c4 18 axb5 axb5 19 Nd4 Qb6 20 Nf5 Ne5 21 Rg3 Kh7 22 Nf3 Nbd3 23 Be3 Qa5 24 Bxd3 Nxd3 25 Bxh6 gxh6 26 Ng5+ Kg6 27 Qh5+ Black resigns.**

• Robert Keating (Cedar Rapids, IA) won the 1995 Golden Knights with, as he says, a combination of luck, study, determination, and the misfortune of his opponents. Robert has indeed hit upon an ideal mixture to be a winner at correspondence chess. He is a 36-year-old surgeon who has spent most of his adult life dedicated to his medical training and practice. With the time he has left, he enjoys guitar, cycling, golf, and spending time with his girlfriend.

#### CARO-KANN DEFENSE [B13]

EXCHANGE VARIATION

W: Bob Martinec (2311)

B: Robert Keating (2040)

1995 Golden Knights

**1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 exd5 cxd5**

4 Bd3 Nc6 5 c3 Nf6 6 Nf3 Bg4 7  
 0-0 e6 8 Nbd2 Bd6 9 Re1 0-0 10  
 Nf1 Qc7 11 Ng3 Nb8 12 h3 Bxf3  
 13 Qxf3 Nbd7 14 Nh5 Rfc8 15  
 Bf4 Bxf4 16 Nxf4 Rab8 17 a4 Nb6  
 18 Nh5 Nxb5 19 Qxb5 g6 20 Qh6  
 Nc4 21 Rab1 a6 22 h4 Qd8 23 h5  
 Qf8 24 Qg5 b5 25 hxg6 hxg6 26  
 axb5 axb5 27 Bxg6 Qg7 28 Bxf7+  
 Kxf7 29 Qh5+ Qg6 30 Qxg6+  
 Kxg6 31 Rxe6+ Kf7 32 Rh6 Rb8  
 33 Rxb8 Rxb8 34 f3 b4 35 cxb4  
 Rb8 36 Kf2 Rxb4 37 g4 Rxb2+  
 38 Rxb2 Nxb2 39 Ke2 Nc4 40 f4  
 Nd6 41 Ke3 Kf6 42 Ke2 Nb5 43  
 Kd3 Nc7 44 Kd2 Ne6 45 Ke3 Nf8  
 46 Kd3 Kf7 47 Kc3 Ke7 48 Kb4  
 Kd6 49 Kc3 Ne6 50 f5 Ng5 51  
 Kd3 Ke7 52 Ke2 Kf6 53 Ke3 Nh3,

**White resigns.**

• White's 25<sup>th</sup> move is a TN not to be repeated.

**RUY LOPEZ** [C89]  
 W: James Parr (2208)  
 B: Micah Rudisill (1600)  
 ASPCC 2003

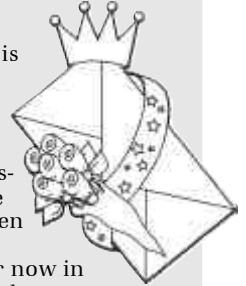
1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4  
 Ba4 Nf6 5 0-0 Be7 6 Re1 b5 7  
 Bb3 0-0 8 c3 d5 9 exd5 Nxd5 10  
 Nxe5 Nxe5 11 Rxe5 c6 12 d4 Bd6  
 13 Re1 Qh4 14 g3 Qh3 15 Be3  
 Bg4 16 Qd3 Rae8 17 Nd2 Re6  
 18 a4 f5 19 Qf1 Qh5 20 f4 bxa4  
 21 Rxa4 Rfe8 22 Qf2 g5 23 fxg5  
 f4 24 gxf4 Bh3 25 Nf1 Bxf4 26  
 Bxd5 cxd5 27 Qxf4 Rf8 28 Qg3  
 Rf3 29 Qc7 Bxf1, White resigns.

**CORRESPONDENCE  
 CHESS PLAYERS**

You are invited to send me your 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 letters to: Alex Dunne, *Chess Life*, 3068 US Route 9W, Suite 100, 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 *Chess* in the Mail during a given year. What better reason, then, to send your postal brilliancies to Alex Dunne?



**CORRESPONDENCE CHESS TOURNAMENT  
 UPDATES FOR SEPTEMBER 2004**

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**SENIOR MASTERS**

Brian Stewart 2200 David A. Funston 2261

**CANDIDATE MASTERS**

Shai A. Peled 2002 Robert John Jr. 2007

**TOURNAMENT WINNERS**

**JOHN COLLINS MEMORIAL CLASS TOURNAMENT**

Scott M. Hacker 03CD33 6-0  
 Michael Polonski 03CB3 6-0  
 David Long 03CAB9 co-winner 5-1  
 Glenn Reyes 03CAB9 co-winner 5-1  
 Douglas D. Walls 02CM30 6-0  
 David A. Funston 02CM54 6-0

**VICTOR PALCIAUSKAS PRIZE TOURNAMENT**

Joel Levine 02UM05 6-0  
 Alan L. Martin 03UCD03 6-0  
 Luis E. Rodriguez 03UAB11 6-0

**E-MAIL TOURNAMENT WINNERS**

**SWIFT QUAD TOURNAMENT**

Bob Martinec 03SQ36 6-0  
 Joseph Shipman 03SQ28 4½-1½  
 Juraj Beres 03SQ28 4½-1½  
 David Sawyer 04SQ07 6-0  
 Joshua Snyder 04SQ09 6-0

**EXPRESS TOURNAMENT**

Joseph Daudish 04ET05 6-0  
 Brian K. Stewart 04ET02 5½-½ 1st  
 John G. Boufis 04ET02 4½-1½ 2nd

**CHECK OUT USCF'S CORRESPONDENCE CHESS RATED EVENTS**

**USCF's 57<sup>th</sup> 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 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](http://www.uschess.org)



**USCF's 1<sup>st</sup> 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 events are 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 is 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:  
 3068 US Rt. 9W, Suite 100, New Windsor, NY 12553