



The Check Is in the Mail

September 2007

MEET ED ADDIS – MR. FIFTY +



This month I would like to introduce the reader to Edward Addis of Damascus, Oregon. Ed has the notable distinction of having had a postal opponent in all fifty states plus the District of Columbus.

Ed has been a chess enthusiast since he was about ten years old when he first learned to play from the family encyclopedia. While he enjoyed the game, he found little time to play in OTB tournaments. Then in 1974 he discovered correspondence chess. He entered the 1974 Golden Knights and has been looking forward to each day's mail delivery bringing postcards from around the world ever since.

About ten years ago Ed noticed that he had played someone from almost every state in the union. He then set a goal of playing an opponent from every state. He purchased the USCF Life Members Directory and actively solicited members to attain his goal. Many had switched to emails or were no longer playing in the USCF. In July of 2007, with opponents from the District of Columbia and North Dakota, Ed had achieved his goal. Having achieved one goal, Ed has not rested on his postcards. He has set a new goal: to play a chess game that would be categorized under one of the 500 major openings in the original ECO's. Currently he is at 328, so he still needs another 172. So it looks like Ed will be playing correspondence chess for many years to come.

GAME OF THE MONTH

And how does Ed play chess? He has had many memorable opponents over the last 33 years, and has usually played in the Class A to Expert range. In this game Ed shows his considerable endgame strength winning a tight endgame with clockwork precision.

SICILIAN DEFENSE (B70)

White: Ken Hunsucker (1595)

Black: Edward Addis (2025)

2005 Golden Knights

**1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 g6 6.Be2**

The Attack popularized by Velimirovic and Fischer of castling long and playing h2-h4-h5 has attracted most players by its brutal efficiency, but there is something to be said about the older Be2 and 00 line.

6...Nc6 7.Qd2?!

But not this rather inexplicable move. One can only guess that Hunsucker believed he already had his Bishop on e3. The question mark is for esthetics; the exclamation mark for the unusual strength of this unusual move.

7...Bg7 8.Nxc6

As Black threatened ...Nxe4, this is probably White's best attempt to strengthen his position.

8...bxc6 9.0-0 0-0 10.Rd1

Hunsucker has very cleverly made his seventh move something positive. Now Black should pay close attention to the center and play 10...Be6 when 11. Qf4! repositions the Queen in an aggressive manner when White has a fair game.

10...a5 11.e5

White is no way inferior in this position. Black has to be careful here

11...Ne8 12.exd6 exd6 13.Ne4

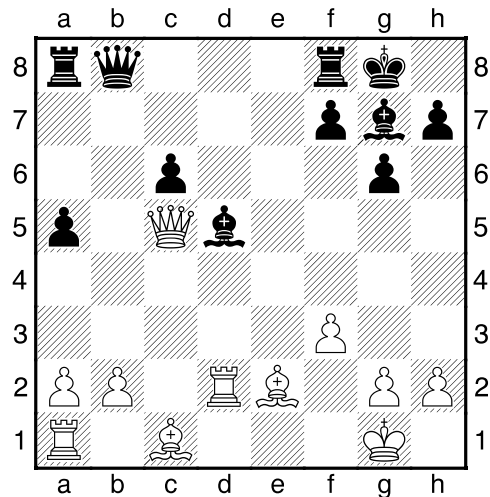
Now the positioning of his Queen on d2 begins to tell against White. After 13. Qf4 White still has a good game.

13...Bf5 14.Nxd6 Nxd6 15.Qxd6 Bxc2 16.Rd2

White replaces the blockading Queen with a blockading Rook, and the problem of developing his queenside grows with each move. Black now stands better.

16...Be4 Simpler was 16. ...Qxd6.

17.Qc5 Qb8 18.f3 Bd5



Black's Bishops are better organized than White's. From now on Addis' superior endgame play takes over to score the point. White should now try to get rid of one of Black's Bishops with 19. Bc4.

19.Rc2 Re8 20.Qf2 Qa7!

Effectively preparing to double Rooks and removing White's most active piece.

21.Qxa7 Rxa7 22.Kf1 Rae7 23.Bf4

Allowing the win of the b-Pawn, but White really had nothing better.

23...Rxe2! 24.Rxe2 Bc4 25.Rae1 Bxb2 26.Bd2 a4 27.Kf2 Rxe2+ 28.Rxe2 Bxe2 29.Kxe2 Be5

The extra Pawn on c6 gives Edward all the winning chances. The next step is to activate his King. The rest of the game proceeds almost like an endgame study.

30.h3 Kg7 31.Kd3 Kf6 32.Kc4 Bd6 33.Bb4

Otherwise White cannot stop Black from improving the position of his King.

33...Ke6 34.Bxd6 Kxd6 35.Kb4 Kd5 36.Kxa4 Kc4

Squeezing the White King. Now White has two choices, but 37. Ka3 loses in the same way that the game continuation loses: 37. Ka3 Kc3 38. Ka4 c5 39. Kb5 c4 40. a4 Kd4! 41. a5 c3 42. a6 c2 43. a7 c1(Q) 44. a8(Q) Qc4+ 45. Kb6 Qc5+ etc.

37.Ka5 c5 38.a4 Kd4! 39.Kb6 c4 40.a5 c3 41.a6 c2 42.a7 c1Q 43.a8Q Qc5+

The Queens are exchanged and then Black's King invades the kingside many tempi ahead of the White King.

0-1

2007 ABSOLUTE

The 2007 Absolute is underway, and it is another strong event. Leading the pack is IM Wesley Brandhorst (2482), who has been dominating the event in recent years. The fierce IM Ed Duliba stands at 2452. Three more 2400 players finish out the top Five – Gino Figlio (2434) Ciaran O'Hare (2405) and Lawrence Coplin (2401).

The rest of the field, any one of whom could be the eventual winner, in rating order are: Walter Brower (2384) IM Keith Rodriguez (2384) Robert Keating (2382) Abe Wilson (2377) William Gray (2365) IM Kristo Miettinen (2364) Mark Robledo, Sr. (2336) and IM Corky Schakel (2329).

Apologies to IM Robert Rizzo who had submitted a bid but was overlooked somehow. He certainly would have

made an excellent addition to the tournament.

Quote: Garry Kasparov gives us a new (?) definition of correspondence chess: .Professor Hans Berliner was a computer scientist as well as a world champion at correspondence chess, an ancient form of playing the game through the mail.” -- Garry Kasparov [How Life Imitates Chess](#)

ICCF WIKIPEDIA

As you all know, the Internet encyclopedia Wikipedia is an online reader-created source of information on everything. Now ICCF is emulating the wikipedia with its own ICCF Wiki. Still in its fledgling stage, ICCF members are invited to submit content to the Wiki. The hope, of course, is to grow an excellent reference system for international correspondence chess. I believe the idea is an excellent one – and that maybe, someday, we can have our own US Wiki. You can see the beginnings at www.iccf.com/wiki

TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Walter Muir

William Roudebush	07W07	5-1
James Sofianos	07W07	5-1
Scott Valenti	06W19	5 ½-½
Steven Owens	07W27	6-0

Trophy Quad

James Ruth	05QC04	4-2
Thomas Buchanan	05QC04	4-2
L. R. Perry	06Q15	6-0

JOHN COLLINS

Leonard Horowitz	05CB05	5-1
Michael Hyland	05C42	4-2
Sherlock McNab	05CB06	6-0
Bill Pemberton	05C41	6-0

SWIFT QUAD

Michael Hensley	06SQ18	5-1
Alex Prazma	06SQ18	5-1
Kendrick Aung	07SQ03	6-0

XVII OLYMPIAD

The news isn't official yet, but the US team from the 17th Olympiad seems assured of qualification into the finals. Further, it looks very much as if all the team members will have at least a positive score.

Our team members (Bravo, guys!) in Board order are SIM Jason Bokar, IM-elect Kenneth Reinhart, IM Robert Rizzo, SIM Michael Millstone and IM Corky Schakel. As of this date their cumulative team score is +16 -3 =30 which should be good for second place and qualification into the finals.

US CORRESPONDENCE CHESS LEAGUE IN CYBERSPACE

The new US Correspondence League (USCL) using the ICCF webserver has been formed. Aimed at club-to-club competition by webserver, the league is still in its formative stage, sponsored by CCLA. So far there are seven members: Punxsutawney CC, MetroWest CC, Greater Worcester CC, Sven Brask CC, University of Connecticut CC, PA State

federation, and Massachusetts State Federation..

The first match was scheduled to start sometime in August between MetroWest and Punxsutawney. The experiment is ambitious, as the New Met League is looking to expand. As it does so, the virtues of webserver chess will become more and more evident to more and more cc players. At this time the League is formalizing the rules of play. It is exciting to see a revival of the old club vs. club tradition in modern guise. The format will be a four-board match, with each board playing two games. Interested CC'ers can keep up to date by contacting CCLA or reading Harvey Reed's blog at <http://correspondence-chess-in-cyberspace.blogspot.com/>

CLASSIFIED ADS

LEARN CHESS BY MAIL ! Lessons given by mail, telephone, ICC – many different ways. I specialize in players rated 800-2100 who would like to improve their game. Contact me for information. Alex Dunne, 324 West Lockhart St., Sayre, PA 18840 or chesskinetics@stny.rr.com

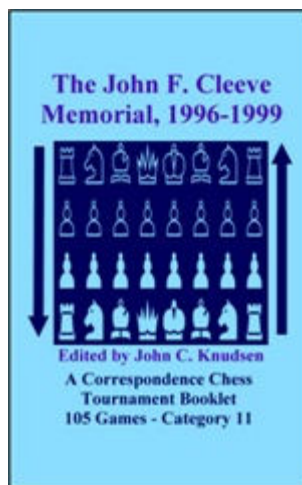
US Qualifiers to World Championship

As ICCF prepares to set up the 22nd World Championship Final, they have released a list of qualifiers to the championship. The US has four potential qualifiers. Hans Berliner who never used his qualification from the 5th World Championship (“Correspondence chess takes too much time.”) SIM Timothy Murray, Jon Ostricker, and GM John Timm.

If the gentlemen choose to use their qualification, "The Check Is in the Mail" will keep you informed. Incidentally, Germany leads the world in qualifiers for the championship final with 18 players.

BOOK REVIEW

The John F. Cleeve Memorial, 1996-1999



This is a collection of the 105 games that made up the John Cleeve Memorial. The book, edited by John Knudsen, is without any annotations or diagrams in its 51 pages plus a crosstable on the back. Nevertheless, it is a valuable historical record of an important tournament. The winner, Kari Tikkanen, hails from Finland, as does his countryman Georg Ostermann who finished tied for fourth with USA's Joseph DeMauro. Here is a sample of DeMauro's play in this tournament:

RAT OPENING (B06)

White: GM Joseph DeMauro (2493)

Black: GM Redolfo Redolfi (2450)

John F. Cleeve Memorial 1996

1.e4 d6 2.d4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.g3 Nc6
 5.Be3 Nf6 6.d5 Ne5 7.f4 Neg4 8.Bd2 h5
 9.h3 Nh6 10.Bg2 e6 11.dxe6 Bxe6
 12.Qe2 0-0 13.0-0 c6 14.Kb1 b5
 15.e5 Nd5 16.Nxd5 cxd5 17.Nf3 Nf5
 18.Qe1 dxe5 19.fxe5 d4 20.Ng5 Bd5
 21.Bxd5 Qxd5 22.g4 Ne7 23.gxh5 Bxe5
 24.hxg6 Nxc6 25.Qe2 Kg7 26.h4 f6
 27.Nf3 Rg8 28.h5 Ne7 29.Nxd4 Kf7
 30.Nf3 Nc6 31.Bc3 Qc4 32.Rd7+ Ke6
 33.Rd3 Rg4 34.Re1 1-0

The book sells for \$8.99 from Cafepress at www.cafepress.com

WEBSERVER FOR USCF ?

At the recent US Open the correspondence chess committee passed a proposal for setting up a USCF webserver fund. Bob Rizzo handed out a proposal which will hopefully increase the number of USCF correspondence tournaments to be played on a webserver. The goal, of course, is for the USCF to establish its own webserver. Mike Nolan, the USCF lead programmer, believes that a USCF webserver could be developed with a single PC and that it would take about three months to develop. Thank you Bob and Mike !

Who says chess isn't fun ? Take a look at this game from the 2007 Electronic Knights and tell me both sides didn't enjoy this donnybrook.

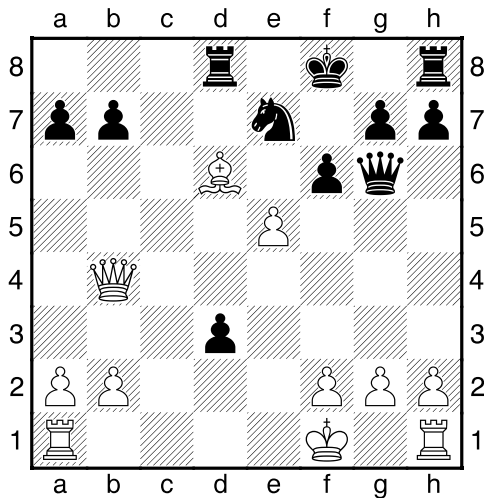
WINAWER COUNTER GAMBIT(D10)

White: Franklin Taylor (0000)

Black: Barry Endsley (2257)

2007 Electronic Knights

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nc3 e5 4.cxd5 cxd5
5.e4 dxe4 6.Bb5+ Bd7 7.dxe5 Bb4
8.Bd2 Bxc3 9.Bxd7+ Nxd7 10.Bxc3
Nc5 11.Ne2 Nd3+ 12.Kf1 Qb6 13.Qa4+
Kf8 14.Bd4 Qg6 15.Nc1 Ne7 16.Nxd3
exd3 17.Bc5 Rd8 18.Bd6 f6 19.Qb4



19. ...d2 20.Ke2 Ke8 21.Qxb7 Qg4+
22.Kxd2 Rd7 23.Qb8+ Kf7 24.Qxh8
Qb4+ 25.Kc2 Qe4+ 1/2-1/2

Black makes an interesting positional Pawn sacrifice. When he tactically regains the Pawn, White's position falls apart.

PETROFF DEFENSE (C42)

White: Mark Keese (1965)

Black: James Van Vranken (1965)

2007 Walter Muir

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3
Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.0-0 Be7
8.Re1 Bg4 9.c3 f5 10.Qb3 0-0 11.Nbd2
Na5 12.Qa4 Nc6 13.Bb5 Bh4 14.Nxh4
Qxh4 15.g3 Qf6 16.f4 Ne7 17.Be2 Bxe2
18.Rxe2 c6 19.Qb3 b5 20.Nxe4 fxe4
21.Rxe4 Nf5 22.Bd2 a5 23.Re2 Nd6
24.Qc2 Ne4 25.Rae1 Qf5 26.Kg2 Rae8
27.Be3 Rf6 28.h3 h5 29.Rg1 Rg6
30.Kh2 Rxg3 31.Rxg3 Nxe3 0-1

Black equalizes nicely in this game, and then shows that a dominant d-file can be dangerous as a dagger.

CENTER COUNTER GAME (B01)

White: Lawrence Gladding (1683)

Black: Barry Walker (2039)

2006 Golden Knights

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.d4
Nf6 5.Nf3 c6 6.Bc4 Bf5 7.Bd2 e6 8.Nd5
Qd8 9.Nxf6+ Qxf6 10.Qe2 Bd6 11.0-0
0-0 12.c3 Nd7 13.Rfe1 Qd8 14.Bb3 h6
15.Rad1 Qc7 16.h3 Rfd8 17.Nh4 Bh7
18.c4 c5 19.d5 exd5 20.cxd5 Nf6 21.Qf3
c4 22.Ba4 Bd3 23.Bxh6 Bb4 24.Bd2
Bxd2 25.Rxd2 Rxd5 26.Bc2 Rad8 27.g3
Qa5 0-1