

CHECK!

Canada's Correspondence Chess Magazine
#623 September - December 2024 \$6
www.cccachess.ca



Happy Holidays & Happy New Year 2025
From the Entire CCCA Executive!



Godzilla Turns 70! 😊
(see page 3 for details)

Win, Lose or Draw: *The Good Old Days*
by ICCF World Champion Jon Edwards
(see page 5)

Confessions of a Chess Book Collector by Maurice Cater
(see page 14)

8th North Atlantic Team Tournament Starts!
(see page 25 for details)

Six Members Earn ICCF titles and Norms
(see page 26 for details)

IM Steven Ledford of USA Wins World Zone Cup Final
(see page 32 for details)

New CCCA Members Rating List
(see page 41)

CCCA Executive

President & ICCF Delegate: Ralph P. Marconi,
540 Sainte-Thérèse, Joliette, QC J6E 4A8.

E-mail: ralphmarconi63@gmail.com

Vice President & Secretary: Valer Eugen
Demian, 1805 View Street, Port Moody, BC V3H
3Y3. E-mail: valeredemian@gmail.com

Treasurer: Sam Sharpe, 87A Kings Crescent,
Ajax, ON L1S 2M4. E-Mail:
scsharpe@gmail.com

International Events Coordinator, CCCA

Webmaster & CHECK! Editor:

Ralph P. Marconi

Domestic Tournament Coordinator:

Sam Sharpe

International Tournament Coordinator:

Martin T Lemaire, E-Mail:

martin.t.lemaire@gmail.com

Membership Secretary: Valer Eugen Demian

Games Editor: Vacant

Subscribe to CHECK! Magazine & Membership Rates

*** Please note: PDF refers to the electronic version.**

| Subscription type | Two years | Five years |
|-------------------------|-----------|------------|
| For All Members *PDF | \$41 | \$98 |

Please send your payment to CCCACHess@gmail.com

Go to: <https://cccachess.ca/dues.sup.htm> to view instructions of payment options on-line.

CCCA Executive & Subscription Information.....2

From the Editor's Desk by Ralph P. Marconi.....3

Win, Lose or Draw: *The Good Old Days*
by ICCF World Champion Jon Edwards..... .5

Confessions of a Chess Book Collector by Maurice Carter.....14

International CC News by Ralph P. Marconi.....25

TD Corner by IM Sam Sharpe.....36

Rating List.....41

Friendly Team Matches42

*Notice: Anything in our journal can be copied at
will as long as the source is mentioned!*

From the Editor's Desk



by *Ralph P. Marconi*

* New Member *!

We are pleased to welcome new member Marc Cazelaïs of Québec. We wish Marc good luck and enjoyable games! And thank you for your support.

Godzilla Turns 70!

The famous and iconic movie “monster” Godzilla (original Japanese name, *Gorjira*) turned (more like introduced) superhero/environmental god turned 70 this year. So, since we share something in “common”; I too turned 70 this year I thought I *celebrate* his 70th “birthday” in the pages of *CHECK!* 😊

Over the years, Godzilla met face to face many times in cinematic spectacular battles with another equally famous and iconic movie monster turned superhero/god, King Kong (Oh - by the way King Kong turned 91 this year). Curiously enough they discovered an interest they had in common – chess. Instead of slamming each other around, on occasion they would do battle over the chess board. (Image courtesy of *Reddit*.)

Although I couldn't find an actual game these two movie monsters played together, I did find a game, that was dubbed the “**The Godzilla Game**” at Lichess. The game was a 10-minute rapid game played in 2022. To play over the game on-line go to: [the Godzilla Game • lichess.org](https://lichess.org)



Below is the game with comments and analysis by the winner.

□ *duannishenmi* (2118)

■ *anon* (2158)

Rated Rapid Game (10 minutes) Lichess, 2022
Ponziani's Opening - [C44]

[Notes by *duannishenmi*]

For this INCREDIBLE 'save' game I decided not to include engine analysis. I will provide important analysis information in my annotation.

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.c3 ♘f6 4.d4 ♘xe4 5.♙d3 d5 6.dxe5 ♙g4

[Interestingly despite knowing some engine opening lines, I am really playing this opening on instinctive play.]

7.♙f4 ♙c5
8.0-0 0-0

[Everything is drawish in the opening up to now.]

9.♘bd2

[Move 9 (by Black) is one of only two moves in the entire game where I have ANY reasonable analysis advantage.

Move 9 (by Black) gives me just +0.9 advantage, that is all. Both advantages are the result of black's own moves. This really is an excellent spectator game to view.]

9...♙f5

[Taking time with Black's unusual move selection, I decide upon ♖c1. This is a terrible move, giving black -6.0 advantage. Unusually, I didn't calculate for the very clever knight sac, ♜xf2!! After further exchanges Black will win the light-squared bishop on d3.]

10.♖c1 ♜xf2 11. ♖xf2 ♜xf2+ 12. ♝xf2 ♜xd3

[Playing against a 2158 in rapid (currently 40 Lichess rating points higher than myself) with a whole piece down.]

13.♜b3 ♜c4 14. ♜fd4 ♜xd4 15. cxd4

[Black trades down further pieces. In 5 moves the engine says we are now in the endgame.]

15...♞h4+

[The position in the game now gets even worse for White!]

16.g3 ♞xh2+ 17. ♞e3 g5

["What would you do?"]

18.♞g4 ♞e2+ 19.♞xe2 ♜xe2

[My next move, ♞xe2, takes this into the ENDGAME.]

20.♞xe2

[From move 10 to move 18 Black steadily gains from -6.0 all the way to -8.2. Move 18 by Black, ♞e2+, drops advantage to -2.4. Then from moves 18 to 24 it's -2.4 to -3.7. From moves 24 to 33 it's steady at -4.6 to -4.1 again, all in Black's favour. From moves 33 to 37 it's an engine analysis draw with Black's move 33...♞h2+! IF you can play like an engine, the Knight exchange down against a rook!! .]

20...gxf4 21.gxf4

[What pieces would you prefer to play with in this position? White or Black? Black is +3 materially and -3.6 in analysis.]

21...b6

[I now decide to play some moves to complicate Black's clear positional and material advantage, with ♖c6. I know ♖xc7 by me will only result in a rook trade off or a lost pawn on b2 after Black plays ♖c2+.]

22.♖c6 ♖ac8

[Earlier analysis information is provided for you to know where about the engine rates my chances in this game.]

23.f5 h5

[23...h5 truly baffled me.]

24.♖h6 ♞g7 25.♖xh5

[In fairness, Black likely purposed to make an open (h) file.]

25...♖h8

[I cannot trade pieces.]

26.♖g5+ ♞f8 27.♖g2

[27.♖g2, needed to stop Black getting into any good attacking play.]

27...f6 28.e6

[28.e6, this might eventually hold Black to defending a queened-pawn possibility.]

28...♖h5 29.♖f2 ♞e7 30.♜c1 ♖ch8

[Black is at -5.6 here. I know this endgame is going to be very difficult to turn around. Black has connected rooks, ready to attack.]

31.♜d3 ♖h2

[I ignore this. If Black wants to trade a rook, there is not much I can do about that. So, I opt to improve my knight's position.]

(continued on page 13)

Win, Lose or Draw: *The Good Old Days*

by ICCF GM & World Champion Jon Edwards



My early, notable successes in the APCT (*American Postal Chess Tournaments*) gave way to play in the ICCF, first in 10th US Championship (1993-1997, which I won) and soon thereafter internationally in the North American Invitational Correspondence Chess Championship (NAICCC - 1996-2000, which I also won). The record shows that I competed effectively until 1996 after which I was not able to replicate my winning ways. I finished in 7th place in the US11 field (1995-1998), well back in the World semi-final WC22 (1997-2002), and near the bottom of my first GM norm event (SSKK-60) in 1998-002.

In retrospect, with more than a quarter century of reflection, it is rather easy to explain what happened. I insert parenthetically that, at the time, it was quite a mystery to me at the time. In my life, I did run for office in 1998 and won, with the result that much of my chess time was taken by work on the Hopewell Township (NJ) Committee.

Although I had succeeded until 1996, raising to the top of the APCT in just a decade and then starting well in the ICCF, my wins owed to the fact my methodology was compatible with an environment in which computer engines were so weak that they provided no meaningful advantage. Sub-optimal openings were widely played, even by me, and such poor opening choices were not yet easily punished by neural nets or by the databases that existed at the time.

I have no doubt that some players in the APCT used engines, but it was expressly forbidden and most of the top players were quite prideful. To the best of my knowledge, Helen and Jim Warren,

APCT's directors, rarely had to investigate complaints because the engines were so poor that, about such cheating, Stephan Gerzadowicz often quipped:

"Engine use is unethical, it's immoral, and I hope they do it."
















He was completely right, until just before the turn of the millennium.

Here is the cross-table of my win in the 8th North American Invitational Correspondence Chess Championship (*see below, top next page – ed*). The cross-table is unrecognizable by our modern standards. Against a reasonably strong field, I scored 9 wins and 4 draws. I missed out on my first GM norm only because the field did not include enough non-US players. Had there been just one more player from Mexico or Canada, even had I lost to them, I would have achieved a GM norm that might have substantially altered the trajectory of my chess life. As I recall, I petitioned for consideration for that GM norm, but the ICCF rejected my request. As it transpired, I finally became a GM only when I won the World title in 2022.

In this second article for *CHECK!* I look at two of these NAICCC 8 wins. In my third article, I will look at one more, a very fun Hedgehog. These games are interesting as an artifact of the time, and I never wrote about them in *The Chess Analyst* which was published in 1998.

By the end of the NAICCC8, I was entering ICCF World Championship semi-final and Candidate sections where machine use was legal. I continued to use ChessBase to keep track of my

NA/C8, 8. North American Invitational Chpship

| | | | | TD Marconi, Ralph R. (IA) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | Score | SB | RG | Place |
|-------|---|----------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|------|-------|-------|----|----|-------|
| Rated | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | | | | | | |
| 1 |  | 510692 | Edwards, Jon | 2472 | | ½ | ½ | ½ | 1 | ½ | 1 | 1 | ½ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 11.5 | 70.5 | 0 | 1 | | |
| 2 |  | 510154 | Thompson, Paul L. | 2225 | ½ | | 1 | ½ | 0 | ½ | ½ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | ½ | 10.5 | 65 | 0 | 2 | | |
| 3 |  | 510520 | Embrey, Kevin W. | 2497 | ½ | 0 | | ½ | 1 | 0 | ½ | 1 | ½ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 10 | 57.25 | 0 | 3 | | |
| 4 |  | 511084 | Hux, Robert E. | 2442 | ½ | ½ | ½ | | 0 | 1 | 1 | ½ | ½ | ½ | 1 | 1 | 1 | ½ | 9.5 | 59.25 | 0 | 4 | | |
| 5 |  | 510822 | Conover, Wayne | 2467 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 | | ½ | ½ | ½ | 1 | ½ | 1 | 1 | 1 | ½ | 9.5 | 58 | 0 | 5 | | |
| 6 |  | 510198 | Martinovsky, Eugene Simeon | 2415 | ½ | ½ | 1 | 0 | ½ | | 0 | ½ | ½ | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 9.5 | 55.5 | 0 | 6 | | |
| 7 |  | 510207 | Pedersen, N. Eric | 2425 | 0 | ½ | ½ | 0 | ½ | 1 | | ½ | ½ | ½ | 1 | 1 | ½ | ½ | 8 | 48.75 | 0 | 7 | | |
| 8 |  | 90091 | Edelstein, Michael | 2411 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ½ | ½ | ½ | ½ | | ½ | 1 | 0 | 1 | ½ | 1 | 7 | 37 | 0 | 8 | | |
| 9 |  | 90152 | Deidun, Joseph (sen) | 2431 | ½ | 0 | ½ | ½ | 0 | ½ | ½ | ½ | | 0 | ½ | ½ | 1 | 1 | ½ | 6.5 | 38.75 | 0 | 9 | |
| 10 |  | 510101 | Weinstock, Solomon | 2200 ^P | 0 | 0 | 0 | ½ | ½ | 0 | ½ | 0 | 1 | | 0 | ½ | 1 | 1 | 6 | 28.75 | 0 | 10 | | |
| 11 |  | 90302 | Bogle, William | 2331 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | ½ | 1 | | ½ | 1 | 1 | 6 | 25 | 0 | 11 | | |
| 12 |  | 90131 | Wright, Stephen | 2257 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ½ | ½ | ½ | | 1 | 1 | 4.5 | 15.75 | 0 | 12 | | |
| 13 |  | 510163 | Nalepa, Barry K. | 2437 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ½ | ½ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 1 | 3 | 11 | 0 | 13 | | |
| 14 |  | 90053 IM | Leskowsky, Zoltan Emerk | 2252 | 0 | 0 | 0 | ½ | 0 | 0 | ½ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 1 | 2 | 10.25 | 0 | 14 | |
| 15 |  | 511194 | Hodges, Paul | 2383 | 0 | ½ | 0 | 0 | ½ | 0 | 0 | 0 | ½ | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1.5 | 13.25 | 0 | 15 | | |

game scores, to organize my opening research, and I had mastered a cool ChessBase app, Motif, to find similar middlegames and endgames. But using engines continued to be unthinkable to me. I was comfortable with my methodology, and I was not alone in concluding that the engines, though improving thanks to ever increasing processing power in desktop and laptop computers, were not even close to the demands of correspondence play. In my first ICCF games after my NAICCC8 success, I faced a rather rude awakening. The computer engines were getting good!

But I am getting way ahead of my chess story. Those failures after 1996 should wait for a while. Permit me here to celebrate my NAICCC8 wins, relying upon my contemporaneous notes along with minor, modern interjections that force me to acknowledge that my play was not quite as accurate as I had thought it was.

□ **Paul Hodges (2385)**

■ **Jon Edwards (2470)**

NAICCC VIII, 1996

Trompowsky Attack - [A45]

[Notes by Jon Edwards]

My opponent in this important game in my quest to win the North American Invitational has long had a reputation as a chess cave man, seeking to give up pawns for perhaps speculative attacks but throughout seeking highly complex positions. We worked together for a time at ChessBase USA. He and I produced books in the Chess Powerplay series. Needless to say, we were each familiar with each other's style.

1.d4 ♖f6 2.♙g5

[The Trompowsky]

2...c5

[I have no idea where I heard this story, and it may not be true, but Evgeny Trompowsky was long urged to write a book about his opening. He finally got to work and produced a first volume on 2...d5, a second volume on 2...e6, 2...h6, and 2...Ne4, but the third volume on 2...c5 was late in arriving. Years past and finally it appeared, confirming that 2...c5 is indeed tough to beat. That's certainly how I felt back in the day. Today, I regard 2...c5 as unnecessarily provocative. In today's neural net age, the Trompowsky is a very rarely played because it offers little for White. I faced it a few years ago and played the far more solid response:

2...d5. There are certainly many possible replies, notably ...e6, ...d5, and ...♘e4, but this pawn move is the one I advocate. Black immediately seems an exchange of a flank pawn for White's center pawn and the move provides Black's queen with access to b6 where it challenges b2, the square weakened by White's early posting of the dark-squared bishop.]

3.d5

[White has three choices with the d-pawn... pushing it through to d5, capturing and c5 (sub-optimal in the face of ...♙a5+). I have also played against 3.♘c3 and 3.♙xf6 with considerable success.]

3...♘e4

[Reacting to the pawn advance by not giving White another opportunity to nick the pawn structure with ♙g5. The other try here for Black is 3...♙b6 Defending the ♘f6 and also pressuring the now unanchored pawn on b2.]

4.h4

[The kind of chaotic chess that Hodges loves, moving ever forward, even at the cost of a pawn or two. More often played here is 4.♙f4 ♙b6 when White must choose from 5.♙c1, 5.♙c1, and 5.♘d2.]

4...♙b6

[Thematic and one of the advantages of the early ...c5. The queen arrives on b6, pressuring White's now undefended b-pawn.]

5.♘d2

[Permitting the capture on b2 but making sure that the loss of the pawn translates into increased activity for White's pieces.]

5...♘xg5

[Or ...♘d2 when White removes the knight and emerges with good piece activity for the pawn.]

6.hxg5

[Opening the h-file, partial compensation to the b-pawn.]

6...♙xb2

[At issue, of course, is whether the b-pawn is poisoned.]

7.e4

[In addition to the open h-file, White stakes a claim with active control over the center.]

7...g6

[Building a fianchetto. The bishop's arrival on g7 will threaten the Ra1, whose early movement will cost White another pawn.]

8.f4?!

[A novelty in this position, the mark of a true chess cave man, forcing me to take a second pawn early in the opening. More typical today is 8.♙b1 ♙g7 9.♙b3 d6 with a solid position in which White has no obvious compensation.]

8...♙g7

[Completing the fianchetto with the threat of ...♙xa1.]

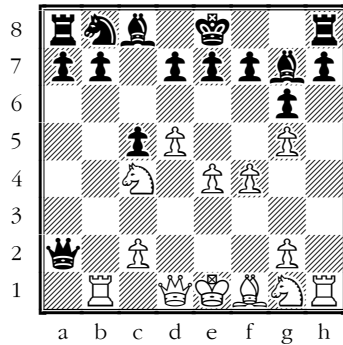
9.♙b1

[Forced, of course.]

9...♙xa2

[My Uncle explained early to me the importance so early in the game of never allowing yourself to be two pawns up. He added that sometimes it just happens, and if it does, do all you can to return one of the pawns. Without question, Black emerges with two extra pawns on the queenside, but badly lagging in development. Without active counterplay, White may well overrun the center.]

10. ♖c4



[Posting the knight on an active square, hemming the options of Black's queen.]

10...b5

[A saving resource, returning one of the two pawns at the first opportunity.]

11. ♖xb5 ♕a6

[Black's idea, returning the pawn but gaining quick activity for the light-squared bishop. Should the rook retreat, the bishop and queen will combine their influence upon the ♖c4.]

12. ♖b3

[Blocking the queen's attack upon the ♖c4 and retaining the rook's influence over the open file. Avoiding a trap: 12. ♖xc5? d6 13. ♖c7 ♕d8 Snagging the rook.]

12...♕a4

[Renewing the attack upon the knight, and making sure that the queen can avoid itself being trapped.]

13. ♕b1?!

[At the time of the game, I wrote "A powerful retort, responding to Black's double attack upon the ♖c4 with an even stronger double attack upon the Nb8." It turns out that modern neural nets show that this variation is playable, but only with 13.c3! 0-0 14. ♖a3 ♕xd1+ 15. ♕xd1 d6 16. ♖f3 when White has adequate compensation for the pawn.]

13...0-0

[Hodges must have been pleased to force me to castle. Black finds the second defender for the ♖b8 but I must continue now with my king on the kingside. White expects now to make good use of his control over the open h-file.]

14. ♖d2

[The knight only now avoids the double attack and heads to the kingside to join the budding attack.]

14...e6

[With a brief lull in the action, Black challenges the center, preferring to retain the tension between the light-squared bishops. Today's neural nets want 14...♖xf1! 15. ♕xf1 ♖a6 16.c4 ♖fb8 17.e5 d6 18. ♖gf3 ♕d7 19.f5 ♖xb3 20. ♖xb3 ♕a4 21. ♖fd2 ♖xe5 22. ♕d3 ♖b8 and Black is very happy.]

15.c4

[Defending d5 and keeping the bishops on the board, but at the cost of locking in the light-squared bishop.]

15...d6

[Sealing the central pawns and more importantly opening d7 the knight and the queen. The neural nets prefer ♖gf3 and ♕f2.]

16. ♕d3

[With multiple objectives, pressure on d6, a transfer to h3 with mating hopes on h7, and support for ♖a3.]

16...exd5

[Opening the e-file while the king still rests in the center.]

17.exd5

[There's no reasonable alternative. Not the tempting 17.♖xd5 ♜c6! 18.♖xd6 ♜fd8+; And on 17.♖h3 ♜e8 creating luft for the king on f8 and piling on the pressure down the e-file.; Here's another neural net improvement: 17.♞a3 ♖d7 18.f5 ♜e8 19.♜e2 dxe4 20.♜xe4 ♖xf5 21.♜f6+ ♜xf6 22.♖xf5]

17...♞e8+

[Still up a pawn, the a-pawn, and now with useful control over the king's file.]

18.♝f2

[Aiming to safeguard the king behind White's kingside initiative.]

18...♞c8

[With White's light-squared bishop now buried behind the fixed pawns, Black steers his light-squared bishop towards the hole on f5 and prevents g4.]

19.♞a3

[Expecting to force the queen back to d7, blocking the Bc8's forward movement.]

19...♞d4+

[Usefully inserting the check.]

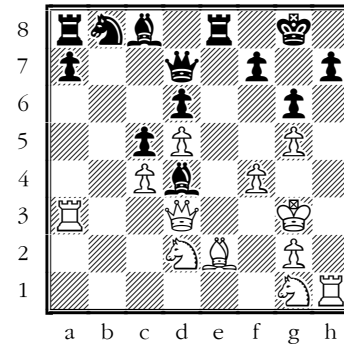
20.♝g3

[Stepping forward to relative safety, but blocking the queen's access to h3.]

20...♖d7

[Steering the queen toward f5 and g4, and with the apparent threat of ♞e3+.]

21.♞e2



[Preventing the queen from reaching g4, but surely Black now has ...♞e3+ winning White's queen.]

21...♖e7!

[Preferring to exchange queens on e3, essentially taking the stuffing out of White's attack. Correctly avoiding 21...♞e3+? 22.♖xe3 ♜xe3 23.♞xe3 with a winning attack thanks to ♜d2-e4-f6+.]

22.♞df3

[Targeting the ♞d4.]

22...♖e3 23.♖xe3 ♜xe3 24.♞xe3 ♜xe3

[With the exchanges in the bag, Black emerges a pawn ahead on the a-file, a strong passer with a rook already behind it!]

25.♜h3

[Try to activate the rook, and hoping for ♜h3-f2-g4-f6.]

25...♞f5

[Black's bishops are slicing and dicing.]

26.♜f2

[Slow, and of course the Bf5 prevents the knight's forward movement.]

26...a5

Passed pawns are meant to be pushed, and in this case, there's no good way for White to prevent the pawn from proceeding all the way. 0-1.

□ **Jon Edwards (2470)**

■ **S. Weinstock (2200)**

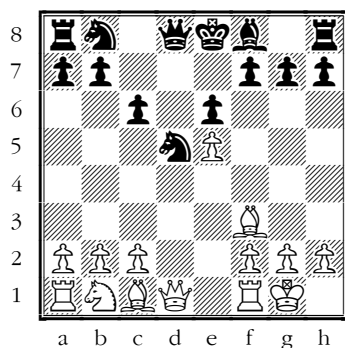
NAICCC VIII, 1996

Alekhine's Defence - [B05]

[Notes by Jon Edwards]

My Impetuous Youth - As I have grown up, both as a human being and as a chess player, I find that I take fewer risks. In my youth, I'd sacrifice a piece on whim. These days, I tend to place far more emphasis on sound strategy. That's not to say that I don't chuck a piece from time to time, but I tend to do it only when I feel that I have clear positional justification. The following game is a perfect example. I have no doubt that, in my youth, there's no way that I would have acted as patiently as I do here. I begin by winning two tempi, and I then use it to win a few more tempi, sacrificing material only when the outcome was no longer in meaningful doubt. In my view, the finale is just as pretty as some of the sacrifices I offered in my youth. The difference is that sacrifices that are more carefully prepared are far more likely to be fully sound. This was the second of my North American Invitational games to finish. It's not an accident that the first ones to finish were against opponents from New York and New Jersey. Hopefully, I'll soon get to show off games from my opponents in Pennsylvania and Ohio.

1.e4 d6 2.e5 d5 3.d4 d6 4.f3 g4
5.f2 c6 6.0-0 f3 7.f3 dxe5 8.dxe5
e6



[Although this variation of Alekhine's Defence has an extremely solid reputation, I really think that it was an inappropriate choice for so important an event. Black has parted with his Bc8, leaving White with the two bishops, and most good players are fully capable of exploiting that advantage. Black is counting on his solid pawn structure and the fact that White gets very little by hitting the d5 with c4. But White does have a good plan here: using the c4-square to help maneuver a knight to d6.]

9.d2 d7 10.f1

[One attack, one defense. In these positional lines, I find that the most flexible move is almost always the correct choice. The rook will almost certainly develop to e1. The queen, by contrast, has two good choices on e4 and d4. Don't commit the queen to a square this early unless, you're sure!]

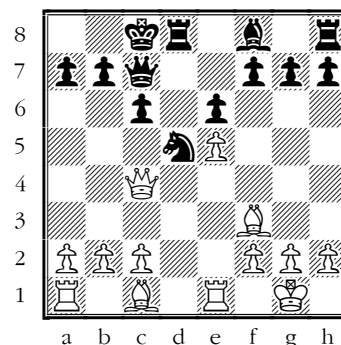
10...c7 11.c4

[Two attacks, two defenses. 11.c4 would be premature if Black could get away with 11...b5 but White has a nice shot with 12.fxd5 cxd5 13.d6+ dxd6 14.fxd5 exd5 15.exd6+ d8 16.dxc7+ xc7 17.f7 with the idea of f4+ and Rae1. The strength of the knight on c4 illustrates why White must avoid playing c2-c4 earlier.]

11...d7b6 12.f4d4

[And here is confirmation that White has played correctly. The queen develops first to stronger square, sustaining White's pressure. The threat of d6+ forces the following exchange.]

12...xc4 13.fxc4 0-0-0



[Black's idea is fairly obvious now. While the king seeks safety on the queenside, Black will try to increase the pressure on the White e-pawn via ...h6, ...g5, ...g7, and possibly also ...d5-e7-g6. If I do nothing, that strategy will work well. So, I have no choice but to attack on the queenside.]

14.a4 h6 15.d3

[It's really hard to believe that this obvious move is a novelty, but the only game in my large database here continued 15.a5?? Bb4 after which White somehow managed to draw. a5 is the right idea, but obviously only after White has prevented ...b4. Obvious as it is, I cannot bring myself to award my new 15th move with an exclamation point.]

15...g5 16.a5

[There's no threat, so I continue with my plan. In order to make any headway against his queenside pawn structure, the a-pawn must proceed to a6. He won't be able to capture it there, and he dare not permit me to capture on b7. He will therefore push his b-pawn, almost certainly to b6, not ...b5 which far too seriously weakens the dark squares on the queenside.]

16...g7!?

[Finally, a threat, two attacks and one defense. I could defend straight away with e2, but it's useful to get him to commit first to the a6 ...b6 move pair 16...a6 was tried years later as an improvement. White has a substantial edge here, but was unable to convert the point. 17.e4 g7 18.d2 e7 19.e3 xe5 20.c2 f5 21.e4 g4 22.b6 d7 23.ad1 d5 24.f3 h5 25.xd5 cxd5 26.a4 g6 27.e4 d6 28.c4+ b8 29.c7+ a8 30.c5 e5 31.e1 f4 32.g3 g8 33.f2 f6 34.h3 h5 35.d1 xg3+ 36.xg3 d7 37.h2 g4 38.fxg4 hxg4 39.xg4 f7 40.xe6 xc7 41.xf7 xf7 42.xd5 f5 43.ee5 fg7 44.e2 f8 45.f2 f4 46.d4 f3 47.g4 c7 48.g3 f5 49.xf3 xa5 50.h4 a7 51.g5 a1 52.f2 e7 53.h2 g1+ 54.f4 f1+ 55.g4 e8 56.h3 e4+ 57.h5 ff4 58.h2 c4 59.d5 fe4

60.h3 c8 61.g6 e6+ 62.g5 g8+ 63.f4 e2 64.b3 f8+ 65.g4 e1 66.h5 ef1 67.e5 1f4 68.e6 a5 69.g5 f2 70.h6 b5 71.h5 a4 72.bxa4 bxa4 73.h4 a3 74.a4+ b7 75.h7 h2 76.h6 a2 77.ea6 ff2 78.h8 e2 79.c4 hg2 80.a8 b6 81.h7 ½–½ De Blasio,A (2339)-Van Seben,E (2368) IECG WC.2009.T.00001 email IECG email 2008 (1)]

17.a6 b6 18.e2

[The first exclamation point may belong here. Two attacks, two defenses, but I'm confident that in my youth, I would have preferred the more impetuous 18.e4. The real point is to complete development before the attack starts. If I play e4 immediately, Black can continue with ...e7-g6, forcing me to capture on c6 in order to sustain material equality. Of course, the capture on c6 permits him to exchange queens and blunt the attack. By retreating, always a tough psychological choice, I actually make room for the advance of the a1–a4-e4 or g4 and provide support for the weakening of his kingside with h4.]

18...e7!?

[After the game, we searched for improvements in part because the play seemed fairly clean throughout. Given the fact that White's next move prevents ...g6, it is almost certainly better here to play ...b8 first. The point is that, for the moment at least, he won't be able to play ...g6 because, after 19.a4, I gain the cute tactical threat of x6 since ...xc6 c4 spears the queen. I also think that Black wants White to commit to playing c4 before retreating the d5, and that Black's counterplay must rely upon control of the d-file. c4 by White would play into Black's strategy by opening up the d4-entry square.

19.a4

[As I just noted, preventing ...g6 with a cute tactical shot: 20.x6!]

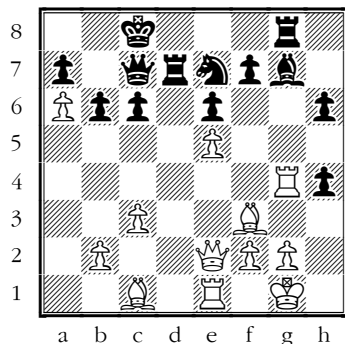
19...d7

[19...♖b8 with the idea of ...♗g6 no longer works because White plays 20.h4 ♗g6 (20...g×h4 21.♗f4) 21.h×g5.]

20.♖g4

[The threat of h4 prevents the ♖h8 from doubling on the d-file.]

20...♖g8 21.h4 g×h4



22.♗e4!

[The youthful 22.♖×h4 meets counterplay with 22...♗f5 23.♖h5 ♖gd8. 22.♗e4 has the apparent threat of ♗xc6, although the more powerful idea is ♗h7. Today's neural nets tell us that 22.b4 provides the more accurate path forward.]

22...♖dd8

[Not a move that anyone would want to play. Black returns two tempi and openly admits that the a draw would be a most acceptable result. But what else was there? 22...♗g6 23.♗xc6 ♗xc6 24.♗xc6 ♖c7 25.♗e4 is too strong to permit.; and 22...♗f5 23.♖f4 with the idea of an overwhelming exchange sacrifice.]

23.♖f4

[By playing ♖f4 first, I force him to offer up two more tempi. I could have played 23.♖xh4 ♗g6 24.♖h5 ♖d5 25.♗f4 but he gets a bit of play with 25...f5]

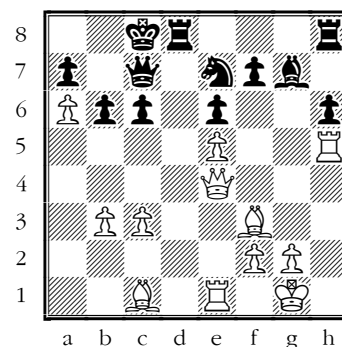
23...♖df8

[The point is that he cannot defend the f-pawn with 23...♗f5 because I can win quickly with 24.♖xf5 exf5 25.♗xf5+ ♗d7 (25...♖b8 26.♗f4) 26.e6]

24.♖xh4 ♖d8 25.♖h5

[Threatening ♗×h6, which cannot be immediately played owing to ...♗f5. 25.♗h5!]

25...♖h8 26.b3!



[Compare this position to the one after 21...g×h4 and you'll immediately see the progress that White has achieved. Still, it's not yet time for a crushing blow. As is so often true in my games, my queen's bishop still has not moved! It has usefully threatened Black's h6 pawn, but it now takes aim at the d6 outpost.]

26...♗d5 27.c4 ♗b4 28.♗a3 ♗xa6

[I'm now down a pawn, but White's position is so strong that it's tough even to notice the deficit. Under the circumstances, I thought that he might pass up the pawn in favor of some exchanges, since White's dark-squared bishop will become too strong on d6. 28...♗f8 was therefore an important alternative (not 28...c5 29.♗×b4 c×b4 30.c5!) but I think that White holds all of the cards after 29.♖a1.]

29.♗d6 ♗b7

[I thought that he might try sacrificing the exchange, but he gets nothing for it after 29...♖xd6 30.exd6 ♗xd6 31.♖d1; And no better is 29...♗d7 30.b4 ♗f8 31.♖d1+–]

30.b4 ♖f8 31.b5

[Someone out there may prefer 31.c5 bxc5 32.bxc5 ♜xc5 33.♞c2! which certainly also wins, but please hold off on your opinions until you see the finale!]

31...♜c5 32.bxc6 ♞a6

[32...♜xe4 just loses a piece after 33.cxb7+ ♞xb7 34.♜xe4+]

33.♞d4

[The neural nets prefer 33.♞f4]

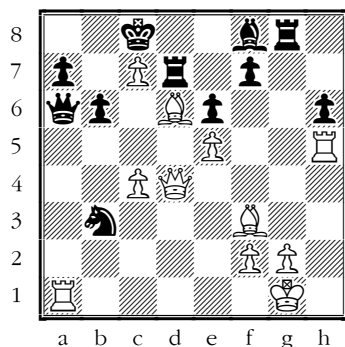
33...♞g8 34.c7 ♜d7

[There's a similar finish after 34...♞e8 35.♞a1 ♜b3 36.♞e4]

35.♞a1!

[Occupying the new entry square with 35.♜c6 also wins, but aesthetics are important!]

35...♜b3



36.♞e4!!

[In my youth I would have found this move, but only on someone else's board. On my board, the position long ago would have exploded in incalculable complications. The idea, of course, is ♞a8#. Also winning, albeit more gradually, is 36.♞xa6 ♜xd4 37.♜b7+ ♞xb7 38.♞xa7 ♞xa7 39.c8♞]

36...♞xa1+ 37.♞h2

[I did not know it at the time, but it's mate in 11.

37...♞xc7

[37...♜xd6 38.♞b7#; 37...♞xd6 38.♞b7+ ♞d7 39.c8♞#]

38.♞a8+ ♞d7 39.♜xc7

[The main line yields a very sweet mate in two: 39.♜xc7 ♞xc7 40.♞b7+ ♞d8 41.♞b8+ ♞d7 42.♜c6+ ♞xc6 (42...♞e7 43.♞e8#) 43.♞c8#] 1-0.

From the Editor's Desk

(continued from page 4)

32.♜f4 ♞xf2+ 33.♞xf2

[-5.7 for Black, until black's next move levels the game, ♞h2+, technically speaking anyway.]

33...♞h2+ 34.♞g3 ♞xb2 35.♜xd5+

[My (earlier-calculated) knight play is now making way for my (e) and (f) filed pawns!!]

35...♞d6 36.♜xf6 ♞xa2

[I'm still two material points down though. Without queening one of my pawns, Black has two passed pawns of their own to choose from. With a rook advantage to assist maneuvers.]

37.♜e4+ ♞e7

[38.d5 would ensure the game is equal, according to the engine. I'm unsure if many players would play this.]

38.♞f4

[It's now -6.0 for Black again.]

38...♞e2

[Then a draw with ...♞e2!]

(continued on page 24)

Confessions of a Chess Book Collector

by Maurice Carter

(* This article was originally published in the April 2024 (Volume 47, issue 157) of *The Chess Journalist*; published by the Chess Journalists of America. I made a few editorial changes in order to be consistent with the formatting for *CHECK!* – ed)

Reflections on my start

Sitting at my desk in my converted bedroom study, the walls lined with bookcases overflowing of chess books and magazines, I reflected how my chess library got to its' present state. It helps if you start early.

70 years ago, at age seven, I discovered chess. My mother bought for me a cheap hollow plastic chess set I had spotted in a store. I got a friend to try playing, but we soon lost interest.

At ten, walking home a brand-new way, I approached a park pic-nic table that had a cluster of men around it. Closer, I saw three chess and one checkers game being played. I took notice of the beautiful wooden chess sets, and the adults having fun playing. I started going often after school to the park to watch the games.

Gifted, borrowed, bought

My uncle Alex heard about my new interest in chess and gave me a copy of *Chess Review*. It was the March 1956 issue and they had a picture of a simultaneous display by a young Bobby Fischer. The magazine was filled with lots of pictures of players and coverage of tournaments.

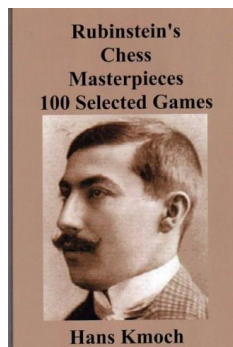
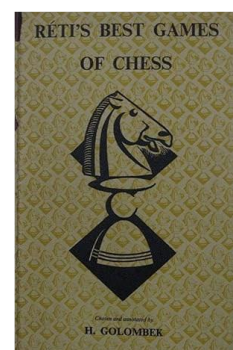
I was able to find a chess book at a branch of the Chicago library that explained notation and more detailed instruction of the game. The adult section of the library had ~30 books that provided me more advanced books, which I started to study.

My study was hit and miss -- often you don't know what to study and you need guidance.

At the park I was too shy to challenge someone, I just would watch. An elderly man asked me if I wanted to play a game. I played OK, but easily lost. Otto became my friend and first chess teacher. We started to play a lot and he helped me work on my openings, and I had access to his small library. My part time job allowed me to start getting a few books for my own library.

My first four chess books were:

Modern Ideas in Chess—Reti,
Hypermodern Chess—Reinfeld,
Rubinstein's Chess Masterpieces—Knoch,
Reti's Best Games of Chess—
Golombek.



I still have the books by Reti and Golombek, the others I replaced with hardbound copies.

My lifelong chess collecting had begun.

My mother once found two boxes next to the trash — 50 chess & magazine items and it appeared that the former owner was an active tournament player. There were a few I didn't have; the rest I gave away or used in trades. It was kind of sad to have these put out with the trash.

Collection Scope: There are a number of factors that play a part in what is collected.

1. Goals: Are you using your library to improve your skills or just enjoying fine literature.

2. Active player or not: Playing over the board (OTB) and/or Correspondence Chess (CC).

3. Size and space: Books take up lots of space. At my peak collecting I probably had 2500+ books and complete years of magazines. Recently, I have been slowly downsizing. When my last child moved out, at last I got a spare bedroom that I could turn into my study and library.

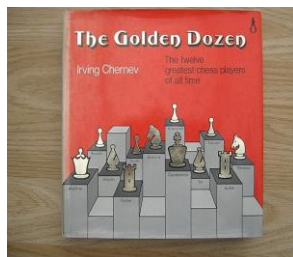
It's funny, when a person who is not a chess player sees my library, they ask if I have read every book! Over my many years I have read many cover to cover, others partially, skimmed, or spot referenced. Some I will get to 'someday'. I may only study a section on an opening variation, certain games, or a type of endgame.

4. Costs: Chess literature can be costly. Today, the cost on average is around \$35-60 for a paperback and hardbacks \$100 or more. In my early days of collecting (1950's to 60's) most paperbacks were only a few dollars and hardbacks under \$10.

5. Old authors vs authors today: The old authors had a harder time, they didn't have access to the internet, databases and powerful chess engines. It took time to produce a book. They didn't have Chessbase and couldn't quickly mouse the moves of a game in a few minutes. It was all hand written or typed, so more error prone.

6. Chess notation: English Descriptive (ED) or Algebraic (AL) -- some people today won't bother with literature in ED. There are many great works that they are missing out on. Books worth reading even if in ED notation:

Lacking the Master Touch—Heidenfeld,
King Power in Chess—Mednis,
Tarrasch's Best Games of Chess—Reinfeld,



The Art of Chess Combinations—Znosko-Borovsky,
The Golden Dozen—Chernev.

7. Language: English or foreign: There are many great works in foreign languages (German, Russian). One can build a list of the common terms and with patience can understand what the author wrote. I just wish I had taken German in high school, but English was hard enough.

Types of Collectors

1. Hybrid Collector: Most collectors have several major areas of collecting as well as secondary ones. Over time, a collector discovers other subject areas. I think a majority of collectors fit into this group.

2. Casual Collector: In a way this is collector—lite. This person knows how to play chess, but to them it's just a game. They might buy a book with the motive just to improve enough to beat their dad or friend. Many of us collectors and chess fanatics started this way!

3. Serious Player Collector: This person plays competition chess; their library is geared towards improving their playing skills and knowledge of the game. If you look at their library probably over 75% will be devoted to the openings. When I started playing back in 1956 there were very limited opening material.

My first Opening titles:

The Ideas Behind the Chess Openings and *Practical Chess Openings* both by Fine, later, *Chess Openings Theory and Practice*—Horowitz,
Modern Chess Openings 10th Edition—Evans, and *Chess Review* which had a different opening featured each issue.

It wasn't only until the late 1960's that many small opening booklets by various authors were published by "Chess Di-gest". Today the majority of books being published are on openings. The trouble with opening books is that they are quickly outdated. If some new move is played in a

tournament in Timbuktu, in a short time the rest of the chess world knows about it. Once you have an opening book that covers all the principles, objectives and goals for both sides, perhaps we don't need to keep buying every time another book comes out on that opening.

Databases and magazines can help you keep current. Of course, you should have some coverage on all the Openings and if you want to learn a new Opening, go get that book. Some devote a lot of their money to Opening books that might be better spent on other subjects. If Carlsen started to play 1.f3 and followed with 2.Kf2, someone would write a book on that opening and all the Lemmings (buyers) would rush to the cliff and jump off into the sea to buy it! There are very few Opening books that will become classics.

A few Opening books you might like:

How to Open a Chess Game—7 GMs,
Openings for Amateurs and *Openings for Amateurs — Next Steps* both by Tamburro,
The Modern Openings in Theory and Practice—Sokolsky (the first 77 pages on opening and middle game principles)

More currently:

Mastering the Chess Openings—Watson (four volumes).

Watson is noted for his series on the French Defense and English Opening.

Older opening series that are worth consideration:
Moderne Theorie der Schacheröffnungen Bis 8 volumes 1970's.

Moderne Eöffnungstheorie 24 volumes 1980's,
Handbuch der Schach—Eroffnungen—Schwarz, over 25 vol-umes.

Theorie der Schacheröffnungen—Euwe. 12 volumes.

4. Historian Collector: For many authors and researchers this is their main area of interest. There are many resources to draw upon.

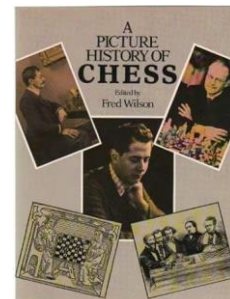
For Tournament and Matches, the four volumes by Gaige, Feenstra Kuiper Pieter has two volumes and Di Felice has quite a number.

Bachmann's *SchachjahrBuch* is a long running series that has lots of games and chess news.

Quarterly for Chess History—Fiala is a goldmine of material on events, players etc.

The Yearbook of Chess nine books were from the United Kingdom (1906-1916).

Fred Wilson, the bookseller and author, came out with *Less-er-Known Chess Masterpieces 1906—1915* and *Classical chess Matches 1907-1913* with many games from the Yearbooks from the United Kingdom. His *A Picture History of Chess* has many photos of famous players.



The series *Rare and Unpublished Tournament and Matches*—Gillam is a great source for little known games, he also had a number of booklets on lesser-known masters. *De La Bourdonnais vs McDonnell 1834*—Utterberg has full coverage of this landmark match.

There are three publishers ("Moravian Chess", "McFarland", and "Edition Olms") that have been coming out with reprints of older magazines, game collections, other general works, as well as new publications.

There are many game collections—a few I found covered a number of masters detailing their events and opponents. The notes are light and I'm sure the Chess Engine Gods will shoot holes in some analysis, but I enjoyed them for the human interest stories.

The Bobby Fischer I knew and Other Stories—Denker,

With the Chess Masters—Koltanowski,
Paul Morphy and the Golden Age of Chess—Napier,

The World's Great Chess Games—Fine,
500 Master Games of Chess—Tartakower & du Mont,

Lessons From My Games—Fine,
Modern Master Play—Yates & Winter.

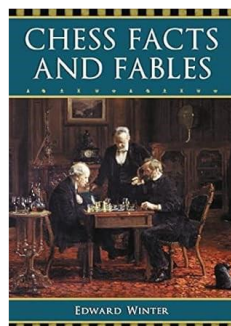
5. Chess Variety Collector: In my early days, there were books with a mixture of games, positions, problems, stories and more.

The Fireside Book of Chess—Chernev & Reinfeld,
The Best in Chess—Horowitz & Battell,
The Chess Companion—Chernev.

And later, *Cabbage Heads and Chess Kings*—Hayden, *Adventures in Chess* and *The Delights of Chess*—both by Assiac

More currently, Edward Winter has produced four books that have a massive amount of interesting material.

Chess Explorations, A Chess Omnibus, King's, Commoners and Knaves, and *Chess Facts and Fables*.



He also conducts the web site "Chess Notes".

The Specialist Collectors

6. Chess Problems: These are fun for all skill levels. I remember when a Chicago newspaper started a chess column. It featured a chess problem with mate in two, plus a game and news. At that time anything with chess got my attention. Many chess magazines and newspapers also printed chess problems.

I lost interest in that subject as there were more important areas of chess for me to devote my time and study. I respect those who enjoy this area, but my main issue with problems is these positions will probably never come up in play. There is a challenge to find the solution in X number of moves, but in a game the player just goes for the win.

There are themes contained in problems that could be of value in a game. I know of two games by Tarrasch who used themes to win his games. Against Spielmann in his game as Black at San

Sebastian—1912, on his 41st move played 41.Bc1 which used the Indian Theme.

□ Rudolf Spielmann

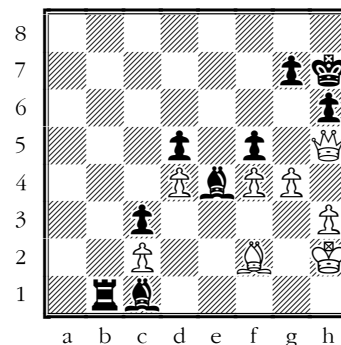
■ Siegbert Tarrasch

San Sebastian International Masters

02 San Sebastian (17) 1912

Ruy Lopez – Open Defence - [C80]

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♘xe4 6.d4 b5 7.♙b3 d5 8.a4 ♘xd4 9.♘xd4 exd4 10.♘c3 ♘xc3 11.bxc3 c5 12.axb5 ♙e7 13.♙f3 ♙e6 14.♞xa6 0-0 15.cxd4 c4 16.♙a2 ♞xa6 17.bxa6 ♙a5 18.♙b1 c3 19.♙g3 ♞c8 20.f4 ♙f5 21.♞e1 ♙f6 22.♙h1 h6 23.h3 ♞b8 24.♙e3 ♙xa6 25.♞d1 ♙a1 26.♙e1 ♙e4 27.♙h2 ♙e7 28.♙f1 f5 29.♞e1 ♙h4 30.g3 ♙e7 31.♙f2 ♙d6 32.♞c1 ♙h7 33.♞e1 ♞b6 34.♞c1 ♙a3 35.♞e1 ♙b2 36.♙e2 ♞b4 37.♞g1 ♞b6 38.♞e1 ♙b5 39.♙h5 ♙xb1 40.♞xb1 ♞xb1 41.g4 ♙c1 0-1.



As White in his game against Allies at Naples—1914, he employed the Plachutta Theme with 31... ♙c7.

□ Siegbert Tarrasch

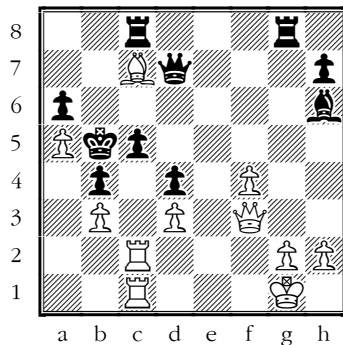
■ Allies

Naples, 1914

Bird's Opening - [A03]

1.f4 d5 2.♘f3 c5 3.e3 ♘c6 4.♙b5 ♙d7 5.0-0 e6 6.b3 ♙c7 7.♙b2 f6 8.c4 ♘ce7 9.♘c3 ♘h6 10.♞c1 ♙xb5 11.♘xb5 ♙d7 12.♙e2 ♘c6 13.cxd5 exd5 14.e4 0-0-0 15.e5 a6 16.♘c3 b5 17.a4 b4 18.♘d1 ♙b7 19.exf6 gxf6 20.♙xf6 ♞e8 21.♘e3 ♞g8

22. ♖d3 ♜g4 23. ♜xg4 ♖xg4 24. ♜f2 ♖d7
 25. ♜e5 ♜xg4 26. ♜xg4 ♜c8 27. ♖f3 ♖b6
 28. d3 ♜h6 29. ♜fc2 d4 30. a5+ ♖b5 31. ♜c7
 1-0.



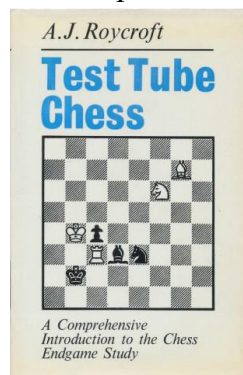
Two books on problems seeing the thought process in-volved:

An ABC of Chess Problems—Rice, which covers the full range about chess problems.

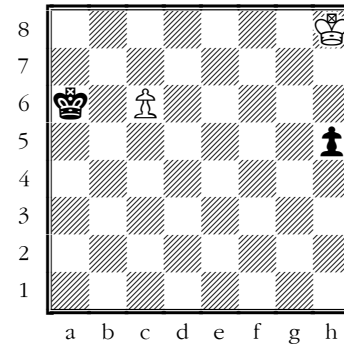
The other is *Adventures in Composition*—Mansfield, it co-vers the composition of a chess problem.

7. Endgame Study: They teach ideas. Every piece and pawn have a function on the board. Endgame studies are invaluable to the player as often the position or something similar will come up in play. The best overview book in my opinion is *Test Tube Chess*—Roycroft.

There are many books devoted to composers, a few are: Whitworth has two books on Matti-son and Kubbel, *Chess Studies*—Troitzky, *Richard Reti Samtliche Studien*—Mandler.



Here is a very famous study by Reti—perhaps it will get you interested in endgame studies. White: King on h8 pawn on c6 Black: King on a6 Pawn on h5 White to move and draw.



8. Art Collector: Chess materials can be damaged, worn from use; some value preserving in a new—like condition. Here's a unique approach: I visited a friend and got to see his library. He had about 300 books, mostly what an active player has. I noticed all his hard—bound books lacked dust covers. He told me he had them and showed me a file cabinet with them in folders. He said he liked the art work and wanted to keep them pristine!

I must admit that many dust covers have nice art work and interesting subjects. Many paperbacks also have nice covers. Copyright issues aside, I'd buy a coffee table book of these covers. One trader I knew was only interested in pris-tine condition items, which are rare in older works, because of the deterioration of the printing, paper, and from years of being handled.

9. Ultimate Collector:

Lothar Schmid is said to have had the largest private collection in the World, around 30,000. Some attempt to collect as much literature as possible. Limited money and space usually this approach unavailable.

A collector told me he had over 10,000 items. He sent me a list of his holdings, his range of collecting covered all areas of literature. If a book had many editions, in many languages, he had all of them!

Building your Chess Library

Thoughts on buying: "Caveat Emptor" the Latin phrase "Let the buyer beware". Physical examination: Today many purchases are by mail, pre-venting inspection. In person, we can see the condition and sample contents (sometimes content samples are online as well).

Check bookstores: New and used. If you're lucky they're a chess book dealer. Over the years I have bought from chess book dealers, but many no longer are in business. One that is still in business is Fred Wilson in New York. I've bought from him since the mid 1970's. He maintains a store and also a web site: [Fred Wilson Books](#) He has always been willing to answer my inquiries.

At large tournaments: There may be dealers there. Often on the last day, they may offer discounts to move stock.

Book reviews: Chess magazines and web sites will have book reviews. One or two in depth, and some mini ones. In most cases you can trust the reviewer. Two reviewers I trust are Edward Winter and John Watson, who are very thorough.

Reference books on chess literature: book & magazine summary descriptions.

Chess Reader—Whyld six volumes 1955-1966, and *The Literature of Chess*—Graham.

The internet: Search when you have some idea of the title or author. A warning, prices can vary wildly, seeing what the market will bear. [John's chessbooks reviews](#) each month has some in-depth reviews on new books etc. Tim Harding's web site: [Chessmail.com](#) has links to dealers and other interesting sites. Tim is the author of many chess books and was Editor of *Chess Mail*.

[Chess history and literature society](#) (formerly Ken Whyld Association) has many authors, players and historians as members. They profile new literature and their Archive has pictures of graves of well-known chess masters and chess personalities.

On Facebook: in the group "Chess Book Collectors" you can ask questions and there are postings on new and older books. Some members sell books.

Ebay: A great place to find books, many sellers large and small. Perhaps set a maximum price you will bid. Competitive bidding can result in spiraling prices as a test of wills ensues. Some sellers will have the option to pay a set 'buy it now' price instead of bids, or consider a 'Make me an offer'. Beyond single items, there are batch lots. At times I will bid just to get one book in the lot.

Over the years I have scored some very nice items. One seller had ~70 loose issues of *Chess* magazine (B.H. Wood editor) from the 1940's and 50's. I got them for about \$35 (1/3 typical price). I saw the book *Glorias del Tablero Capablanca*—Gelabert published in 1924 up for bid. It is rare and hard to find, seeing only one, once listed and over \$100. Hard—bound, 100 games up to 1923, and many pictures I had never seen. My max bid of \$35 succeeded; won at \$27.

The last item was: *Euwe Slaagt*—Knoch. Hardbound and 144 games of Max Euwe. I gave a maximum bid but no one else bid on it and got it for \$20. Once received, I discovered, five pages in from the title page, Euwe had autographed it!! Normally autographs are on the title page. Known autographed items will have more and higher bids.

My Library

During my early years, there was a chess book desert—mostly very basic books. The late 1960's saw a large influx of books. Once I had a job my collecting took off. I was off and running, hitting the bookstores, buying from booksellers by mail (later Ebay & trading).

Just about every few weeks I was able to buy books in downtown Chicago. I found a used bookstore that had lots of books out of print and older *Chess Review* issues. Before I knew it my library outgrew my small book case. At that time every book was magical and I had to have them.

As I got better at chess, I slowly started to cull from my library some early purchases and add higher quality ones. Not every great player is a great author and a great author need not be a great player. Otto my chess teacher told me, "Any book is good if you learned something from it".

I tried to make my library have good coverage of many chess subjects. My main interests are from the Lasker to Alekhine era. Of course I like literature and players from before and after this era too.

Areas I collect: Game collections, tournament and matches, end-games and studies, correspondence chess.

I have no interest in the very early works on chess by Philidor, Greco, Salvio etc. All are very rare and hard to find. I do have two books by Staunton from the 1870's *The Chess Players Hand-book* and *The Chess Players Companion*. My library is mostly built with literature that will help me improve and research, as I am an active CC tournament player.

I do joke that I have the largest chess library in the world... nearby. I live about 200 miles (322 km) from the John G. White Collection at the Cleveland Library in Cleveland, Ohio (35,000 items and growing). I've been there dozens of times. The large collection and many visits has allowed me to help some authors with their books, locating missing games, fact checking, photos, and other data. I've sent things to Harding, Donaldson, McGowan and Skjoldager. Feels good to be able to contribute.

Favorite books and magazines

Today there are so many new books coming out, it is hard to keep up. Many old books and magazines hold up well or played an important part in my chess, and are favorites. It is hard to come up with a reasonably sized list; I like so many. Even a list of 100 presents a challenge.

General works, Strategy, Middle Game:

My System—Nimzowitsch. This book had a huge impact on my development. Over time some of his ideas have been proven questionable, but play on weak color squares, blockade, outposts etc. are valid.

Winning with Chess Psychology—Benko & Hochberg,

The Middle Game In Chess—Fine. A much-underrated book, Fine's writing is logically laid out.

Technique in Chess—Abrahams,

The Art of the Middle Game—Keres & Kotov,

Modern Chess Strategy—Pachman,

Dynamic Chess—Coles,

Judgment and Planning in Chess—Euwe,

The Hypermodern Game of Chess—Tartakower.

Endgames and Studies:

The Tactics of Endgames—Ban. A great book to explain endgame studies,

Basic Chess Endings—Fine & Benko,

A Guide to Chess Endings—Euwe & Hooper,

Vasily Smyslov Endgame

Virtuoso—Smyslov,

Practical Endgame Lessons—Mednis,

Modern End Game Studies for the Chess Player—

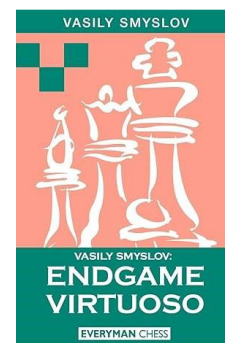
Bouwmeester,

Six Hundred Endings—

Portisch & Sarkozy,

Capablanca's Best Chess

Endings—Chernev.



Correspondence Chess:

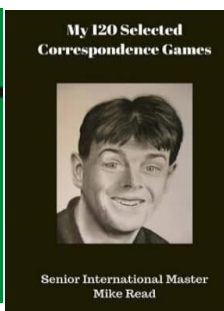
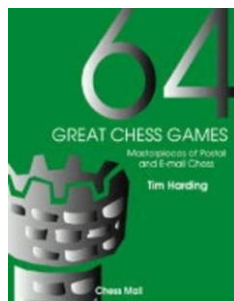
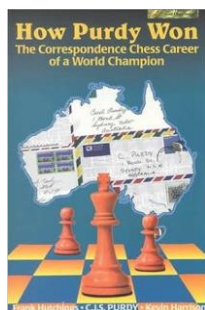
How Purdy Won—Purdy, Hutchings & Harrison,

Who is the Champion of the Champions—Baumbach, Smith & Knobel,

World Champion at the Third Attempt—Sanakoev,

64 Great Chess Games & 50 Golden Chess Games both by Harding, and his (Ultra Corr database),

My 120 Selected Correspondence Games and *Triumph and Disaster* both by Read.



Speaking of correspondence chess here is a game I played some time ago that was published in the *APCT News Bulletin* March—April 1992 issue. GM Bisguier was the judge for the game of the year award for 1991. My game tied for 2nd with Jon Edward's game!!

□ **Maurice Carter (USA)**

■ **Michael Quirk**

Corr, 1991

Sicilian Defence - [B33]

[Notes by GM Bisguier & Carter]

1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 ♟c6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♟xd4 ♟f6 5.♟c3 e5

[**Bisguier (B)**]: The Sveshnikov currently enjoys great popularity as it usually leads to fierce encounters and complicated play with chances for both sides. **Carter (C)**: Jon Edwards covers this variation in the Jan/Feb issue of the *APCT News Bulletin*. As a student of Nimzowitsch, I agree with Jon on his assessment of this variation. With Black's fixed pawn structure, weak d5, d6, c6 and e6 square complex, and limited range of his king bishop I find it difficult to believe this is active play for Black!]

6.♟db5

[**B**: The only attempt at a white advantage; all other knight moves yield Black at least equality.]

6..d6 7.♟d5

[**B**: Once quite popular this move has been almost completely superseded by 7.♟g5 which has the

advantage of maintaining the hole at d5 and the semi-open d-file. The text has its points; the knight at b5 has a convenient retreat to c3 rather than a3, and it initiates a clear, easy to understand strategy. White immediately obtains a queenside pawn majority and if he can force c5 he will obtain a mighty passed pawn. Black usually banks on kingside counterplay based mainly on his pawn majority in that sector. Incidentally the White strategy was commonly seen in the 1950's and 1960's in the Najdorf Sicilian (I have fond memories of two of my white wins against Barcza and Gligoric). Perhaps the best known game was Geller-Fischer, Curacao 1962 which went: 1.e4 c5 2.♟f3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.♟xd4 ♟f6 5.♟c3 a6 6.♟e2 e5 7.♟b3 ♟e7 8.0-0 0-0 9.♟e3 ♟c7 10.a4 ♟e6 11.a5 ♟bd7 12.♟d5! ♟xd5 13.exd5 ♟f5 14.c4 ♟g6 15.♟c1 ♟c5 16.♟xc5 dxc5 17.b4 and White went on to win (ECOB92).]

7...♟xd5 8.exd5 ♟b8

[**B**: The retreat to e7 aiming for the kingside has also been tried but it is more dangerous and less reliable as there are tactical tricks for White based on 9.c4 or 9.c3 and 10.♟a4 and sometimes 11.♟b4 when Black often has difficulties castling. A complete analysis is beyond the scope of this article, but for those who are interested we recommend Sveshnikov's excellent text, *The Sicilian Pelikan*. The knight retreat to b8 aiming for d7 where it observes both e5 and c5 seems to be the logical emplacement for this piece.]

9.c4 ♟e7 10.♟e2 0-0 11.0-0 f5 12.♟e3 a6 13.♟c3 ♟g5!?

[**B**: Trading bishops seems to be a good idea as White's bishop tends to be more active where it eyes c5 and b6 while holding the kingside.]

14.f4 ♟f6?!

[**B**: Black fails to appreciate the reason for his last move. He would have had a very decent game after capturing on f4, e.g. 14. ... ♟xf4 (14. ... exf4 is also reasonable) 15.♟xf4 exf4 16.♟xf4 ♟b6+ (16. ... ♟d7 heading for e5 is fine as well) and White will have insufficient compensation for the loss of his b-pawn. After the text, Black simply

loses a critical tempo and the white strategy is soon completely successful. C: On 14. ... exf4 15. ♖c1 ♜b6+ 16. ♜h1 I intended 17. ♘a4. Black has no scope for his queen bishop and his pawn on f4 won't run.]

15. ♜d2 e4

[C: Black has not solved the problem of his queenside development.]

16. b4 ♘d7 17. a4!

[B: This move, which aims for a judicious a5 and an eventual c5 is very strong and timely since Black cannot respond 17. ... a5; 18. ♘b5! ♜e7 (or 18. ... ♖e7) 19. c5!]

7...b6 18. ♞fb1 ♜c7 19. ♞a3!?

[C: To release the pin on my knight and leave Black wondering which file I will double my rooks. In addition, the white queen is free to go to the queen rook file.]

19... ♖b7

[C: A bishop on d7 would keep watch on both flanks, but Black is limited in his alternatives.]

20. ♞c1 ♞fc8 21. a5!? bxa5

[C: Best, as on 21...b5 22. cxb5 axb5 23. ♘xb5 ♜b8 Black will find all sorts of problems.]

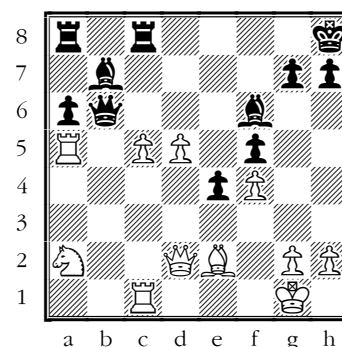
22. ♞xa5 ♘b6 23. ♘a2

[C: 23. ♜a2? ♖xc3 24. ♞xc3 ♖xd5! The text protects the rook on c1 and discourages counterplay.]

23... ♜h8 24. ♖xb6

[B: At first blush this move surprises, but it is very well thought out.]

24.. ♜xb6+ 25. c5 dxc5 26. bxc5



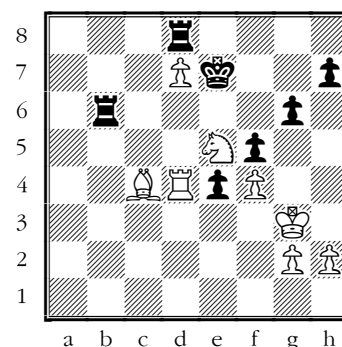
26.. ♖d4+?!

[B: Apparently Black had relied on this riposte to save the game. It wins the exchange, but the pawn duo proves too mighty and will eventually cost a rook. C: 26. ... ♜d8 appears better but who can blame Black for jumping at the exchange and an outside passed pawn?]

27. ♜xd4 ♜xa5 28. ♘b4 ♞d8 29. c6 ♖xc6

[B: Probably best since 29. ... ♖c8 30. d6 ♖e6 31. c7 precipitates his demise. From here on Black's resistance is strong but unavailing against White's relentless, careful play. Eventually the d-pawn will force the win of the exchange and White will emerge with a piece for a pawn and an easy win.]

30. ♞xc6 ♞ab8 31. ♞c4 ♜b6 32. ♘c6 ♜xd4+ 33. ♞xd4 ♞b1+ 34. ♜f2 ♞d6 35. ♖xa6 ♞b2+ 36. ♖e2 g6 37. ♘e5 ♞b7 38. ♘c4 ♞d8 39. d6 ♜g7 40. ♘e5 ♜f6 41. d7 ♞b6 42. ♖c4 ♜e7 43. ♖b5 ♜e6 44. ♖c4+ ♜e7 45. ♜g3



[C: Up to this point everything has been more or less forced. My idea is now to force him into

zugzwang, His rook at b6 is tied down to defend both ♖b5 and ♜c6+. I even thought that since there was very little threat from his e-pawn, perhaps my king could wreak havoc on his kingside.]

45..h6 46.♙f7 g5 47.♙c4

[C: Not 47.♙e8?! ♖xe8! and my key strength is gone. Now the threat of 48.♙b5 and 49.♜c6 are very real.]

47...♖a8 48.♜f7 ♖a3+ 49.♜f2 ♖b2+ 50.♙e2 ♖a8 51.d8♙+ ♖xd8 52.♜xd8 gxf4 53.♜c6+ ♜e6 54.♖b4 ♖a2 55.♖b6 1-0.



Left - right GM Fritz Baumbach 11th World Champion, GM Grigory Sanakoev 12th World Champion, IA Maurice Carter, GM Hans Berliner 5th World Champion, GM Vytas Palciauskas 10th World Champion. Photo by Lucille Carter.

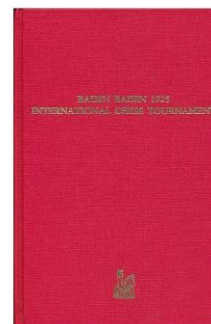
Magazines:

Australasian Chess Review,
Check,
Chess World,
Chess Mail,
Chess Review,
Deutsche Schachzeitung,
Correspondence Chess BCCA,
British Chess Magazine,
Wiener Schachzeitung,
Kagan's Neueste Schachnachrichten.

Tournaments:

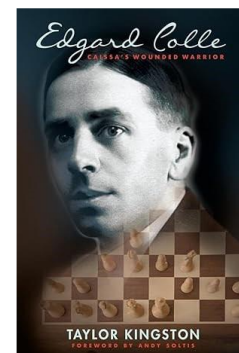
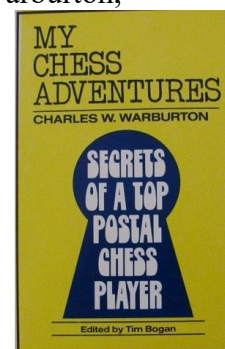
There are so many, but based upon the field of players, good annotations, interesting games, I will offer a few.

Hastings—1895, St Peters-burg—1914, New York—1924, Baden Baden—1925, San Remo—1930, Bled—1931, Nottingham—1936, AVRO—1938, Haag/Moscow—1948, Zurich—1953

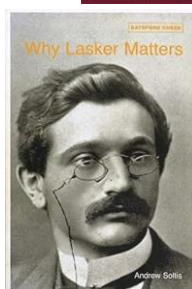
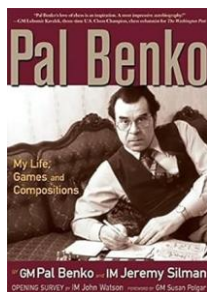


Game collections:

Chess Praxis" - Nimzowitsch,
Masters of the Chess Board—Reti,
Chess Secrets—Edward Lasker,
My Chess Adventures—Warburton,
How Karpov Wins—Mednis,
My Best Games of Chess 1905-1930 & 1931-1954
 both by Tartakower,
The Life and Games of Akiva Rubin-stein—Donaldson & Minev
 (two volumes),
Aron Nimzowitsch: A Reappraisal—Keene,
Aron Nimzowitsch On the Road to Chess Mastery 1886-1924—Skjoldager & Niel-sen,
Edgard Colle Caissa's Wounded Warri-or—Kingston,
Reti's Best Games of Chess—Golombek,
Richard Reti Sachovy Myslitel—Kalendovsky,
Joseph Henry Blackburne—Harding,

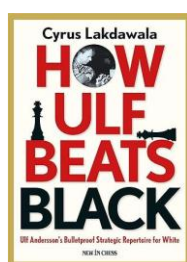
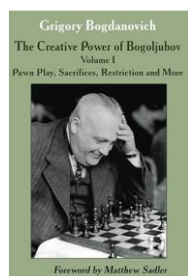
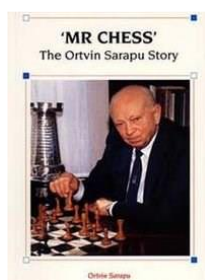


Pal Benko My Life, Games and Composi-tions—Benko, Silman & Watson,
My Best Games of Chess 1908-1923 & 1924-1937—both by Alekhine,
Capablanca's 100 Best Games of Chess—Golombek",



Why Lasker Matters—
Soltis, *Siegbert Tarrasch Leben und Werk*—
Kamm,

Gyula Breyer The Chess Revolutionary—Adams,
Kurt Richter—McGowan,
Carl Schlechter—Goldman,
My Best Games of Chess—Szabo,
Chess and Chessmasters—Stahlberg,
Petrosian's Best Games of Chess—Clarke,
Larsen's Selected Games of Chess 1948—69—
Larsen,
Mr Chess The Ortvin Sarapu Story—Sarapu,
Grandmaster Chess Strategy—Kaufeld & Kern,
How Ulf Beats Black—Lakdawala,
The Creative power of Bogoljubov—
Bogdanovich (two volumes),
There is a series of seven books by Everyman
Chess that has various authors and masters,
grouped by style i.e. *The Giants of Power Play*,
Great Chess Romantics, etc.



Final thoughts

I wonder if I would have become deeply in-volved in chess, if random chance had not made me take that new way home. I will always be grateful to my friend Otto, who took the time to befriend that young boy I was then. I would like to think that Caissa the Goddess of Chess was smiling down at me!

I hope my article was interesting and useful for chess collecting.

If anyone has a question or wishes to inter-act, you can contact me at: mcarter64@roadrunner.com
I will be glad to talk chess book & literature collecting.

(continued from page 13)

39.♞e5

[-5.5 for Black (28/99)]

39...a5 [-5.3 (25/99) to Black.]

40.f6+ [-5.8 (29/99) continuing black's advantage.]

40...♞e8 [This is a bad move by Black. -1.4 now for Black, marginal! 40...♞f8 is better at -3.4.] **41.♞d5** [This should lose White the game at a maximum of #-20, IF and only if c6+ is played. The next best move for Black is ♞e3 at -6.0, still winning, yet not nearly as decisive.] **41...a4** [Can you believe a4 equals the game, again?!] **42.♟g5** [This move by White also gives black the game, technically (-63.0). Thankfully we are not chess engines.] **42...a3** [Black wants to queen a pawn.] **43.♟h7** [Black thinks for 14 seconds, unbelievably missing f7+. ♞d8 or ♞e7 is irrelevant, as this is followed by a queened-pawn, f8=Q#!!! Black resigns.] **43...a2** [43...♟f2 44.f7+ ♞e7 45.♞c6 a2 46.f8♟+ ♟xf8 47.♟xf8 a1♟ 48.♟g6+ ♞f6 49.e7 ♟a4+ 50.♞xc7 ♞xg6 51.♞d6 ♟xd4+ 52.♞e6 ♟e4+ 53.♞d7 ♟d5+ 54.♞c7 ♞f7 55.♞c8 ♞xe7 56.♞c7 ♞c5+ 57.♞b8 ♞d6 58.♞b7 ♟a5 59.♞b8 ♞c6 60.♞c8 ♟a8#] **44.f7+** Black resigns. **1-0.**



International CC News



by Ralph P. Marconi

Please note that not all of the ICCF events that our currently active members are playing in are reported on in this column. If you wish to keep track of all the events that our active players are playing in then go to:

<https://www.cccachess.ca/iccf.tourn.events.htm>

On this on-line page you will find a listing of all the hyperlinks to the ICCF events our members are playing in.

CCCA-100 International Open Final

This event celebrating the 100th anniversary of the CCCA; a category 5 event of 15-players got underway officially on 15 February 2023. As of 13 November 2024, 102 games out of 105 have been completed. Even though there are only 3 games remaining in play they are still all crucial in determining the top three places.

Below are the current standings.

1. (CAN) Giroux, Marc (2237) – 7½
2. (USA) CCM Endsley, Barry E. (2296) – 7½
3. (AUS) CCM Tanti, Joe G. (2321) – 7½
4. (CAN) IM Boulanger, Michel (2384) – 7½
5. (MEX) CCM Saucedo Salazar, E. (2372) 7 (1)
6. (CFR) IM Trofimov, Vladimir M. (2419) – 7 (1)
7. (GER) CCM Klemmer, Marcel (2332) - 7
8. (SUI) IM Salzmann, Stefan (2356) – 7
9. (CAN) CCM McLeod, Sylvanus (2379) -7
10. (CAN) CCE Atkins, Andrew (2335) – 7
11. (ESP) CCM Ordobás M. Vicenç (2387) - 7
12. (ROU) IM Bucşa, Ioan (2390) - 6½ (1)
13. (NED) CCM Groot, Peter J. A. (2302) – 6½
14. (USA) CCM Relyea, A. (2360) – 5½ (3)
15. (USA) IM Marbourg, Denny (2603) – 4½

To view the current cross-table standings of this event on-line go to:

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=100634>

33rd ICCF World CC Final

TD: IA, M. Pheby

This, category 11, event officially started on 20 November 2022. 120 games out of 136 have been completed to date.

Below are the current standings as of 13 November 2024.

1. (ESP) IM Ros Padilla, Javier (2404) – 8½ (1)
2. (TUR) GM Turgut, Tansel (2589) – 8½ (1)
3. (GER) SIM Hesse, Olaf (2441) – 8½ (1)
4. (CFR) IM Aleksandrov, Valery K. (2426) – 8 ½ (1)
5. (GER) GM Kunzelmann, Fred (2475) – 8
6. (FRA) SIM Banet, Jean (2490) – 8
7. (GER) IM Anderskewitz, Ralf (2417) – 8
8. (CFR) SIM Churkin, Mikhail M. (2485) – 7½ (2)
9. (ITA) SIM Mosconi, Tiziano 2504 – 7½ (2)
10. (USA) GM Fleetwood, Daniel M. (2549) – 7½ (2)
11. (NOR) GM Haugen, Arild (2380) - 7½ (1)
12. (SUI) IM Terreaux, Gilles 2501 – 7½ (1)
13. (CZE) GM Sváček, Pavel (2555) – 7 (3)
14. (PER) GM Acevedo Villalba, A. (2508) – 7 (3)
15. (CZE) GM Chytilík, Roman (2684) - 7 (2)
16. * (CFR) GM Dronov, Aleksandr S. (2651) – 3
17. (CFR) SIM Panitevsky, Ivan A. (2524) – 2½ (12)

To view the current cross-table standings of this event on-line go to:

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=100104>

8th NATT

TD: Vinchev, Simeon (IA)

The 8th North Atlantic Team Tournament (NATT), organized by Wales, officially started on 15 November.

This time around there are 11 countries participating: Wales, Canada, USA, Spain, Cuba, Norway, England, Scotland, Mexico, France, and Portugal. Wales and England have fielded 2 teams each, making it a total of 13 teams.

There are 8 boards of 13 players each, thus 104 players total are participating. Each team plays a total of 96 games; 78 games per board, thus a total of 624 games will be played.

Board 1 is a category (cat) 9; Board 2 cat 8; Board 3 cat 7; Board 4 cat 7, Board 5 cat 6. Board 6 cat 5; Board 7 cat 4 and Board 8 cat 2.

Our team by board order is:

[Board 1](#) CCM Marius Zubuc (2475)
[Board 2](#) IM Richard Labonté (2430)
[Board 3](#) IM Sam Sharpe (2412)
[Board 4](#) CCM Andrew Atkins (2432)
[Board 5](#) IM Alex Barclay (2392)
[Board 6](#) IM Valer-Eugen Demian (2339)
[Board 7](#) CCM Stephan Brault (2321)
[Board 8](#) Peter Green (2293)

Team average rating: 2387

Team captain: Ralph Marconi

We wish our team good luck and enjoyable games! Some early results have already come in. 9 games out of 624 have been completed; 87 not started yet.

Below are the current standings as of 21 November.

1. United States (2377) – 2 (94)

2. Wales A (2419) – 1 ½ (93)

3. Norway (2310) – 1 (94)

4. Scotland (2390) – 1 (94)

5. France (2405) – 1 (94)

6. England A (2390) – 1 (94)

7. Canada (2387) – ½ (95)

8. Cuba (2373) – ½ (95)

9. Wales 1 (2414) – ½ (95)

10. England B (2384) – ½ (95)

11. Mexico (2408) – 0 (96)

11. Spain (2392) – 0 (96)

13. Portugal (2367) – 0 (96)

To view the progress of this event on-line go to:
[8th NATT Team cross-table](#)

**Pierre Jean Earns
ICCF IM Title!**

Pierre Jean earns ICCF IM title for his performances in [ICCF Olympiad 22 Preliminaries - Section 3 Board 5](#), [WZ - Grand Master Norm/4](#) and [ICCF Olympiad 23 Preliminaries - Section 5 Board 6](#)

Congratulations Pierre!

**Marius Zubuc
Earns ICCF IM Norm!**

Marius Zubuc earns ICCF IM norm for his performance in [CAPEA 50th Anniversary - Open - Final](#) Congratulations Marius!

**Martin Lemare
Earns ICCF CCM Title**

Martin Lemaire earns ICCF CCM Title for his performances in [WS/CCM/A/38](#), [WS/MN/B/74](#) and [WS/CCE/B/31](#) Congratulations Martin!

**Parker Wieck
Earns ICCF CCE Title**

Parker Wieck earns ICCF CCE title for his performances in [WS/CCE/A/30](#), [WS/CCM/B/29](#) and [WS/CCE/A/23](#) Congratulations Parker!

Ryan Lackey Earns ICCF CCE Title

Ryan Lackey earns ICCF CCE title for his performances in [WZ - Correspondence Chess Expert/4](#) and [WS/CCM/B/31](#).
Congratulations Ryan!

Michael Hryniw Earns ICCF CCE Norm

Michael Hryniw earns ICCF CCE norm for his performance in [Rudolf Kolesnikov Team Tournament SF1 - Board 4](#) Congratulations Michael!

ICCF 23rd Olympiad Prelims

This event officially started on 6 January 2024.

There are 5 sections with 10 teams and 4 with 9 teams; 46 National Federations fielded teams for this event. The first and second place finishing team from each section will advance to the Finals.

Canada's team is playing in section 5.

Our team as reported in issue #620 is

Bd1. IM Pino Verde, Pino (2445)
Bd2 SIM Wayne Hynes (2438)
Bd3 IM Richard Labonté, (2430)
Bd4 IM Michel Boulanger, (2412)
Bd5 CCM Marius Zubac (2393)
Bd6 CCM Pierre Jean, (2387)

Average team rating: 2418

RESERVES

Boards 1-3

IM Sam Sharpe (2382)

Boards 4-6

CCM Sylvanus McLeod (2368)

CCM Andrew Atkins (2345)

Team Captain

IM Valer-Eugen Demian (2283)

Our team is still doing well even though now currently in 6th place, with 17½ points total out of 34 completed games (a plus score at 51%, +1) with 14 games remaining in play. And still no defeats. The top 7 places remain very tight!

IM Pierre Jean on board 6 has now completed play with 4½/8 (1 win; 7 draws)
Current [Board cross-table](#) standings.

IM Michel Boulanger on board 4 has also completed play with 4/4 (8 draws)
Current [Board cross-table](#) standings.

149 games out of 216 have been completed as of 13 November 2024.

Prelim Section 5

TD: IA Karsten Kjeldsen

Below are the current standings

- 1. France (2389) – 19½ (10)**
2. Norway (2369) – 18 (13)
3. Poland (2454) – 18 (12)
4. Finland (2408) – 17½ (14)
5. Australia (2414) - 17½ (13)
- 6. Canada (2418) – 17½ (14)**
7. Spain (2433) – 16½ (16)
8. Japan (2307) – 13 (17)
9. Argentina (2484) – 11½ (25)

To view the current cross-table standings of this event on-line go to:

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=104384>

ICCF 22nd Olympiad Final

TD: IA Ian M. Pheby

This event officially started on 22 January 2024. The top 3 teams will qualify to play in the 23rd Olympiad Final.

229 games out of 468 have been completed to date.

Below are the current standings as of 14 November 2024.

- 1. Poland (2472) – 24½ (23)**
2. Luxembourg (2460) – 23½ (25)
3. Cuba (2458) – 22½ (27)
4. Czechia (2476) – 22 (27)
5. France (2467) – 21½ (29)
6. Bulgaria (2469) – 21 (30)
7. Romania (2449) – 19½ (34)
8. Hungary (2427) – 16½ (39)
9. Spain (2488) – 14 (44)
10. Slovenia (2530) – 13½ (45)
11. Italy (2487) - 13½ (45)
12. U.S.A. (2546) – 9 (54)
13. Germany (2586) – 8 (56)

To view the current cross-table standings of this event on-line go to:

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=104375>

Rudolf Kolesnikov Memorial Team Tournament (Semi-finals)

This is the 7th ICCF team event for players rated under 2300. It's being played in memory of IM, IA (FIDE; ICCF) Rudolf Kolesnikov (1938-2023) from Ukraine. Go to:

<https://www.iccf.com/message?message=1688>
if you wish for more information on Rudolf Kolesnikov.

There are 5 semi-final sections, with a total of 37 teams from 24 countries participating (USA, Canada, Cuba, Italy, Germany, Ukraine, Brazil, Wales, Argentina, Netherlands, Spain, Latvia, Switzerland, Belgium, Bulgaria, England, Philippines, France, Scotland, Finland, Norway, Poland, and Lithuania.) There are 3 sections of 7 teams and 2 sections of 8 teams. Each team is comprised of 6 players (i.e. 6 boards). And each board section is a double round robin in order to satisfy the game number requirement for the respective norms that are available.

The ICCF Non-Title Tournaments Commissioner will be responsible, with the approval of the ICCF Executive, to determine which teams from each section advance to the finals. The expectation is for a 13-team Final.

The semi-finals officially got underway on 1 July 2024. In order to view the sections on-line go to <https://www.iccf.com/tables> and click on Memorial Team Semi-finals, and click on the appropriate links.

Canada has one team in this event playing in semi-final section 1.

Our Team:

Bd1 - CCM Peter Green (2278)
Bd2 – CCM Michael Dufour (2252)
Bd3 – Dan Friedman (2157)
Bd4 – Michael Hyrniw (2030)
Bd5 – Gordon McPherson (2115)
Bd6 – Ed Allenby (1517)

Team Captain: IM Valer Eugen Demian

We wish them good luck and enjoyable games.

As of 14 November 2024, 128 games out of 252 games have been completed. **England-A** remains in first with 23 points out of 44 completed games. **Canada** is in 3rd place with a score of 19 points out of 43 completed games; 44% (-5).

Below are the current standings.

- 1. England-A (2250) - 23 (28)**
2. Netherlands-B (2233) – 20 (34)
- 3. Canada (2058) – 19 (29)**
4. Philippines Barracuda (2143) – 17½ (38)
5. Wales-A (2184) – 17 (37)
6. Lithuania (2200) – 16½ (39)
7. Poland (2264) – 15 (43)

To view the current team cross-table standings of this event on-line go to:

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=106119>

48th WCCC (2024) Semi-Finals

TD: Myakutin, Valery Igorevich (IA)

This event officially started on 20 June 2024. **IM Pino Verde** is representing Canada in semi-final section 1. 47 games have out of 105 have been completed to date.

Below are the current standings as of 14 November 2024.

- 1. (USA) CCM Anderson, C. (2393) – 5½ (3)**
2. (BRA) CCM Maia, V. Majó da (2432) – 5 (5)
3. (FRA) CCM Ygouf, Laurent (2408) – 4½ (5)
4. (WLS) IM Keevil, Paul (2526) – 4½ (4)
5. (GER) IM Schmitz, André (2393) - 4 (6)
6. (GER) IM Dorer, Manfred (2430) – 4 (6)
- 7. (CAN) IM Verde, Pino (2441) – 3 (8)**
8. (SUI) IM Muri, Heinrich (2356) – 3 (8)
9. (ITA) CCM Gagliardi, Virgilio (2462) – 3 (8)
10. (ENG) CCM James, Angus (2409) – 3 (8)
11. (ROU) CCM Geană, Dan P. (2408) – 2½ (9)
12. (SLO) IM Sorčnik, Klemen (2445) – 2½ (9)
13. (ECU) SIM Paredes, Carlos (2464) – 2 (10)

14. (POL) CCM Sazon, Adam (2349) – ½ (13)
 15. (IND) IM Kumar, Pavan T. (2418) – 0 (14)

To view the current cross-table standings of this event on-line go to:

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=105860>

48th (2024) WCCC Prelims

This event officially started on 20 March 2024 on the ICCF web server.

Click on the link to view the current cross table standings on-line.

Sam Sharpe

([Group 3](#)) (As of 14 November 2024, 86 games out of 105 have been completed; 5½/11 (11 draws).

([Group 9](#)) (86 games completed out of 105; 7 /14 (14 draws); Sam has completed play with an undefeated score. Congratulations Sam!

Martin Lemaire

([Group 5](#)) (72 games completed out 105; 6½/13 13 draws)

Marius Zubac

([Group 6](#)) (82 games completed out of 105; 6/11 (1 win, 10 draws.) To view Marius' nice win against SIM Wolf-Dieter Krabbe of Germany on-line go to:

<https://www.iccf.com/game?id=1460561>

Stephan Brault

([Group 7](#)) (81 games completed out of 105; 5/10 (10 draws)

Vladimir Marcu

([Group 8](#)) (56 games completed out of 105; ½/1 (1 draw)

Parker Wieck

([Group 12](#)) (18 games completed out of 105; 3/6 6 draws

47th WCCC (2023) Semi-Finals

This event officially started on 20 June 2023

SIM Wayne Hynes and **IM Pino Verde** are representing Canada in sections 2 and 4 respectively.

71 games out of 78 have been completed to date.

Below are the standings as of 14 November 2024.

47th (2023) WCCC Semi-Final – 2

TD: Myakutin, Valery Igorevich (IA)

1. (POL) IM Krzyżanowski, A. (2357) – 6
2. (GER) SIM Nogga, Uwe (2460) – 6
3. (USA) SIM Biedermann, T. (2458) – 6
4. (ECU) IM Au Cardero, R. (2444) – 6
5. (GER) SIM Achilles, Edgar (2407) – 6
6. (CRO) IM Feletar, Darko (2444) – 6
7. (USA) CCM Stewart, D. (2407) – 5½ (2)
8. (ESP) IM Galiano M. A. (2401) – 5½ (1)
9. (LAT) IM Graudiņš, Ilmars (2418) – 5½ (1)
10. (SWE) IM Bergmanolson, M. (2417) – 5½
11. (PAN) SIM Rösch M., H. V. (2480) – 5 (2)
11. (ROU) SIM Matei, Cornel (2404) – 4½ (3)
13. (CAN) SIM Hynes, W. (2439) – 3½ (5)

To view the current cross-table standings of this event on-line go to:

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=102335>

47th (2023) WCCC Semi-Final - 4

TD: Myakutin, Valery Igorevich (IA)

77 games out of 78 have been completed to date. Below are the current standings as of 14 November.

1. (GER) SIM Schäfer, Uwe (2450)- 6½
2. (CZE) CCM Beneš, Jiří (2405) – 6½
3. (INA) CCM Yusin, Janto (2402) – 6

4. (USA) IM Deakin, C. (2420) – 6
5. (GER) LGM Kloster, Svetlana (2413) – 6
6. (BRA) IM Simal Moreira, L. (2415) – 6
7. (PER) IM de la Rosa Solórzano, J. G. (2399) - 6
8. (POL) IM Jasiński, Mirosław (2430) – 6
- 9. (CAN) IM Verde, Pino (2445) – 6**
10. (ENG) IM Wharrier, Jo A. (2431) – 6
11. (AUS) SIM Dunlop, Gordon (2462) – 5½ (1)
12. (FRA) IM Duchardt, Alexandre (2392) – 5½ (1)
13. (ECU) SIM Paredes, Carlos (2472) – 5

To view the current cross-table standings of this event on-line go to:

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=102337>

Germany Candidate Masters 09 -A

TD: IA Andrei Yeremenko

This category 7 event organized by Germany, officially started on 1 September 2023.

101 games out of 105 have been completed as of 14 November 2024.

IM Sam Sharpe represented Canada. Sam completed play with an undefeated score of 7/14 (14 draws). And he is currently in 5th place. Congratulations Sam!

So far with 101 games completed there are still no recorded wins.

Below are the current standings.

- 1. (GER) Fischer, Wolfgang (2400) – 7**
2. (GER) CCM Tornow, Michael (239) – 7
3. SWE) IM Andersson, M. (2406) – 7
4. (ITA) IM Marchisotti, Mauro (2406) – 7
- 5. (CAN) IM Sharpe, Sam (2400) - 7**
6. (GER) Schmit, Theo (2392) – 7
7. (FIN) CCM Suihko, Kalervo (2406) – 7
8. (ENG) SIM Pheby, Ian M. (2392) – 7
9. (SCO) SIM Mackintosh, Iain (2402) – 7
10. (GER) IM Müller, Detlef (2399) - 7
11. (GER) IM Bars, Joachim (2415) – 6½ (1)
12. (ARG) CCM Fernández, J. H. (2410) – 6½ (1)
13. (ESP) IM Pérez Fernández, J. V. (2419) – 6½ (1)
14. (CFB) CCM Matsukevich, V. V. (2400) – 6 (2)
15. GER IM Glatzel, Hans-Joachim (2414) – 5½ (3)

To view the current standings of this event on-line go to:

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=102978>

70th ICCF Jubilee World Cup (server) Final

This event officially started on 15 November 2022, with 92 players qualifying to play.

To view additional tournament details, go to:

<https://www.iccf.com/message?message=1579>

As of 14 November 2024, 642 games out of a total of 644 have been completed.

To view the current standings of this event on-line go to:

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=90553>

Francois Riva Memorial Team Tournament

This tournament in memory of François Riva officially started on 1 July 2023.

39 teams entered this event. And are being played in 3 semi-final sections of 13 teams each. The top four teams from each section will qualify to the Final. And the best scoring 5th place team from all sections will also qualify, with tiebreaking rules applying, if necessary. Each team plays 72 games.

Canada played in section Semifinal-1.

Our Team:

Bd1 – CCM Peter Green (2284)
Bd2 – CCE Stephan Brault (2244)
Bd3 – CCE John Boyd (2164)
Bd4 – IM Serge Dubuc (2067)
Bd5 – Edward Thompson (1918)
Bd6 - Ed Allenby (1718)

Team Captain; IM Sam Sharpe

To date 461 games have been completed out of 468.

England-A has now completed play finishing with 40 points out of 72, and is currently in 2nd place.

Canada also completed play finishing with 28 points out 72 and is currently in 11th place.

Poland has now completed with 40 points; and Cuba with 33 points.

Below are the current standings as 14 November 2024.

1. **Italia Verde (2288) – 42½ (1)**
2. Mexico-B (2144) – 41½ (2)
3. Germany- A (2180) – 41 (1)
4. England-A (2284) – 40
5. Poland (2268) – 40
6. Philippines Barracuda (2209) – 39½ (2)
7. USA-2 (2226) – 38 (1)
8. Latvia (2253) – 36½ (2)
9. Netherlands – A (2233) – 36 (1)
10. Cuba (2058) – 33
11. **Canada (2065) – 28**
12. Scotland (2084) – 27½ (1)
13. Argentina- B (1861) 17½ (3)

To view the current cross-table standings of this event on-line go to:

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=102405>

To view and follow the progress of Semi-final 2 cross-table standings

go to: <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=102406>

To view and follow the progress of Semi-final 3 cross-table standings

go to: <https://www.iccf.com/event?id=102407>

Tomas Carnstam Memorial **(Postal)**

This event in memory of Tomas Carnstam started on 24 August 2022, and is being played by regular post. It is a strong category 9 event.

As of 15 November 2024, 60 games have been completed out of 78. IM Marin Dimitrov's (Bulgaria) games have been cancelled.

IM Richard Labonté is representing Canada in this event. Richard has now completed six games to date (12 July 2024). And is currently in 10th place, with a score of 3 points (6 draws).

To view the current cross-table standings of this event on-line go to:

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=98774>

3rd Inter-Zonal Individual **Tournament – Final**

TD: IA Bianor de Oliveira

This category 5 event got underway officially on 27 August 2023. As of 15 November 2024, 34 games have been completed out of 36. * CCM Igor Olegovich Bogatyrev's games have been cancelled.

Below are the current standings.

1. **(RSA) CCM Wellen, Loyd (2312) – 4**
2. (CZE) IM Cvak, Rudolf (2382) - 3½
3. (RSA) SIM Glatthaar, Michael (2418) – 3½
4. (CZE) CCM Toman, Antonín (2374) – 3½
5. (CFR) IM Goretov, Andrey B. (2401) - 3 (1)
6. (CRO) IM Ivec, Ivan (2425) – 3 (1)
7. (WLS) CCM Scott, Paul (2284) - 3
8. (FRA) CCM Laliga, Olivier (2354) – 2½ (2)
9. * CFR CCM Bogatyrev, Igor O. 2361 - 0

To view the current cross-table standings of this event on-line go to:

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=102810>

RoW Championship 2023 **Candidates' Tournament -ct 1**

TD: Jorge Eduardo Deforel

This, 19-player category 6 event officially started on 20 March 2023.

First and second placed players in the Candidates qualify to play in a RoW (Rest of the World) Championship final.

CCCM member, **CCM Marius Zubac** is representing Canada in this event. Marius has now completed play with score of 9/18 points (18 draws), and is currently in 10th place.

168 games out of 171 have been completed.

Below are the current standings as of 15 November 2024.

1. (CUB) CCM Menéndez R. G. (2330) – 10
2. (ARG) SIM Civitillo, Alfredo (2414) – 9½
3. (USA) IM Hill, Grayling V. (2434) – 9½
4. (CFB) IM Osipov, Anatoly V. (2459) – 9½
5. (BRA) IM Mesquita Jr., F. M. (2358) – 9½
6. (CYP)CCM Nikolaev, Denis (2362) – 9½
7. (USA) CC Morrell, Tom (2402) – 9½
8. (CUB) SIM Vertiz Gutiérrez, P. (2421) – 9½ (1)
9. (USA) GM Bokar, Jason (2511) - 9
10. (CAN) CCM Zubac, Marius (2335) – 9
11. (USA) CCM Deakin, C. (2420) – 9
12. (BRA) CCM D'Oliveira, M. Arruda (2248) – 9
13. (ARG) IM Domancich, E. M. (2451) – 9
14. (AUS) SIM Dunlop, Gordon (2477) – 9
15. (PHI) CCM Sinsuat, Datuali (2360) – 8½ (2)
16. (USA) CCE Walton, Jay (2147) - 8 ½ (1)
17. (BRA) SIM Fuzishawa, R. M. (2404) – 8½
18. (USA) CCM Hannum, W. (2316) – 8½ (2)
19. (USA) IM Marbourg, Denny (2603) – 4½

To view the current cross-table standings of this event on-line go to:

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=101317>

World Zone Cup - Final

TD: IA, Gino F. Figlio

This 13-player, category 5 event officially started on 15 February 2023.

The prize fund in the final is, \$1,000 US (50% first for first place; 30% for second place and 20% for third place.

This event has now come to end with **IM Steven Ledford** of the USA taking first place with a score of 7½ out of 12 (3 wins; 9 draws)

CCCA member, **IM Michel Boulanger** represented Canada in this event. Michel completed play with a score of 6/12 (12 draws), and in 10th place. Congratulations Michel.

Below are the final standings.

1. (USA) CCM Ledford, S. O. (2319) – 7½
2. (CUB) CCE Pérez Jorrín, E. A. (2253) – 6½
3. (ESP) I Pérez López, Alberto (2416) – 6
4. (USA) CCM Stewart, Douglas (2408) – 6
5. (BRA) CCM Leite, Denis M. (2351) – 6
6. (USA) CCM Leisner, Jon S. (2305) – 6
7. (USA) SIM Biedermann, Thomas (2458) – 6
8. (USA) CCM Deakin, C. – (2420) – 6
9. (TUR) CCM Önder, Evren (2374) – 6
10. (CAN) IM Boulanger, M. (2384) – 6
11. (GUM) CCM Powers Jr., K. (2386) – 5½
12. (USA) CCM Thomas, Tim (2362) – 5½
13. USA) CCM Burmeister, F. (2324) – 5

To view the final cross-table standings of this event on-line go to:

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=100693>

74th European Individual Championship, Final (postal)

TD: Madonia, Leonardo (IA)

This category 4 event officially got underway on 15 March 2021.

As of 15 November 2024, 159 games out of 171 have been completed.

Below are the current standings.

1. (CZE) CCM Dlouhý, Radek (2350) – 12½
2. (FRA) GM Roubaud, David (2553) – 12
3. (GER) SIM Hesse, Olaf (2448) – 11 (1)
4. (GER) CCE Mirbach, Thomas (2372) – 10½ (1)
5. (LTU) SIM Chocenska, D. (2482) – 10½ (1)
6. (GER) Müller, G. (Osterode) (240) – 10½ (1)
7. (CFR) CCE Popov, Vladimir V. (2270) – 10 (3)
8. (CFR) CCM Popov, Evgeny N. (2366) - 10 (3)
9. (GER) IM Hoffmann, Frank (2360) - 10 (3)
10. (FRA) CCM Bobel, Philippe (2324) – 10
11. (CFR) Skryago, Mikhail A. (2311) - 9 (2)
12. (GER) Bergner, Martin (2182) - 8½
13. (ITA) Baldassare, Stefano (2446) – 7½ (7)
14. (GER) Rondio, Thomas (2262) – 7
15. (GER) Traut, Werner (2289) - 6
16. (GER) Bialas, Torsten (2250) – 5
17. (GER) Schowalter, Gerd (2376) - 4

18. (GER) Künzel, Ulrich (2104) – 3½ (2)
19. (LTU)IM Voveris, Saulius (2419) - 1½

To view the current cross-table standings of this event on-line go to:

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=90820>

75th European Individual Championship, Final

TD: Lockwood, Austin (IA)

This category 9 event officially started on 30 November 2022.

126 games out of 136 have been completed as of 15 November 2024.

Below are the current standings

1. (ITA) SIM Gueci, Alberto (2474) – 8½ (1)
2. (NOR) SIM Gramstad, Reidar (2442) - 8½ (1)
3. (ENG) SIM Williamson, H. D. (2502) – 8½
4. (CFR)IM Goncharov, Igor V. (2393)- 8½
5. (CFR) SIM Yurov, A. A. (2481) – 8½
6. (GER) SIM Schwetlick, Thomas (2425) – 8½
7. (GER) SIM Kuhne, Detlev (2454)- 8 (1)
8. (LUX) SIM Daubenfeld, Nico (2511) – 8
9. (ESP) SIM De Carlos A., I. (2499) – 8 (1)
10. (CFR) SIM Lobanov, Evgeny V. (2528) – 8
11. (CFR) IM Rudenko, A. V. (2403) – 7½ (2)
12. (GER) IM Schweer, Carsten (2433) – 7½ (1)
13. (BUL) IM Petrov, Milen (2457) – 7½ (1)
14. (SLO) IM Ntirlis, Nikolaos (2389) – 7½ (1)
15. (POR) IM Castro, F. M. F. (2389) – 6½ (1)
16. (CFR) SIM Panitevsky, I. A. (2524) – 4 (9)
17. (LAT) GM Avotinš, Maigonis (2377) – 2½

To view the current cross-table standings of this event on-line go to:

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=99667>

76th European Individual Championship, Final

TD: IA. Austin Lockwood

This event officially started on 1 June 2023.
As of 15 November 2024, 70 games out of 78 have been completed.

Below are the current standings.

1. (GER) SIM Kuhne, Detlev (2438) – 7
2. (GER) CCM Wapniewski, Kay-Edgar (2419)- 6½
3. (IRL) SIM Nightingale, D. (2488) – 6
4. (CFB) SIM Malashenkov, A. V. (2471) – 6
5. (AUT) SIM Sommerbauer, N. (2499) – 6
6. (ITA) SIM Latronico, Nicola (2431) – 5½ (1)
7. (GER) SIM Serner, Arpad (2391) - 5½ (1)
8. (ROU) IM Ristea, Tudor (2384) - 5 (2)
9. CFR) SIM Yurov, A. A. (2484) – 5 (2)
10. (SLO) SIM Coklin, Marko (2482) – 5 (1)
11. (CFR) IM Kachanov, V. I. (2403) - 4½ (3)
12. (POR) IM Gonzaga G., L. (2301) – 4½ (1)
13. (POL) IM Broniek, M. M. (2452) – 3 (5)

To view the current cross-table standings of this event on-line go to:

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=102099>

19th Africa/Asia Zonal Championship Final

TD: IA, Uwe Staroske

This event officially started on 30 June 2022. As of 15 November 2024, 35, games out of 36 have been completed.

Below are the current standings.

1. (AUS) CCM Gray, Garvin (2371) – 4½
2. (AUS) CCM Klimczak, Joe (2334) – 4 (1)
3. (INA) IM Sitorus, Yosua (2428) – 4
4. (IND) CCM De, Gautam (2403) – 4
3. (RSA) CCM Wellen, Loyd (2311) – 4
6. (KAZ) IM Alexeyenko, G. (2437)- 4
7. (JOR) CCM Akram, Fauzi (2416) – 3½ (1)
7. (PAK) CCM Idrees Arif, M. (2378) – 3½
8. (IND) CCM Akkaraju, S. C. (2321) – 3½

To view the current cross-table standings of this event on-line go to:

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=98421>

18th Africa/Asia Zonal Championship Final

TD Staroske, Uwe (IA)

This event officially started on 15 May 2021.

This event has now come to an end with SIM **Michael Glatthaar** of South Africa being declared the winner.

Below are the final standings.

1. (RSA) SIM Glatthaar, Michael (2433) – 6½
2. (INA) IM Sitorus, Yosua (2418) - 6½
3. (TKM) CCM Talibov, Naim (2314) - 6½
4. (KAZ) IM Alexeyenko, Grigoriy (2430) – 6½
5. (UZB) IM Yunusov, Adkham (2477) – 6½
6. (RSA) IM Fourie, Marius Jacques (2387) – 6½
7. (IND) IM Prakash, Om (2413) – 6
8. (AUS) CCM Gray, Garvin (2376) – 6
9. (TKM) CCM Odeeva, Kristina (2283) – 6
10. (MAR) CCE Hanif, Mohamed (2318) – 6
11. (RSA) CCM Opperman, Ron (2352) – 5½
12. (AUS) CCE Tanti, Joe G. (2226) – 5
13. (IND) CCM Akkaraju, Sailesh Chandra (2329) – 4½

To view the finalo cross-table standings of this event on-line go to:

<https://www.iccf.com/event?id=92899>

International Tournaments Available

The following ICCF (World tournaments) tournaments are currently available.

The entry fees (via CCCA) and descriptions of additional events can be found on-line at:
<http://cccachess.ca/iccf.tour.cal.htm>

This section below explains the qualification requirements and includes descriptions for each tournament that is available, except the ICCF Aspires, Chess960 events, World Cup events, Web-chess Open events, and WCCC events and team events.

ICCF World tournaments (WT) **Norm Tournaments** **(webserver)**

There are now 10 different ICCF Norm tournaments, as listed below.

Grand Master Norm/A (GMN/A) – 15 player sections. A minimum ICCF rating of 2485 is required. Or FIDE rating of at least 2485.
(The holders of the ICCF Grandmaster Title and any players rated more than 2600 can enter these tournaments free of charge.)*

Grand Master Norm/B (GMN/B)

– 13 player sections.
ICCF rating from 2455 to 2484 required. Or FIDE rating from 2455 to 2484.
(The holders of the ICCF Grandmaster Title can enter these tournaments free of charge)*

Senior Master Norm/A (SIMN/A)

– 15 player sections.
ICCF rating from 2420 to 2454 required. Or FIDE rating from 2420 to 2454.

Senior Master Norm/B (SIM/B) – 13 player sections.

ICCF rating from 2380 to 2419 required. Or FIDE rating from 2380 to 2419.

Master Norm/A (MN/A)

– 13 player sections. ICCF rating from 2350 to 2379 required. Or FIDE rating from 2350 to 2379.

Master Norm/B (MN/B)

17 player sections. ICCF rating from 2200 to 2249. Or FIDE rating from 2200 to 2249.

Correspondence Chess Master Norm/A (CCM/B)

– 17 player sections. ICCF rating from 2200 to 2249. Or FIDE rating from 2200 to 2249.

Correspondence Chess Expert Norm/A (CCE/A) – 15 player sections. ICCF rating from 2125 to 2199 required. Or FIDE rating from 2125 to 2199.

Correspondence Chess Expert Norm/B (CCE/B) – 15 player sections. ICCF rating from 2050 to 2124. Or FIDE rating from 2050 to 2124.

(postal, & webserver)
Promotion Tournaments

Master Class (Webserver)

– 11-player sections. A minimum ICCF rating of 2100 is required or a first place in a higher-class tournament. A first-place finish allows you to enter the Prelim. round of the World CC Championship. If you have a CCCA rating of 2000+ we will try to enter you.

Higher Class (Webserver) –
7-player sections. A minimum ICCF rating of 1900 is required or a first- place finish in an Open class tournament.
A first - place finish allows you to enter the Master class. If you have a CCCA rating of 1900+ we will try to enter you.

Open Class (Webserver) –
7-player sections. Open to those with no ICCF rating or are rated less than 1900. A first-place finish allows you to enter the Higher class.

Open Class (Postal) -
4-player sections. Double round robin. Open to those under 1900, or unrated.

A Class (Postal) -
4-player sections. Double round robins. Open to those 1900 and above.

ICCF Thematic Tournaments

2024 WS Thematics

WSTT/5/24 - Fegatello Variation, C57

6 players, starts 2024-09-15

WSTT/6/24 - Dory Defence, E10

6 players, starts 2024-11-01

WSTT/7/24 - Sicilian, Morra gambit, B21

6 players, starts 2024-12-15

WSTT/GD - Grünfeld Defence, D80

6 players, starts when filled.

WSTT/KID - King's Indian Defence, E97

6 players, starts when filled

WSTT/RD - Russian Defence, C42

6 players, starts when filled,

WSTT/SEA - Sicilian, English Attack, B90

6 players, starts when filled

2023 Postal Thematics

TT/3/24 - Scottish, C45

Postal Thematic, 6 players, 10 games, 10 moves in 40 days, starts 2024-10-01

TT/4/24 - Albin Countergambit, D08

Postal Thematic, 6 players, 10 games, 10 moves in 40 days, starts 2024-12-01

TD Corner

by ICCF IM Sam Sharpe, Domestic Tournament Coordinator



Welcome to another issue of TD Corner!

The CCCA currently has two (2) Event Coordinators:

1) Domestic Tournament Coordinator: IM Sam Sharpe

Sam is responsible to organize our domestic events (which have undergone some major changes!) as well as any private matches you may wish to play in. In addition, if any member wishes to organize their own event, please contact me as well.

2) International Tournament Coordinator: Martin Lemaire

Martin is responsible for organizing our international friendly team matches, which is a great way to represent your country and get a (free!) 2-game match with someone of comparable strength from somewhere else in the world.

Both Martin and Sam (and any other executive member) can be reached by email from the EXECUTIVE page on the CCCA's website: <http://cccachess.ca/ccca.exe.htm> or by emailing CCCACHess@gmail.com (which goes to the entire executive team).

UPCOMING EVENTS

CANADIAN CHAMPIONSHIP (K81)

The 2025 edition of the Canadian Correspondence Championship will begin in January. As the first Challengers event (D82) began in September to produce qualifiers for the 2026 K82 event, there will be no qualifiers from the Challengers for this 2025 event. As a result, qualification to this 13-player (max) event will be based on rating using the ICCF rating list (2024/4).

NOTE: All applicants to the 2024 K80 event were accepted into the playing field.

The entry fee will be \$25 with an entry deadline of December 15, with 90% of entry fees returned as prizes. The format will depend on the number of entrants (2xRR or 1xRR with 12 games maximum).

****See the CCCA TOURNAMENT CALENDAR below for full details.**

RECENT EVENTS

KE79 – 2023 Canadian Championship

There are 16 entries for KE79, which resulted in this event being run in two stages: 2 semi-finals with the top-3 finishers from each advancing to the finals. Additionally, a prize pool of \$360 (90% of entry fees) was created to be distributed as follows:

Semi-finals (\$50): \$25 per section winner

Finals (\$310): 1st-\$160, 2nd-\$100, 3rd-\$50

NOTE: Full Tiebreaks will be used for both advancement from the semi-finals and for cash prizes.

Semi-Final 1 (KE791)

This 8-player 1xRR event started on January 21, 2023 with an average rating of 2136, and features five (5) titled players: 1 IM, 2 CCMs and 2 CCEs. [KE791 ICCF Crosstable](#)

Standings as of November 4, 2024 with full tie-breaks applied (and remaining games):

1. CCM Marius Zubac - 5
2. IM Sam Sharpe – 4½
3. Maurice Carter – 4 (1)
4. CCM Johnny Owens - 4
5. CCM Stephan Brault – 3½ (1)
6. Arthur Prystenski – 3½
7. CCE Vaclav Sladek - 2½
8. Claude Bourgoïn – 0

Semi-Final 2 (KE792)

This 8-player 1xRR event also started on January 21, 2023 with an average rating of 2134, and features four(4) titled players: 2 IMs and 2 CCMs.

[KE792 ICCF Crosstable](#)

This event completed on July 24, 2023, with IM Alex Barclay finishing 1st after applying the 2nd TB (SB) when both he and CCM Sylvanus McLeod finished equal on points and wins (1st TB). Michael Hryniw joins both of them in advancing to the KE79 finals after finishing 3rd on 1st TB with two (2) wins. CCM Michael Egan and Martin Lemaire also had four (4) points but managed only one (1) win each.

Congrats to Alex on winning the section and the \$25 Semi-Final prize, and to all three in advancing to the finals.

Here are the final results with full tie-breaks applied:

1. IM Alex Barclay – 4½
2. CCM Sylvanus McLeod – 4½
3. Michael Hryniw - 4
- 4-5. CCM Michael Egan - 4
- 4-5. Martin Lemaire - 4
6. CCE Marc Giroux - 3
7. IM Serge Dubuc – 2
8. Edward Thompson – 1½

KE80 – 2024 Canadian Championship

KE80 is being played for the first time under the new format (see **CCCA TOURNAMENT CALENDAR** below for full details) and is comprised of the 13 highest rated applicants. It started on January 1, 2024 with an average rating of 2269, and features nine (9) titled players: 1 SIM, 3 IMs and 5 CCMs. [KE80 ICCF Crosstable](#)

The prize pool of \$290 (90% of entry fees) will be distributed as follows:

1st-\$145, 2nd-\$90, 3rd-\$55

NOTE: Full Tiebreaks will be used for both the title and cash prizes.

Standings as of November 4, 2024 with full tie-breaks applied (and remaining games):

1. IM Alex Barclay – 6 (1)
2. Ralph Marconi - 6
3. CCM Michael Egan – 5½ (2)
- 4-5. Dan Friedman – 5½ (1)
- 4-5. CCM Sylvanus McLeod – 5½ (1)
6. IM Sam Sharpe – 5½ (1)
7. CCM Stephan Brault – 4½ (3)
- 8-9. CCM Marius Zubac – 4½ (3)
- 8-9. IM George Bukowski – 4½ (3)
10. CCE Parker Wieck – 3½ (5)
11. CCM Johnny Owens – 2½ (7)
12. Maurice Carter – 2½ (5)
13. SIM Wayne Hynes - 1(10)

O2024 – 2024 Nationwide Open

The newly reintroduced Nationwide Open is being played for the first time under the new format (see **CCCA TOURNAMENT CALENDAR** below for full details) and saw 11 players sign up. It started on May 1, 2024 with an average rating of 2060, and features six(6) titled players: 3 IMs, 2 CCMs and 1 CCE. [O2024 ICCF Crosstable](#)

The prize pool of \$150 (90% of entry fees) will be distributed as follows:

1st-\$75, 2nd-\$45, Top finisher from bottom half of start ratings-\$30

NOTE: Full Tiebreaks will be used for both the title and cash prizes.

Standings as of November 4, 2024 with full tie-breaks applied (and remaining games):

1. IM Sam Sharpe – 7
 2. IM Alex Barclay – 6½ (1)
 3. CCM Andrew Atkins – 6 (2)
 4. Dan Friedman – 6 (2)
 5. CCE John Boyd - 6 (1)
 6. IM Serge Dubuc*** - 4 (2)
 7. Desmond Maley*** - 1½ (3)
 8. Ed Allenby*** - 1½ (2)
 9. CCM Johnny Owens - 1(8)
 10. Guillaume Durou*** - ½ (2)
 11. Jacques Brun*** - 0 (2)
- *** signifies eligibility for special prize

D82 – 2024 Challengers

The newly reintroduced Challengers tournament is being played for the first time under the new format (see **CCCA TOURNAMENT CALENDAR** below for full details) and saw five(5) players sign up. It started on Sep.01 2024 with an average rating of 2130, and features three(3) titled players: 2 IMs and 1 CCMs. [D82 ICCF Crosstable](#)

The prize pool of \$40 (50% of entry fees) and K82 qualifications will be distributed as follows:

1st-\$40 + K82 entry, 2nd & 3rd -K82 entry

NOTE: Full Tiebreaks will be used for both the title and cash prizes.

Standings as of November 4, 2024 with full tie-breaks applied (and remaining games):

1. IM Alex Barclay – 2 (5)
2. IM Sam Sharpe - 1½ (5)
3. Arthur Prystenski – ½ (7)
4. CCM Stephan Brault – 0 (8)
5. Ed Allenby- 0 (7)

CCCA TOURNAMENT CALENDAR

The CCCA's domestic calendar currently consists of three(3) ICCF-rated tournaments. If you wish to propose an additional event to be organized as either a regular or special one-time tournament, please reach out and it can be discussed.

(K) Canadian Championship

This is the premier tournament on the CCCA calendar and will be contested by up to 13 players to determine our new Canadian Champion. The top three (3) finishers from the D-series can qualify and the remainder of the field will be determined based on the highest rated applicants. In addition to the title of Canadian Correspondence Champion, cash prizes are available to the top finishers.

Start: January

Entry Deadline: December 15

Entry fee: \$25

Qualification:

All CCCA members can apply to play, with 13 players maximum. Up to 3 qualifiers will come from the linked D-series event and the remainder of the field will be determined based on the highest rated applicants using the final ICCF rating list of the year (yyyy/4).

Format: Up to 12 games, based upon the number of entries

2-7 - Double round-robin

8-13 - Single round-robin

Time Control: ICCF standard 10 moves in 50 days, duplication after 20 days

Leave: 45 days per calendar year

Prizes: (pool is 90% of entry fees)

1st = ~50%; Canadian Correspondence Chess

Champion title, CCCA Master title

2nd = ~30%; half CCCA Master norm

3rd = ~20%; half CCCA Master norm

Tie-Breaks: Full TBs to be applied to both cash prizes and title.

NOTES: A positive score (> 50% of the possible points) is required for cash prizes. The free D-qualifiers count as paid entries towards the prize pool.

(O) Nationwide Open

The Nationwide Open is open to all CCCA members and features cash prizes for the top finishers. Additionally, there will be a special cash prize for the highest finisher who started the tournament in the bottom half of the rating list. There's something for everyone in the Nationwide Open!

Start: May

Entry Deadline: April 15

Entry fee: \$15

Qualification:

Open to all CCCA members.

Format: Up to 10 games, based upon the number of entries

2-6 - Double round-robin
7-11 - Single round-robin
12+ - Silli pairing system (10 games)

Time Control: ICCF standard 10 moves in 50 days,
duplication after 20 days
Leave: 45 days per calendar year

Prizes: (pool is 90% of entry fees)
1st = ~50%
2nd = ~30%
Top finisher from bottom half of start ratings =
~20%

Tie-Breaks: Full TBs to be applied to prizes.

NOTES: A positive score (> 50% of the possible points) is required for all prizes, except "Top finisher from bottom half of start ratings." Only one (1) cash prize per player.

(D) Challengers

This is open to all CCCA members and the top three (3) finishers can gain free entry to the linked K-event. There is also a winner-take-all cash prize as an added bonus. The Challengers will use the ICCF's triple-block time control to ensure that it will finish within a year in order to determine qualifiers to the linked K-event.

Start: September
Entry Deadline: August 15
Entry fee: \$15

Qualification:
Open to all CCCA members.

Format: Up to 10 games, based upon the number of entries
2-6 - Double round-robin
7-11 - Single round-robin
12+- Silli pairing system (10 games)

Time Control: Triple-Block to complete within a year (50 days + 1 Increment, Initial Bank 75 days)
Leave: None (standard for triple block time controls)

Prizes: (pool is 50% of entry fees)
1st = 100%, qualifies to the next K-event
2nd = qualifies to the next K-event
3rd = qualifies to the next K-event

Tie-Breaks: Full TBs to be applied to both cash prize and advancement.

NOTES: A positive score (> 50% of the possible points) is required for both cash prize and qualification to the K-series. As there can be up to three free qualifications to the K-series (valued at \$25 each), only a single cash prize will be awarded.

(P) Private Matches (unrated):

Entry fee: \$6 (4-games) or \$5 (2 games) per match, not per player
Entry Deadline: on-demand
Restrictions: Open to all CCCA members

You can play in an unrated Private Match on the ICCF server by challenging a friend to play a two(2) or four(4) game match. Once you have agreed to the match conditions with your partner, let me know.

Note: Due to technical restrictions on the ICCF server, a 4-game match will be created as two, 2-game matches.

ENTRY FEE PAYMENT:

There are two standard methods for payment:

1) Interac e-Transfer: Send an eTransfer to CCCChess@gmail.com

2) PayPal: Send a PayPal payment to CCCChess@gmail.com

For both methods of payment, provide the reason for payment in the message section of the payment (e.g. K80 entry, ICCF WS/M entry, CCCA 2-year pdf membership, ICCF WS/M entry + 2-year CCCA pdf entry, etc...). If there is not enough space available, please send an email with the payment details to CCCChess@gmail.com.

If neither of these options work for you, please contact us via email to arrange an alternate payment method.

TITLES Section

ICCF Grandmasters

Jonathan Berry, Jean Hébert, Robert Kiviaho,
Duncan Suttles, Alexander Ugge

ICCF Senior International Masters

Jocelyn Cote, Wayne Hynes, David M. MacLeod,
Artur Mrugala, C. Paré, Denis Pineault, John
Wright

ICCF International Masters

Alex Barclay, Michel Boulanger, Stephen Boyd,
George Bukowski, Eugen Demian, Serge Dubuc, Al
Fichaud, Pierre Jean, Richard Labonté, Serge
Maurer, Sam Sharpe, Pino Verde

ICCF Correspondence Chess Master

Andrew Atkins, Stephan Brault, Michael Dufour,
Michael Egan, Jean-Pierre Fundaro, Peter Green,
Martin Lemaire, Ian MacTilstra, Sylvanus McLeod,
Francois Michaud, Paul Morley, Craig Sadler,
Benoit St. Pierre, Robert Villeneuve, Marius Zubac

ICCF Correspondence Chess Expert

John Boyd, Marc Giroux, Ryan Lackey, Vas
Sladek,
Parker Wieck

ICCF International Arbiters

Eugen Demian, J. Ken MacDonald, Ralph P.
Marconi

CCCA Masters

Michael Bristol, David Cohen, Joe Deidun Jr.,
Michael Hryniw, Philip Jurgens, J. Ken
MacDonald, Ian MacTilstra, Murray Marchant,
Gordon Morrell, Arthur Prystenski, Benoit St.
Pierre, Sam Sharpe, Vas Sladek, Pino Verde,
Asbjorn Woldmo

CCCA Senior Candidate Masters

George Huczek, Martial Larochelle, Craig Sadler

CCCA Candidate Masters

Eugene O. Cornblum, Michel Fortin, Stephen
Humphreys, Larry Neubauer, Marc Giroux, Bob
Taylor

RECENT RESULTS

KE791

Zubac, M = Carter, M

KE80

Brault, S = Wieck, P
Marconi, R = Bukowski, G
Bukowski, G = Barclay, A
Egan, M = Sharpe, S
Marconi, R = Hynes, W
Brault, S = Egan, M
McLeod, S = Bukowski, G
Friedman, D = Carter, M
Egan, M = Wieck, P
Sharpe, S = Bukowski, G
Egan, M = Bukowski, G
McLeod, S = Carter, M
Marconi, R = Zubac, M
Sharpe, S = Zubac, M
Egan, M = Zubac, M
Zubac, M = Friedman, D
Zubac, M = McLeod, S
Barclay, A 1-0 Carter, M
Carter, M = Marconi, R
Carter, M = Bukowski, G
Zubac, M = Barclay, A
Zubac, M = Brault, S
Sharpe, S = Owens, J
Egan, M = Marconi, R
Wieck, P = Sharpe, S
Sharpe, S = Friedman, D
Bukowski, G = Zubac, M
Sharpe, S = Hynes, W
Carter, M = Zubac, M
Bukowski, G = Brault, S
Marconi, R = Sharpe, S
Brault, S = Sharpe, S

O2024

Durou, G 0-1 Boyd, J
Barclay, A = Atkins, A
Owens, J = Barclay, A
Allenby, E 0-1 Sharpe, S
Boyd, J 1-0 Brun, J
Friedman, D 1-0 Allenby, E
Sharpe, S 1-0 Maley, D
Allenby, E 0-1 Dubuc, S
Allenby, E 0-1 Atkins, A

Boyd, J 1-0 Maley, D
 Sharpe, S = Barclay, A
 Brun, J 0-1 Friedman, D
 Durou, G 0-1 Sharpe, S
 Dubuc, S = Atkins, A
 Dubuc, S = Boyd, J
 Barclay, A 1-0 Dubuc, S
 Dubuc, S 1-0 Brun, J
 Maley, D 0-1 Barclay, A
 Maley, D 1-0 Brun, J
 Sharpe, S 1-0 Brun, J
 Friedman, D 1-0 Dubuc, S
 Maley, D = Allenby, E
 Durou, G = Dubuc, S
 Atkins, A 1-0 Maley, D
 Sharpe, S = Owens, J
 Dubuc, S = Sharpe, S
 Atkins, A = Sharpe, S
 Sharpe, S = Friedman, D
 Boyd, J = Sharpe, S
 Maley, D 0-1 Friedman, D

D82

Sharpe, S = Barclay, A
 Barclay, A = Sharpe, S
 Allenby, A 0-1 Barclay, A
 Prystenski, A = Sharpe, S

ICCF RATINGS Section

Ratings use list ICCF 2024/4
 (Title); NE=Not Established; (i)=ICCF “inactive”
 designation

Top 10 Players (active)

1. Zubac, M (CCM) 2475
2. Boulanger, M (IM) 2448
3. Verde, P (IM) 2442
4. Atkins, A (CCM) 2432
5. Labonte, R (IM) 2430
6. Bukowski, G (IM) 2415
7. Sharpe, S (IM) 2412
8. Hynes, W (SIM) 2405
9. Jean, P (IM) 2404
10. Barclay, A (IM) 2392

Alberta

Bukowski, G (IM) 2415
 Durou, Guillaume 1865
 Michaud, F (CCM) 2090
 Wieck, P (CCE) 2301

British Columbia

Berry, J(i) (GM) 2545
 Boyd, J (CCE) 2261
 Demian, E (IM) 2339
 Kelly, P 1581
 McPherson, G 2194
 Satanove, H(i) 1800
 Woldmo, A(i) 1817

Manitoba

Prystenski, A 2084

New Brunswick

Brun, J 1698
 Moore, A 1301

Nova Scotia

McLeod, R(i) NE

Ontario

Allenby, E 1500
 Atkins, A (CCM) 2432
 Barclay, A (IM) 2392
 Brault, S (CCM) 2321
 Carrier, M(i) NE
 Cornblum, E(i) 2308
 de Breyne, V 2082
 Deidun, J Jr.(i) 2108
 Egan, M (CCM) 2315
 Friedman, D 2270
 Giroux, Marc (CCE) 2262
 Green, P (CCM) 2293
 Hynes, W (SIM) 2405
 Kiviaho, B(i) (GM) 2518
 Lackey, R (CCE) 2265
 Laughlin, B 2293
 Lemaire, M (CCM) 2347
 MacDonald, JK(i) 2350
 MacLeod, D(i) (SIM) 2499
 Maley, D 1604
 Manarin, F 1903

| | |
|--------------------|------|
| Marcu, V | 2232 |
| McLeod, S (CCM) | 2387 |
| Oaker, W(i) | 2214 |
| Sharpe, S (IM) | 2412 |
| Simpson, C(i) | 1800 |
| Stewart, M(i) | 1800 |
| Thompson, E | 1765 |
| Ugge, A(i) (GM) | 2594 |
| Verde, P (IM) | 2442 |
| Wright, J(i) (SIM) | 2510 |
| Young, M(i) | 1800 |

Québec

| | |
|----------------------|-------|
| Boulanger, M (IM) | 2448 |
| Bourgault, J | 2249 |
| Bourgoin, C | 1467 |
| Cazelais, M | 1800 |
| Dubuc, S (IM) | 2038 |
| Dufour, M (CCM) | 2253 |
| Fundaro, JP (CCM) | 2328 |
| Hryniw, M | 2046 |
| Jean, P (IM) | 2404 |
| Labonte, R (IM) | 24330 |
| Marconi, R | 2002 |
| Maurer, S (IM) | 2157 |
| Pare, C(i) (SIM) | 2332 |
| Pineault, D(i) (SIM) | 2538 |

Saskatchewan

| | |
|--------------|------|
| Huczek, G(i) | 2200 |
|--------------|------|

Canadians Living Abroad

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Zubac, M (CCM) | 2475 |
|----------------|------|

Foreign

| | |
|----------------|------|
| Berger, B | 1981 |
| Carter, M | 2278 |
| Neubauer, L(i) | 2293 |
| Owens, J (CCM) | 2353 |

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY TEAM MATCHES

CCM Martin Lemaire is our coordinator for the International Friendly Team Match events. There is no entry fee to enter and play in the matches with other countries.

The only requirement is that you maintain your CCCA membership throughout the duration of the match.

Each player on each board plays two games with his/her opponent. Please report any results or problems to Martin as soon as they occur. A complete list of the on-going matches and results can be found by going to the CCCA web-site. Please check the results there occasionally to make sure that we have not missed your result.

Upcoming matches

Martin is actively contacting other countries and challenging them to matches. If you are interested in playing, please let him know. Likewise, if anyone has a country in mind that they would like us to challenge, please drop him a line as well. Provided the country is an ICCF member country and he can find a contact person, he will do my best to get a match started.

Matches in Progress

Canada (0) vs Cuba (0)

Canada (0) vs USA (0)

Completed Matches

Canada (13 ½) vs Latvia (18½)

Canada (18) vs Sweden (22)

