



Check is in the Mail

by FIDE Master Alex Dunne

HAMMERING HAMARAT

Tunc (pronounced Toon-j) Hamarat has won the 16th World Correspondence Chess Championship with one game remaining. Tunc was born in Istanbul, Turkey, January 12, 1946. He graduated from the American University at Ankara, and later emigrated to Austria where he became a naturalized citizen.

Tunc learned chess at seven years of age from his father. Three times he played in the finals of the Turkish OTB Championship, and his cc results are even more impressive. He finished third in the 14th World Championship, won his qualifying section in the 16th championship, and now owns the title of Correspondence Chess World Champion.

GAME OF THE MONTH

After 30 moves of book, Black tries his own TN. Within a few moves, Hamarat trades off Black's best defensive piece and initiates a winning kingside attack.

RUY LOPEZ (C95)

W: Tunc Hamarat (2603)
B: Rudolf Sevecek (2602)

16th World Championship Final

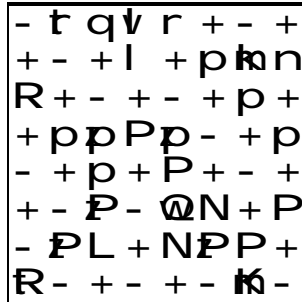
1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 0-0 Be7 6 Re1 b5 7 Bb3 0-0 8 c3 d6 9 h3 Nb8 10 d4 Nbd7 11 Nbd2 Bb7 12 Bc2 Re8 13 Nf1 Bf8 14 Ng3 g6 15 a4 c5 16 d5 c4 17 Bg5 h6 18 Be3 Nc5 19 Qd2 h5 20 Bg5 Be7 21 Bh6

Lately 21 Ra3 has become popular.

21...Nh7 22 Ra3 Rb8 23 Rea1 Bc8 24 axb5 axb5 25 Be3 Bf6 26 Ne2 Bd7 27 Ra7 Qc8 28 Bxc5 dxc5 29 Qe3 Bd8 30 R7a6

All this was seen in Timman-Portisch, Bruxelles 1988, where Portisch played 30...Qc7 and won on move 52.

30...Kg7 (diagram)



after 30...Kg7

31 Ng3 Bb6 32 Ng5!

While Black's army vacations on the queenside, Hamarat removes Black's best defensive piece.

32...Qd8 33 Nxh7 Kxh7 34 f4 Bc8 35 R6a2 Qd6 36 f5

First the a-file and now the kingside becomes White territory.

36...h4 37 Nf1 Kg7 38 Nh2 Bd8

Black cannot allow the White Bishop to join the fight—38...gxf5 39 exf5 Qxd5 40 Qg5+ Kf8 41 f6 wins.

39 Ng4 Rh8 40 Ra7 Bc7 41 Rf1

White's pieces operate all over the board; Black's bishops are powerless.

41...f6 42 fxg6 Bxg4 43 hxg4 Ra8

Losing is 43...Kxg6 44 Qf2 Rh7 45 Qf5+ Kg7 46 g5!

44 Rb7 Rbh8 45 g5!

Hamarat finds the hammer!—Black's position breaks apart.

45...Rxb7 46 gxf6+ Kxg6 47 Qh3 Qxf6 48 Rxf6+ Kxf6 49 Qxh4+ 1-0

Congratulations to Ruth Ann Fay who was elected zonal director of the North American Pacific Zone of the ICCF.

Because I believe there is a strong case that chess helps rehabilitate prisoners, and because I get many letters from prisoners who would like to play someone in correspondence chess, I would like to ask readers who are willing to play one or two social correspondence games with prisoners to write me. Please print your name and address clearly and send to the address at the bottom of the column.

"Correspondence play, it can be said, is real chess playing; blunders cannot happen, and you win largely by a better knowledge of theory or an unexpected discovery in it."
—Alexander Petroff (1794-1867).

Chris Sergel demonstrates a universal equation: Two handsome bishops plus two doubled rooks = one sad king.

SICILIAN DEFENSE (B90)

W: Christopher Sergel (2487)
B: Sven Jandorf (2464)

14th Olympiad 2003

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Be3 Ng4 7 Bg5 h6 8 Bh4 g5 9 Bg3 Bg7 10 h3 Nf6 11 Qf3 Qb6 12 0-0 Nc6 13 Nxc6 Qxc6 14 Be2 Nd7 15 Nd5 Ne5 16 Qe3 Be6 17 h4 Rc8 18 c3 g4 19 h5 Bxd5 20 exd5 Qa4 21 Kb1 Qd7 22 Rd4 Rc5 23 Bh4 Rc7 24 Rf4 00 25 f3 gxf3 26 gxf3 Kh8 27 Rg1 b5 28 Bd3 f5 29 Qe2 e6 30 dxe6 Qxe6 31 Bf2 Re7 32 Bd4 Rff7 33 Bc2 Qd7 34 Qd1 Rf8 35 Rh4 a5 36 Rh2 b4 37 Rhg2 Qb5 38 Rxg7 Rxg7 39 Rxg7 1-0

This is a game of small moves with big goals: Square by square White takes over the board until Black loses decisive material.

ROBATSCH DEFENSE (B06)

W: Hugo Concha (2371)
B: Glen Shields (2243)

2nd e-mail USCCC 2003

1 d4 g6 2 e4 Bg7 3 Nc3 c6 4 Bc4 b5 5 Bb3 a5 6 a3 e6 7 Nf3 Ne7 8 e5 a4 9 Ba2 d6 10 Ne4 dxe5 11 Nxe5 f6 12 Nf3 0-0 13 0-0 Na6 14 Re1 Nd5 15 Bd2 f5 16 Nc3 Nac7 17 Bg5 Nf6 18 Bf4 Ncd5 19 Be5 Bh6 20 Ne2 Ng4 21 Nc1 Nxe5 22 Nxe5 Qd6 23 Ncd3 Rd8 24 Qf3 Bg7 25 c3 Qc7 26 Rac1 Ra7 27 Rc2 Qd6 28 Rce2 Re7 29 Qg3 Bf6 30 f4 Kg7 31 Nc5 Qc7 32 Qf3 Kg8 33 h3 axb3

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34 Bxb3 Bxe5 35 fxe5 Qa5 36 Rc2 Ra7 37 Ra1 Kg7 38 Rcc1 Rf8 39 a4 b4 40 Bxd5 cxd5 41 cxb4 Qxb4 42 Qf4 Bd7 43 Rab1 Qa5 44 Rb2 Rc8 45 Qe3 Qd8 46 Rcb1 Qe7 47 a5 Bc6 48 a6 Qe8 49 Rb6 h6 50 Qb3 Kg8 51 Rb8 Rxb8 52 Qxb8 Qxb8 53 Rxb8+ Kf7 54 Rb6 Rc7 55 Nb7 Ke7 56 a7 Rxb7 57 a8(Q) Rxb6 58 Qa7+ Rb7 59 Qc5+ Kf7 60 Qxc6 Re7 61 h4 g5 62 h5 g4 63 Qc8 1-0

Edward Winter cites this game in *A Chess Omnibus* with two queen sacrifices back to back.

TWO KNIGHTS DEFENSE (C55)

W: A. Rhode
B: Willi Schlage

Correspondence 1917

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 d4 exd4 5 0-0 Bc5 6 e5 d5 7 Bb5 Ne4 8 Nxd4 Bd7 9 Nb3 Ne7 10 Bd3 Bb6 11 Bxe4 dxe4 12 Bg5 h6 13 Bh4 g5 14 Bg3 h5 15 h3 Nf5 16 Kh1 e3 17 Nc3 h4 18 Bh2 exf2 19 Nd5 Ng3+ 20 Bxg3 hxg3 21 Nf6+ Qxf6 22 Qxd7+ Kxf7 23 exf6 Rag8 24 Rfd1+ Ke6 25 Nd2 g4 26 Nf1 gxh3 27 Rd3 hxg2+ 28 Kxg2 Rh1 0-1

**CORRESPONDENCE CHESS TOURNAMENT
UPDATES FOR JANUARY 2004**

MASTERS CERTIFICATE WINNERS

Juraj Beres 2224

CANDIDATE MASTERS

Larry J. Brindza 2012
Nikolay S. Ivanov 2115
Vladimir Pashkov 2009

SWIFT QUAD TOURNAMENT 1ST PLACE

NAME	SECTION	SCORE
Christopher I. Brashers	03SQ29	5-1 cowinner
Aleksandr Zayen	03SQ29	5-1 cowinner
Robert B. Clark	03SQ27	5-1 cowinner
John P. Jeffrey	03SQ27	5-1 cowinner

EXPRESS TOURNAMENT

1ST & 2ND PLACE WINNERS

Robert Fass 03ET8 6-0 1st

TROPHY QUAD WINNERS

Gus Gonsalves 03QAB5 6-0
Robert L. Laux-Bachand 01QAB29 6-0

**JOHN COLLINS MEMORIAL CLASS
TOURNAMENT WINNERS**

Frank R. Spooner Sr. 03CC6 5-1
Michael Britz 03CB20 6-0
Cory Bernard 01QM17 5½-½
Andrew Westhead 01CD42 5-1
Clark Haywood 02CD75 6-0
Kent Wallace 02CCD59 6-0

**VICTOR PALCIAUSKAS PRIZE
TOURNAMENT WINNERS**

Joel Levine 01UM7 5½-½

**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 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?

CHECK OUT USCF'S CORRESPONDENCE CHESS RATED EVENTS

USCF's 57th 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 C 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

USCF's 1st 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 event is 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 are 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)

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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: 3054 US Rt. 9W, New Windsor, NY 12553