



Check is in the Mail

by FIDE Master Alex Dunne

Oasis of Life

One of our newest International Correspondence Chess Masters is David Novak. David was born on May 12, 1949, in Paterson, New Jersey. He earned a BA in English from Haverford College, an MA in English from Fairleigh Dickinson, and a JD from Georgetown University. Besides playing chess at the international level, David is an attorney with the National Labor Relations Board. David also plays in the upper circles of U.S. correspondence chess, presently playing in the 15th U.S. Correspondence Chess Final and the 1999 Absolute Championship. He currently lives in Vienna, Virginia, with his wife.

GAME OF THE MONTH

When the position seems almost a dry draw, David shows there is an oasis of life left in this strong endgame.

SICILIAN DEFENSE [B63]

W: Michael Bates (2298)

B: IM David Novak (2439)

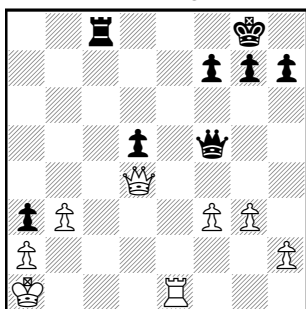
Absolute Championship 1999

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 d6 6 Bg5 e6 7 Qd2 Be7 8 0-0-0 0-0 9 Nb3 Qb6 10 f3 Rd8 11 Be3 Qc7 12 Qf2 d5 A common stratagem in this position: Black accepts an isolated d-pawn to free his game.

13 exd5 Nxd5 14 Nxd5 Rxd5 15 Rxd5 exd5 16 Bb5 Na5 This is new: Black offers to get rid of White's best defender.

17 Nd4 Nc4 18 Re1 Bd7 19 Bxd7 Qxd7 20 Bf4 Bc5 21 c3 Rc8 22 g3 b5 With his remaining pieces, Black begins to pressure the White king. The isolated d-pawn is under no stress.

23 Kb1 a5 24 Bc1 b4 25 cxb4 axb4 26 b3 Na3+ 27 Bxa3 Bxd4 28 Qxd4 Qf5+ 29 Ka1 bxa3 (*diagram*)



after 29...bxa3

Black's pieces, though few in number, are all well placed. White cannot hold. The d-pawn may be isolated, but it is only four moves away from queening.

30 Qd2 h6 31 f4 Rc2 32 Qd4 Rxb2 33 Qc3 d4 34 Qc6 d3 35 g4 Qxg4 36 Qa8+ Kh7 37 Qe4+ g6 38 Qe7 Qxf4 39 Qxa3 d2 40 Rd1 Qf3 0-1

- The Poverty Postal Chess League is a small organization that has been around since 1977. The League is a relatively small and closely-knit group of players who relish friendly competition. Yearly membership is \$5 through Jack Klaus, 12721 E. 63rd Street, Kansas City, MO 64133 or Jack_Klaus@ email.com

- I have just finished reading a new book: *Modern Chess Analysis* by Robin Smith. I will be frank—this is an amazing book. I read this book and I was fascinated, horrified, educated, bewildered, enlightened, and stunned, sometimes simultaneously. Robin Smith, now a GM at correspondence chess, deeply discusses the role of the computer in chess analysis, both OTB and CC. To play chess at a high level today is a much more daunting proposition than 10 years ago, and I now have an even greater respect for those postal players who play with computer aid and those who play without. Smith shows the strengths and weaknesses of the computer and leading programs in remarkable detail. Though computer use is banned in domestic play in the U.S., in international events it is not. Any player who aspires to doing well internationally needs to read *Modern Chess Analysis*.



David Novak

Gambit Publications Ltd., distributed in the U.S. by BHB International, Inc., 302 West North 2nd Street, Seneca, SC 29678, is the publisher of *Modern Chess Analysis* (Robin Smith, ISBN 1 904600 08 5); \$24.95 for the soft-cover edition. Buy this book!

"The truth is that a master-level player who is the better player (and uses a chess engine) will beat another master-level player who is not such a good player (and uses a chess engine)." —David Taylor

- With all of White's pieces ready to party with Black's king, Jones can easily let an exchange slide: **21...Bxh5 22 Qxg5 Nf4 23 Bc4+ Nd5 24 Qh7+ Kf7 25 Rg1 Rg8 26 Qg6+** is a winner.

SICILIAN DEFENSE (B76)

W: IM Craig Jones (2419)

B: Yui Gerardo (2386)

15 Olympiad 2003

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 g6 6 Be3 Bg7 7 f3 0-0 8 Qd2 Nc6 9 0-0-0 d5 10 exd5 Nxd5 11 Nxc6 bxc6 12 Bd4 e5 13 Bc5 Be6 14 Ne4 Re8 15 h4 h5 16 g4 hxg4 17 h5 gxh5 18 Rxh5 gxf3 19 Qh2 f6 20 Bd3 Bg4 21 Rh1 1-0

- These two warriors fight evenly hand-to-hand until Black's slip on Move 24. With 24...Rb8 the war would have continued.

FRENCH DEFENSE [C14]

W: GM Robin Smith (2610)

B: IM Corky Schakel (2381)

13 USCCC 1999

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Bg5 Be7 5 e5 Nfd7 6 Bxe7 Qxe7 7 f4 0-0 8 Nf3 c5 9 dxc5 Qxc5 10 Qd2 Nb6 11 0-0-0 Nc6 12 h4 Bd7 13 h5 Rac8 14 h6 g6 15 Nh2 f5 16 Nf3 Na5 17 Qd4 Nac4 18 Bxc4 Nxc4 19 Qxc5 Rxc5 20 Rd3 Rfc8 21 g3 a5 22 Rh2 b5 23 Ne2 b4 24 Ned4 Re8 25 Ng5 Rcc8 26 c3 Re7 27 Rc2 Ra8 28 cxb4 axb4 29 b3 Na5 30 Re7 1-0

- It takes a few feints, but Boucher gives a textbook demo of the power of centralized pieces.

FRENCH DEFENSE [C18]

W: IM William Boucher (2457)

B: Robert Brooke (2170)

14 USCCC 1998

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 e5 c5 5 a3 Bxc3+ 6 bxc3 Ne7 7 Qg4 Qc7 8 Bd3 cxd4 9 Ne2 dxc3 10 Qxg7 Rg8 11 Qh6 Nd7 12 Bf4 Nf8 13 0-0 Bd7 14 Bg3 Qc5 15 Rab1 Bc6 16 Qe3 Qxe3 17 fxe3 Neg6 18 Nxc3 a6 19 e4 Nd7 20 exd5 exd5 21 Rbd1 Nb6 22 Rde1 Nc4 23 e6 fxe6 24 Rxe6+ Kd7 25 Bf5 Rgf8 26 Rxg6+ Rxf5 27 Rg7+ Ke6 28 Re1 Kf6 29 Ree7 Rh5 30 Ref7+ Ke6 31 Ne2 1-0

CORRESPONDENCE CHESS TOURNAMENT UPDATES FOR JULY 2004

CONGRATULATIONS!

SENIOR MASTER

Randy Cook 2404

MASTER

Alberto Prieto 2273

CANDIDATE MASTERS

Bruce Reynolds 2017

Jeremy Lingenfelter 2087

TROPHY QUAD WINNERS

Stephen Edward Brosnan 03QB14 6-0

JOHN W. COLLINS MEMORIAL CLASS TOURNAMENT WINNERS

Robert G. Foxx 02CMA48 co-winner 4½-1½

Stanley J. Jarosz Jr. 02CMA48 co-winner 4½-1½

William C. MacLaughlin III 03CA32 5-1

VICTOR PALCIAUSKAS PRIZE TOURNAMENT WINNERS

Ricardo Ruiz 02UCD09 4½-1½

SWIFT QUAD TOURNAMENT WINNERS

Bobby C. Taylor 03SQ33 4½-1½

Ian Rasmussen 03SQ36 6-0

Thomas J. Peabody 03SQ30 6-0

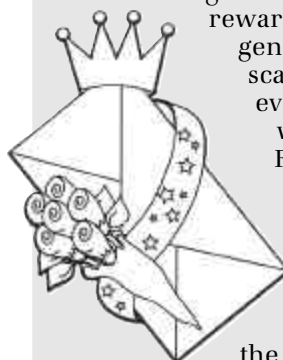
EXPRESS TOURNAMENT WINNERS

Thomas Greco 04ETAO 11-1 1st Place

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?

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 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 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 _____
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 If using VISA, need V-code _____
 Check here if you do not wish to have an opponent who is incarcerated.
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