



The Check Is in the Mail January 2008

JOHN BURTON 1999 GOLDEN KNIGHTS CHAMPION

Finishing first, second, and seventh in the 1999 Golden Knights, John Burton has added to his accolades. John, born 20 February 1938, is from Modesto, California. A navy man, John is a fierce competitor (one opponent likened him to a shark that swims in the dark finals of the Golden Knights) has been a dominant force in the Golden Knights in recent events, finishing second in the 1997 Golden Knights which finished a few months ago and will have a high finish in the 1998 Golden Knights which will end soon.

Harold Boege of Marcell MN finished second. Gino Figlio of Lamar, CO and Randy Cook or Phoenix, AZ finished tied for third and fourth..

GAME OF THE MONTH

John, who is a bit publicity shy, is as hard to get a game score from as he is hard to get a point from in USCF play. He demonstrates just how difficult he is to defeat in this great defensive battle against Gino Figlio from the semifinals.

SICILIAN DEFENSE (B99)

White: Gino Figlio (2404)

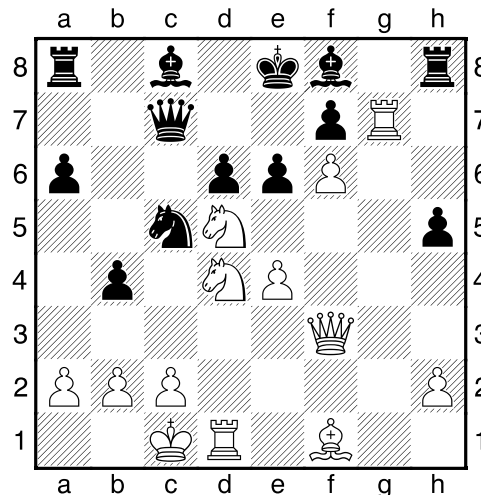
Black: John Burton (2404)

1999 Golden Knights semifinals

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.0-0-0 Nbd7 10.g4 b5 11.Bxf6 Nxf6 12.g5 Nd7 13.f5 Nc5 14.f6 gxf6 15.gxf6 Bf8 16.Rg1 h5 17.Rg7!?

Although this line has been scoring well by postal, it is not as popular as 17. a3!? which racks up 70% in my postal database. Balabaev-Mayer, Postal 2005, saw 17. a3!? Rb8 18. e5 Bb7 19. Qg3 dxe5 20. Ncxb5 and White has outscored Black

17...b4 18.Nd5!



Although this is a stock sacrifice, it requires both faith and courage for the complications that now ensue are unfathomable. White's goal is the King. Black's goal is survival.

18...exd5 19.exd5

Black has all kinds of choices here, but most of them lose -- 19...Bd7 20. Re1+

Kd8 21. Rxf7 Kc8 22. Rxf7 is great for White.

19...Nd7 20.Nc6 Bb7

Not a defense is 20...Ne5 21. Nxe5 dxe5 22. d6 Qa7 23. d7+ Bxd7 24. Rxd7 Qxd7 25. Qxa8+ Qd8 26. Qc6+ Qd7 27. Qxd7+ Kxd7 28. Rxf7+

21.Bh3 Bxc6 22.dxc6 Ne5 23.Bd7+ Kd8 24.Qe4

After a series of forced moves, White centralizes his Queen with the quiet threat of Rxf7. Now follow some forced maneuvers.

24...Qb6 25.Be6 Kc7 26.Bxf7 Nxc6

Even is 26...Bxg7 27. fxg7 Nxf7 28. Qe7+ Kxc6 29. gxh8(Q) Rxh8 30. Qxf7

27.Qf4

This is the first new move of this game. The game Sacher-Stierhof, ICCF 2001 continued 27. Rh7 Rxh7 28. Qxh7 Qc5 29. Bd5 Kb6 and Black won in 45.

27...Rd8 28.Bd5+ Kb8 29.Kb1!

Although Burton has been praised for his defensive moves in this game, high praise has to be given to Figlio for his ingenuity in finding ways to keep the attack going.

29...Rc8 30.Rd7

After thirteen moves this Rook is finally de-primed.

30...Rc7 31.Qf5 Rxd7 32.Qxd7 Ne5 33.Qe8+ Kc7 34.f7 Nc6 35.Be6 Qb5

36.Qc8+ Kb6 37.Bd5 a5 38.h4 Qc5 39.b3 Qc3

Failing to impress White is 39...Bg7 40. Qxh8 Qc3 41. Qxg7 Qxg7 42. Rf1 Qf8 43. Rg1 Qe7 44. Rf1 drawing

40.Rg1 Be7 41.Qe8 Rf8 42.Rf1 Nd4 43.Qxe7 Qxc2+ 44.Ka1 Qc3+ 45.Kb1 Qc2+ DRAW

1999 GOLDEN KNIGHTS
STANDINGS

John Burton	38.35
John Burton	37.90
Harold Boege	37.30
Randy Cook	37.25
Gino Figlio	37.25
Richard Smouse	36.15
John Burton	36.10
Boris Ratner	32.85
Michael Buss	32.80
Roy Tate	31.60
Robert Keating	30.45
Daniel Woodard	30.00
Roy Tate	27.75
Richard McLaughlin	27.15
Anthony Albano	24.85
James Fisher	23.90
Jeffrey Endler	23.85
David Drevinsky	21.75
David Drevinsky	21.65
Shane Schultheis	19.40
Preston Ladson	12.20

Quote: The most dangerous amateurs are those who play postal chess. There they specialize in few variations, knowing it to the last details. And there are times when a Grandmaster has to face such detailed homework -- Lubosh Kavalek

DECEMBER WINNERS

Swift Quads

Wilbur Tseng	07SQ11	6-0
John Badger	07SQ10	5-1
Steven Van Enk	07SQ08	6-0

Trophy Quads

Lorenzo Eisma	05QD11	6-0
Alphonse Riley-Jones	07Q02	6-0
Spencer Conklin	06Q14	5½-½

Express Tournaments

Michael Howell	07ET04	5-1
Wilbur Tseng	07ET04	5-1
Michael Quirk	07ET05	5½- ½
Robert Cousins	07ET05	5½- ½

Walter Muir eQuad

Edward Barr	07W11	5-1
Anthony Ragan	07W35	4½-1½

John Collins Tournaments

Kenneth Hunsucker	06C11	5-1
Michael Donnelly	06C48	5-1
Christopher Ballard	06C48	5-1
Franklin Castle	06C37	4½-1½
Rick Shepard	06C06	4½-1½
Ken Ritchie	06C06	4½-1½
Chris Sanjurjo	06C24	6-0

Victor Palciauskas Tournament

Joseph Daudish	05P03	5-1
Craig Faber	05P03	5-1

2008 ABSOLUTE IS FORMING!

Put in your bid now for the 2008 Absolute Championship! The top 13 players applying will be taken for the championship tournament. There is no entry fee, and this year there is a purse of \$300 and a plaque to the winner and \$100 for second place, thanks to generous donations by USCF, Keith Rodriguez, Joan DuBois and Robert Rizzo. The tournament will be played on the ICCF webserver, thanks to Corky Schakel, and will be USCF rated. Entries are restricted to a ground of 2200. Enter now! Send me your bid at chesskinetics@stny.rr.com

WANTED:ANGELS !

Tim Rutledge of Littlerock, WA has come up with what might be a very good idea – if there is enough interest. Tim notes that one of the problems with class tournaments is that there are always some players who lose interest and drop out leaving their opponents without a game. Tim suggests a cadre of volunteers who would be willing to finish those games to a more reasonable conclusion. I would suggest that those games finished by volunteers not be rated against the volunteers, but against the withdrawing player. I would like to hear from you as to whether you think this might work and if you would like to be a volunteer. I already have Volunteer #1 – Tim Rutledge. Would you like to be #2 ? Or is this not a good idea ?

**ICCF-US Announces the
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USPCF clubs and former U. S.
Champions.

**POSTAL ENTRIES CLOSE FEB. 15,
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Start date Mar. 1, 2008

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15, 2008**

Start date Mar. 1, 2008

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NEW QUEEN FOR THE VERNONS

Bryant Vernon and his wife have a new
Queen, Layla Marie Vernon, 8 lbs, 4
ounces, 21 inches long.

**DAVID MEYERS FIRST IN FIRST
USCCCWEBSERVERCHAMPIONSHIP**



At 57 years of age (born 17 June 1950)
David Myers is a true foot soldier of
correspondence chess. He began postal
play in the early Seventies and made
slow progress until 1995 when he won
an ICCF Master tournament.

Discouraged by the slow pace of
international postal chess, wayward
postcards, and the attendant record
keeping, David took an eight year time
out.

When he returned in 2003 he found a
completely different landscape. Postal
chess was by then almost obsolete.
Internet servers were replacing email
chess. No more postcards – he was
delighted!

For David the internet chess server was
the complete solution to all the
complaints about correspondence chess.
The server is superior in speed, cost,
accuracy, and convenience.

David has now annexed the First US
webserver championship and on the
international scene has qualified for the
World Championship Final. Go David!

FRENCH DEFENSE (C02)

White: Corky Schakel (2383)

Black: Dave Myers (2361)

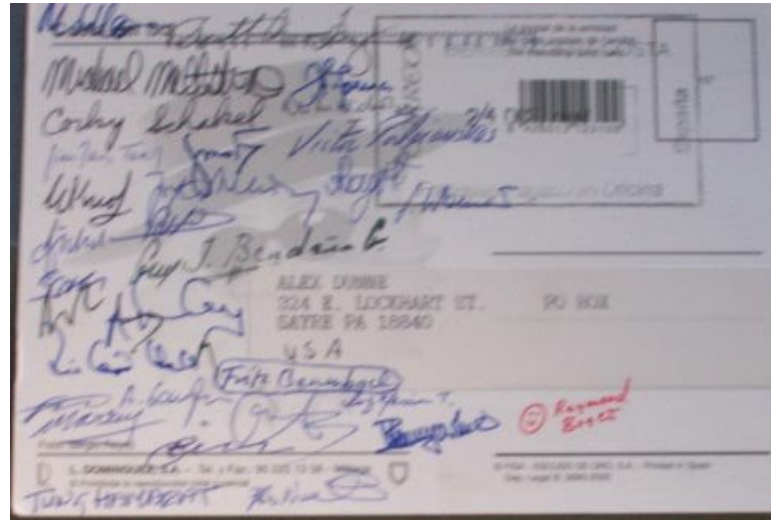
1st WS USCCC Final

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 c5 4.c3 Nc6 5.Nf3
 Bd7 6.dxc5 Bxc5 7.b4 Bb6 8.b5 Na5
 9.Bd3 Ne7 10.0-0 Qc7 11.a4 Ng6
 12.Re1 Nc4 13.Qe2 Rc8 14.Ra2 0-0
 15.Na3 Na5 16.c4 dxc4 17.Be4 f5
 18.exf6 gxf6 19.Qd2 Rfd8 20.Qc3 e5
 21.Nh4 Be6 22.Qg3 Qf7 23.Bxg6 hxg6
 24.Nxg6 Rd3 25.Nxe5+ Rxc3 26.Nxf7
 Rd3 27.Nh6+ Kh7 28.Rae2 Bd7 29.h4
 Bc5 30.Nc2 c3 31.Bf4 Nc4 32.h5 a5
 33.bxa6 bxa6 34.a5 Nxa5 35.Re4 Nc6
 0-1

D. Myers	2361		1	=	=	=	1	=	1	1	1	6-2
D. Filmes	2321	0		0	=	1	=	1	1	1	4½3½	
R. Fass	2311	=	1	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	4-3	
T. Gildred	2430	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	1	=	4-3	
A. Herrera	2191	=	0	=	=	=	=	1	=	=	4-4	
L. Schakel	2383	0	=	=	=	=	=	1	=	=	4-4	
A. Zawadzki	2233	=	=	=	=	0	0	=	=	=	3-5	
K. Jones	2262	0	0	=	=	0	=	=	=	=	2½5½	
S. Ledford	2226	0	0								2-4	

FRIENDLY ICCF MATCHES

Play a two-game match with an opponent of comparable rating on the ICCF server, ICCF rated. All ratings accepted. Order using the ICCF order form (www.iccfus.com) click on the ICCF-US store, at \$6 per match. All players welcome, as are entries to multiple matches! Assignments will be made throughout 2008.



A postcard from the recent ICCF Congress in Spain. Sharp-eyed readers may find the autographs of Michael Millstone, Corky Schakel, Ruth Ann Fay, Raymond Boger and World Champions Victor Palciaukas, Fritz Baumbach, and Tunc Hamarat among the names I was able to translate.

Treasure from the Past

RUY LOPEZ (C96)

White: Daniel Fleetwood (2425)

Black: John Mousessian (2335)

1997 Absolute Championship

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 Na5 10.Bc2 c5 11.d4 cxd4 12.cxd4
Bb7 13.d5 Nc4 14.a4 bxa4 15.Bd3 Nb6
16.Nc3 Nfd7 17.Be3 f5 18.exf5 Kh8
19.f6 Bxf6 20.Bc2 Rc8 21.Qd3 g6
22.Bxa4 Nxa4 23.Nxa4 Rc7 24.Nd2 Bg5
25.Ne4 Bxe3 26.fxe3 Nf6 27.Nxf6 Rxf6
28.Nc3 Rf5 29.Ne4 Rd7 30.b4 Qb6
31.Reb1 Rd8 32.Kh2 Rdf8 33.b5 a5
34.Ra4 R5f7 35.Rba1 Ra8 36.Rc1 Kg8
37.Rc6 Bxc6 38.dxc6 Kg7 39.Nxd6 Re7
40.Ne4 Rae8 41.Nc3 Qb8 42.e4 Rf7
43.Nd5 1-0

The cliché has it as lightning from a clear, blue sky. Black's combination in this game comes from the same sky except on a sunny day at noon with no warning shadows.

SEMI-SLAV DEFENSE (D47)

White: Michael Calogridis (2321) –

Black: Ted Brandhorst (2446)

2004 Absolute Championship

1.d4 d5 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 c6 4.e3 Nf6
5.Nf3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 dxc4 7.Bxc4 b5
8.Bd3 Bd6 9.0-0 0-0 10.b3 Bb7 11.Bb2
a6 12.a4 Qb8 13.h3 Rd8 14.Qe2 bxa4
15.bxa4 c5 16.Rab1 cxd4 17.Nxd4 Qc7
18.Rfc1 Nc5 19.Bc2 Bh2+ 20.Kh1 Bd6
21.Kg1 Rab8 22.Ba3 Rdc8 23.Nf3 h6
24.Kh1 Nxa4 25.Nxa4 Bxf3 26.Bxd6
Rxb1 27.Rxb1 Bxe2 28.Bxc7 Bb5
29.Bd3 Bxd3 30.Rb8 Rxb8 31.Bxb8 Bc2
32.Nc3 a5 33.Bd6 Nd7 34.Nb5 Bd3
35.Na3 f5 36.Kg1 Kf7 37.f3 e5 38.Kf2
Ke6 39.Bc7 a4 40.g3 Nf6 41.Ba5 g5

42.g4 e4 43.Bd8 exf3 44.Kxf3 Bf1
45.Nc2 Bxh3 46.Nd4+ Kf7 47.gxf5
Bg4+ 48.Kg2 a3 49.Ba5 Ne4 0-1

Black wants to play an endgame; White wants to checkmate the Black King. It's an interesting struggle that ends in a requiem for the Black King.

MODERN DEFENSE (A88)

White: Cory Moran (0000)

Black: John Badger (1891)

2007 Walter Muir

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.f4 c5 4.d5 d6 5.c4
Nf6 6.Nc3 0-0 7.Nf3 e6 8.Be2 exd5
9.cxd5 Bg4 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.Re1 Re8
12.h3 Bxf3 13.Bxf3 Qa5 14.Be3 b5
15.a3 b4 16.axb4 Qxb4 17.Qc2 Nb6
18.Bf2 Nfd7 19.Bg4 h5 20.Bxd7 Nxd7
21.Ra4 Qb7 22.Rea1 Nb6 23.R4a2 Qd7
24.Qd3 Nc8 25.e5 Rb8 26.exd6 Qxd6
27.Nb5 Qb6 28.Nxa7 Nxa7 29.Rxa7
Bd4 30.Bxd4 cxd4 31.R1a6 Re1+
32.Kh2 Qxb2 33.Rxg6+ Kf8 34.Rxf7+
Kxf7 35.Qf5+ Ke8 36.Rg8+ Ke7 37.d6+
Kxd6 38.Rg6+ Ke7 39.Qf6+ 1-0

Both sides play sharply – the Queen sacrifices at the end are a mini-ballet.

NIMZOINDIAN DEFENSE (E38)

White: William Evans (1377)

Black: Scott Herbert (1002)

2007 Walter Muir

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 c5
5.e3 d5 6.dxc5 0-0 7.cxd5 Nxd5 8.Bd3
f5 9.Bd2 Bxc5 10.Nxd5 Qxd5 11.Nf3
Be7 12.0-0 Nc6 13.e4 Qd8 14.exf5 exf5
15.Bc4+ Kh8 16.Bc3 Bf6 17.Rad1 Qc7
18.Rd2 Bxc3 19.Qxc3 Bd7 20.Ng5 Rf6
21.Nf7+ Kg8 22.Ne5+ Be6 23.Re1 Qa5
24.Bxe6+ Rxe6 25.Qc4 Rae8 26.Nxc6
Qc5 27.Rxe6 Qxc4 28.Rxe8+ Kf7
29.Ne5+ 1-0