



Check is in the Mail

by FIDE Master Alex Dunne

Spotlight on: Robin Smith

At the recent ICCF Congress in Mumbai, India, four Americans were awarded their well-deserved titles. The International Arbiter title was given to J. Franklin Campbell; the International Correspondence Chess Master title was earned by Robert Rizzo; and the two recipients of the most coveted title of all, the International Correspondence Grandmaster handle, were Robin Smith and John Timm. This month "The Check is in the Mail" will look at Correspondence Grandmaster Robin Smith.

Robin Smith, born 1952, has had an outstanding career in correspondence chess, both postal and e-mail, domestic and international. Scoring 17½-½ in his first postal venture, the 1978 Golden Knights, he continued his winning ways. Twice U.S. champion in the 11th and 13th title events, he expanded into international play. He gained a senior international norm in the Veinger Memorial and then went on to score +9=0-1 in the ICCF Semifinal World Championship series.

Robin is also the author of *Modern Chess Analysis*, a ground-breaking book on the use and misuse of computers that I highly recommend to all players who are thinking about playing international correspondence chess.

GAME OF THE MONTH

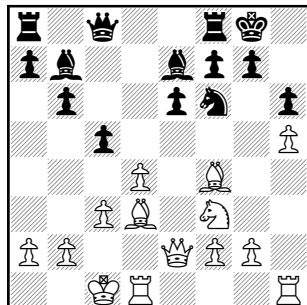
FRENCH DEFENSE [C10]

W: GM Robin Smith (2610)

B: IM Francisco Alexandre Bisquert (2414)

ICCF 2001

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 dxe4
4 Nxe4 Nd7 5 Nf3 Ngf6 6 Nxf6+
Nxf6 7 c3 Be7 8 Bd3 0-0 9 Bf4 b6
10 Qe2 Bb7 11 0-0-0 Qc8 12 h4
c5 13 h5 h6?



after 13...h6?

Violating a fundamental rule of defense, unnecessarily moving a pawn in front of his king. The punishment is as sure as mathematics.

14 Kb1 Rd8 15 Rhg1!

Putting a super-charger behind the g-pawn which provokes the following defense.

15...Nxb5 16 Bxb6! Nf6

The knight returns and then the rook returns, but after 16...gxh6 17 Qe3 c4 18 Bc2 Bg5 19 Nxb5 hgx5 20 Qxg5+ Ng7 21 Rh1 f5 22 Qg6 Rd7 23 Rh7 Qe8 24 Qh6 Qe7 25 Rh1 Kf8 26 Rh3 Qf7 27 Rg3, White wins decisive material.

17 Rh1 cxd4 18 Bxg7 Kxg7 19 Qd2 Ng8 20 Rh7+ Kf8 21 Ne5, Black resigns.

White has a winning attack after 21...dxc3 22 Qf4 c2+ 23 Bxc2 Rxd1+ 24 Bxd1.

• There was a three-way tie in the 2002 APCT King Championship—Ted Houser, the 2001 Champion, Harry Ingersol and David White shared first with a score of 9-3. Only Ingersoll went undefeated.

• "It should be compulsory to declare your opening sources at the beginning of the game."

—Dave Jenkins

• White reveals that there is still plenty of life left in some of the old openings.

FOUR KNIGHTS' GAME [C49]

W: Kenneth Reinhart (2458)

B: David Novak (2439)

15th USCCC 2003

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Nc3 Nf6
4 Bb5 Bb4 5 0-0 0-0 6 d3 d6 7
Bg5 Bxc3 8 bxc3 Qe7 9 d4 h6
10 Bh4 Nd8 11 Re1 Ne6 12 dxe5
dxe5 13 Nxe5 Qc5 14 Bxf6 Qxb5



Robin Smith

15 Ng4 h5 16 Ne3 gxf6 17 Nd5
Kg7 18 Qf3 c6 19 Qxf6+ Kh7 20
Rad1 Qb2 21 Rd3, Black resigns.

• John Mousessian proves once again that material is just a state of mind in this remarkable game.

RUY LOPEZ [C69]

W: IM John Mousessian (2443)

B: Ron Lifson (2204)

Jubilee E-mail 2003

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4
Bxc6 dxc6 5 0-0 f6 6 d4 Bg4 7 c3
Bd6 8 Be3 Qe7 9 Nbd2 0-0-0 10
Qc2 exd4 11 cxd4 Re8 12 e5 fxe5
13 dxe5 Bxe5 14 Rf1 Bf6 15 Bf4
Qf7 16 Qc5 Ne7 17 Qa7 Nd5 18
Ne4 Nxf4 19 Rad1 Nd5 20 Nc5
Rxe1+ 21 Rxe1 Kd8 22 Nxb7+
Kd7 23 Nc5+ Kd8 24 Qa8+ Bc8
25 Qxc6 Re8 26 Rxe8+ Qxe8 27
Qxd5+ Ke7 28 Ne5 Bxe5 29 Qxe5+
Kf8 30 f4 Qxe5 31 fxe5 Ke7 32 b4
Be6 33 a3 Bc4 34 Kf2 g6 35 h4,
Black resigns.

• Black shows a single-minded devotion to the destruction of all the squares around the white king.

SICILIAN DEFENSE [B33]

W: Wolfgang Gralke (1801)

B: A. Soley (2080)

IECG 2004

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4
4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 e5 6 Ndb5 d6
7 Nd5 Nxd5 8 exd5 Nb8 9 c4 a6
10 Nc3 Be7 11 Be2 0-0 12 0-0 f5
13 Rb1 Nd7 14 b4 e4 15 Bf4 Bf6
16 Qd2 Ne5 17 c5 g5 18 Bxe5
Bxe5 19 Na4 f4 20 Nb6 Bb8 21
f3 exf3 22 Bxf3 Bf5 23 Rbc1 g4
24 Bd1 Qh4 25 Nc4 g3 26 h3 f3
27 Rxf3 Bd4+ 28 Kf1 dxc5 29 bxc5
Rbe8 30 Nd6 Bxh3 31 Nxe8 Rxe8
32 gxh3 Qxh3+ 33 Qg2 Re1+
34 Kxe1 Qxg2, White resigns.

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MASTER

Thomas Delehanty 2201

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Auro Bustillo 2005

Larry O. Schultz	03CD65	6-0
Dawn Rideout	03CM70	5-1
Cesar F. Angel	02CAB51	5½-½
Richard B. Wetzels	04CM12	5½-½
Richard M. Zelinski	03CC66	3-3

TOURNAMENT WINNERS

JOHN COLLINS MEMORIAL CLASS TOURNAMENT

Gregory M. Phillips	03CD38	6-0
Kurt P. Bridgham	03CAB48	4½-1½

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SWIFT QUAD TOURNAMENT

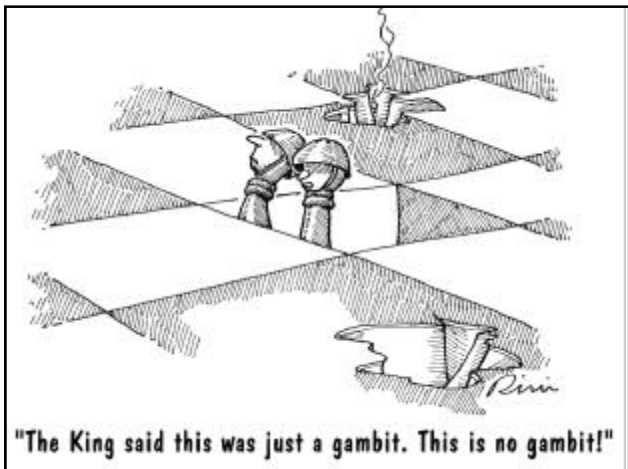
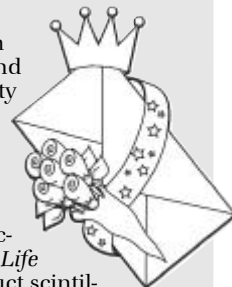
Thomas J. Peabody	04SQ11	5-1 tied for 1 st
David R. Fox Jr.	04SQ11	5-1 tied for 1 st
Michael Proof	04SQ04	6-0
Juraj Beres	04SQ06	5½-½

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 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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CHECK OUT USCF'S CORRESPONDENCE CHESS RATED EVENTS

USCF's 58th ANNUAL

2005 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, 2005.

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
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USCF's 2nd ANNUAL

*2005 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, 2005.

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.

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