

ICCA Newsletter



Issue 19 – Autumn 2000

Irish Correspondence Chess Association
4 Wainsfort Avenue, Terenure, Dublin 6W

Games, other CC information and suggestions for future issues are welcome and should be sent to the above address.

<http://www.esatclear.ie/~bhenrick>

ICCA AGM

The AGM of the ICCA was held at 11.30am on 1st July in the Teacher's club, Parnell Square, Dublin. Six of us showed up: Jack Killane, David Blair, Tim Harding, Basil Henrick, Oisín O'Siochrú and Jonathan O'Connor.

David Blair, our hard-working secretary, had announced he was stepping down. However, his arm was twisted, and he kept his arduous task of secretary, but also took over from Tom Clarke as treasurer.

There was no Treasurer's Report. However, Jack Killane passed on the following accounts for publication. Please note, punt and sterling accounts merged on IR£1 = stg£1

	1999/00	1998/99
Opening Balance	966.19	500.07
Income		
Membership Fees	218.00	450.50
Correspondence Cards	71.50	89.00
ICCA/ICCF Tournament Fees	40.50	135.50
Donations to Heidenfeld Tournament	159.00	-
Miscellaneous Receipts	-	90.47
Total Income	489.00	765.47
Expenditure		
Correspondence Cards	169.00	-
ICCF Fees	107.19	135.86
Grants	50.00	50.00
ICU Affiliation	10.00	-
Postage and Phones	50.00	53.22
Miscellaneous Expenses	19.83	23.70
Bulletins (Printing)	-	23.57
BPCF Affiliation	-	13.00
Total Expenditure	406.02	299.35
Closing Balance	1049.17	966.19

NEWSLETTER ISSUES

Hands up those with red asterisks on the front of the newsletter! Well we haven't received any subscriptions from you for this year. Its likely that we didn't get anything from you last year either. So please send the appropriate fee immediately to David Blair (Sterling), or Jack Killane (Irish Pounds) together with any entry fees incurred over the last year. We'd love to keep sending you the newsletter for free, but we lost our sponsorship and thus the drain on our funds has started.

For the next year, I plan to produce 4 issues. The schedule is issue 20 will be out at the end of November, in time for Christmas. Issue 21, the St. Patrick's Day special in early March. Issue 22, Midsummer madness will be out mid-June, and Issue 23 will be upon us mid-September.

To help us with the delivery problems, if you would like an electronic copy, sent before printing, please send me an email

(jonathan_oconnor@hotmail.com). I'll put you on the email list, and you'll receive your copy at least 2 weeks earlier than otherwise.

Yes, we know there have been problems over the last year. Most of these are due to failures to communicate. So to avoid some of these problems, please send all correspondence (wedges of money in brown paper envelopes are nice too) to David Blair.

EMAIL OLYMPIAD

The 1st Email Olympiad has started. There are 48 teams from 47 countries plus the international combined players divided into 4 sections. Ireland play in section D, where on rating, we are the third weakest team. Lull them into a false sense of security – that's my game plan anyway. The strength of the teams is as follows:

Country	Average
Germany	2583
USA	2483
Italy	2465
Norway	2430
Estonia	2410
Czech Rep.	2399
Turkey	2397
Belgium	2388
ICP	2310
Ireland	2291
Guatemala	2249
Kazakhstan	2231

Bd.	Irish Player	Average Opposition
1	Tim Harding	2495
2	Neil Johnson	2430
3	Stephen Gillen	2403
4	Jonathan O'Connor	2368
5	David Blair	2345
6	Michael Sheehan	2329

All but one of my games have started. My basic strategy is to play good solid chess, and be happy with a draw. However, if any of my opponents play too riskily, then I'm ready to pounce. For instance, I have white against Paul Clement, a wonderful old gentleman from Belgium. The game so far is 1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 exd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nxc6 bxc6 6.e5 Qe7 7.Qe2 Nd5 8.c4 Ba6 9.b3 Qh4?! 10.a3 Now after Bc5 11.g3! Bxf2+ 12.Qxf2 Qe4+ 13.Kd1 Qxh1 is very interesting, and I believe winning for white! Win, lose or draw, I'll report back in one of the following issues. Against Brenke (2593 Yoiks!), I played 6.Bg5 against his Najdorf, as although this is very sharp, there are lots of forced draws if White wants to take them. Yeah, I have no shame!

Stephen Gillen has the opposite goal to me. He just wants to win all his games! Ah the innocence of youth!

CHESS LIFE

As I've described my life outside of chess, I thought I better tell you all what's been happening inside chess. Since May,

I've lost or drawn all outstanding email games in preparation (not very auspicious) for the email Olympiad. The fixture list for the event came out in the middle of August. Average rating on board 4 is 2367, which should keep me busy.

I played the Dublin Classic weekender tournament at the end of August. This event was a great success for the Dublin Chess Club, had half the Irish men's OTB Olympiad team, and all the women's team. Sadly, I lost 2 games to tactical oversights. Trying to get my car unclamped (Thank you, Dublin Corporation!) didn't help my concentration. Since then, I've been studying basic tactics every night.

My book buying is on a low at the moment. I bought Kramnik's new book, and sadly, I'm just not very interested in it. The main problem is the sycophantic meanderings of Iakov Damsky.

NEW IM

Tim Harding reports: "ICCA needs a bit of good news right now and here it is: Ireland now has two SIMs and three CC-IMs following Darrell Nightingale's latest win v Sweden, which earns him the ICCF international master title. See http://www.chessmail.com/irish_team.html for further details."

"We also have good chances of two more IMs next year: Gibney and Ryan are doing well in current events."

As they say in Croke Park, "Go on you boys!"

HEIDENFELD MEMORIAL ROCKED BY RESIGNATIONS

The first results have already come in. According to David Blair, Winckelmann sent an article on his favourite Winckelmann-Reimer Gambit (1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 a3 Bxc3+ 5 bxc3 dxe4 6 f3) to Tom Clarke. Tom, a French aficionado, rose to the challenge. Sadly after following the article for a few moves, he diverged, missing a simple combination. He had to resign a few moves later. This loss was too much for Tom to take, and he has now officially resigned all his games.

As if that was not enough, Ciaran O'Hare, due to increased work commitments, has also resigned all his games. To cheer Tom up, in the next issue we will have an interesting game, Winckelmann – Anderton, where Black won in terrific style.

There is good news on the funding. Hoping to get a £100, I asked my club Dublin CC for a donation. Little did I imagine their largesse until they told me they couldn't cover the entire cost, but they would donate half (EUR 500). As if that wasn't enough, a member added another £100 anonymously. Added to the £159 already donated by ICCA members, we only need another 175 euros. Further donations, sterling or punts (brown paper envelope is optional) may be sent to David Blair.

FRIENDLY MATCHES

Ireland-Finland: We've been catching up. We are only five points behind at 14½ - 19½. There's plenty to play for with 20 games left.

Ireland-ASPCC: This one is a tough struggle. Since the last issue, we lost another two games. We are now trailing four points at 10-14, with eight games to finish.

Ireland-USA: This match began in December 1999, and eight games are now finished. We are trailing 3½ - 4½. Yours truly lost a quick game as black, and offered a draw in an apparently won ending in the other game.

Ireland-NCCA: Current scores against the English are 8 - 11. This is a big improvement on the scores reported the last time 5½ - 10½.

Ireland-Czech Republic: We are 2 - 5 down in this friendly match over 22 boards.

Ireland-Denmark: This match started recently over 25 boards.

OUR NEW SECRETARY AND TREASURER

After much cajoling by your editor, David Blair, our secretary and treasurer sent in this brief synopsis of his chess playing career along with three games, you can find on page 4.

"A brief history of the story so far, I am 48 and a printer by profession. I was taught the basics of the game by my friend Billy Irvine at the age of 14. After moving school I was fortunate to encounter a very good teacher Edward Crilly who instilled in me a love for the game. I quickly made the 1st team at school and further honed my skills at the old CIYMS club 3 nights a week! After 2 years I was prompted to enter the Irish School Boys tournament in Dublin and I finished equal 2nd behind David Wilson and equal with Bernard Kiernan and Willie Collins. That summer I represented Ireland in the Glorney Cup losing to England and drawing with Wales. I played in Irish Championships through the 70's my best finish being in Dublin where I got 5pts. I was placed once in a class section in the British Championships winning the princely sum of £30. I finished equal 2nd in a big tournament in the Europa Hotel where there was a strong entry attracted by a prize fund of £2200. I helped to organise and run the Irish Championships in Coleraine and then dropped out of chess for about 8 years before returning to play in and help to organise the Northern Ireland Postal Chess Association. I was one of the movers in bringing about the integrated organisation we now call ICCA."

Just before we went to press, David finished the World Cup XI, section 7, with 7/10 leaving him in 2nd place behind Bergerhoff on 8.5/10. Thus, he qualifies for the ¼ final, although I'm unsure if he still qualifies if IM Kavoks, the only player who can catch David, also scores 7. Well done David!

CLEENISH AND THE ROOSIAN

I spotted the following story written by Cormac O'Connell in "Emigrant Online", a web site devoted to Irish Emigrants. Does anyone remember Bob Goane? Is this his correct name?

"When I was growing up in rural Fermanagh in the Forties there was a man in the parish called Bob Goane who was, by common consent of everybody, a genius. Bob Goane had more brainpower inside his silvery head than the parish priest, the curate in Belcoo, all the teachers in the parish, and even the

President of Saint Michael's Secondary School inside in the town. Bob knew it all and was a modest man besides.

He lived with relations and, at this stage, quite frankly, I cannot remember what he worked at. I do remember, however, that he was not a professional man. His occupation did not match his intellect. In the Fermanagh of the Forties that was not at all unusual. One other thing about Bob Goane - he was a lovely man, a gentle big presence.

It is typical of his level of brainpower that he played chess. There was a great tradition of draughts in the county at the time but only the real gentry away above our ken would have known anything about chess. But Bob Goane, whom nobody would even dare to encounter at draughts, he played chess. And since he had no opponents in the parish then he played correspondence chess with opponents from all over the world.

The postman would come to the house with brown letters with foreign stamps on them. These would contain the move of the overseas opponent. That evening Bob could be spied inside a lit window with his spectacles on, pondering the countermove on the only chessboard in the Parish of Cleenish. And, in due time, he would go down to Cathcarts with a brown envelope to be posted to his opponent.

What we heard, anyway, was that Bob never lost. I can believe that.

Now at this stage of our evolution you will remember that the Iron Curtain was still in being. From the pulpit almost every Sunday we would hear dreadful stories of Catholics being persecuted on the other side of that dark veil. It was about the time of Cardinal Mindzenty and the Columban priests being abused in China and anything to do with the Russians and the Chinese was of dread.

And so, probably through the postman, when it was learned that Bob was engaged in a correspondence chess battle with a Russian General of the Red Army then it was a matter of great interest to all and sundry. Especially when it became clear, after a couple of months of brown envelopes, that, as one Johnny McMullen put it, "This Roosian is a real cute whoreen that has Bob on the run". There is the possibility, at this stage, that additional prayers were added to the Trimmings of the Rosary in every house in the parish. And even that the matter was at least obliquely mentioned in the chapel.

There came a special day, it is remembered, when one envelope arrived from behind the Iron Curtain. It was delivered at dawn. It is recorded that the postman saw Bob open it, study the move, and then, shaking his head in consternation, retreat to a chair by the fire. He is recalled as having uttered the phrase, "I'm in dire straits" as he put on the kettle for the consolation of a pot of tea. The news spread like wildfire that the Roosian had Bob in trouble, as Johnny McMullen put it, "on the western flank - he's gone in for the kill".

It is remembered that for two days the figure of Bob was seen studying his chessboard about every waking hour. And deep into the night too. And it is recorded that suddenly, one midnight, at the end of this session, neighbours heard a loud cheer from the direction of Bob's house, more like a whoop. And the next day, walking proudly and with great dignity, Bob walked

down to Cathcarts and posted his brown letter to Russia. Somebody met him when he was walking home rubbing his hands together and beaming and they thought, afterwards, he was talking about either Czechs (because of the Cardinal Mindzenty story) or about cheques. Sure we knew nothing at all about checkmate at that time.

The Roosian conceded in his next letter. The parish celebrated for a month. The matter was even mentioned from the altar. Bob was a hero of Olympian proportions. A small hole had been punched in the Iron Curtain. Joy unrestrained. I remember it all so well.

It was as big an event then as Sydney has been for the past three weeks. And that's for sure."

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The 5th North Atlantic Team Tournament, NATT-5 will start around Christmas this year. It's a postal competition with 10 players per team. Players interested in that have some time to think about it and a firm appeal for people to declare their availability will follow in the next issue.

ICCF World Cup XII will be announced later for a start in (I think) about August. We will have to put this in the newsletter if details are firmed up in time, as we want a good Irish entry, especially from players not involved in team events.

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

Fees	
£5.00	Annual Subscription
£4.50	100 CC Cards including postage to Ireland/UK
£5.00	100 CC Cards worldwide
£4.00	100 CC Cards worldwide for orders over 500
£?.??	Donation to Heidenfeld

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ANALYSIS CORNER

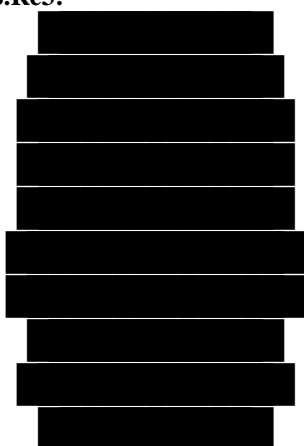
Trying to analyse one's own games is hard enough without having to analyse other peoples. So naturally, I'm not surprised that I overlooked some nice tactics in the following game from the last issue:

Henrick,B - Winkler,E

EU/II/GT/193, 1999

Notes by Basil Henrick

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Nf3 Qc7 8.a4 b6 9.Bb5+ Bd7 10.Bd3 Nbc6 11.0-0 h6 12.Re1 0-0 13.Ba3 13...c4?! 14.Bf1 Rfe8 15.Nh4 Qd8 16.f4 Nc8? 17.Qh5 Na5 18.Re3!



setting a trap by offering the a-pawn **18...Bxa4? 19.Rg3+-** You say it's "not so clear" after **19...Bxc2 20.Qxh6 Bg6 etc** Indeed, I feel that black is better in this position and my attempted attack looks pathetic after **Bxc2** white has an easy win after **20.f5!** tears the black position apart with a subtle temporary closure of the b1-h7 diagonal. In fact, black must surrender the rook to stave off mate **20...Re7 20...exf5 21.Qxh6 g5 (21...g6 22. Nxc6) 22.Bf8! Rxf8 23.Ng6 21.Qxh6** only now do I play this **21...Qf8 22.f6! g6 23.Qxf8+ Kxf8 24.fxe7+** game over. [Ed: Correct, but let me add one more trick. If **18...f5** to block up the king-side then **19.Rg3! Kh8 20.Rxg7!** wins **Kxg7 21.Qg6+ Kh8 22.Qxh6+ Kg8 23.Ng6** with mate coming soon.]

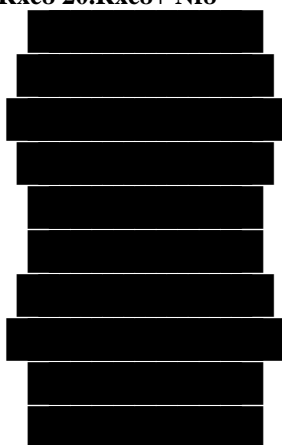
[For the record, the game ended **18...Kh7 19.Qxf7 Qxh4?? 20.Rg3 1-0]**

Kazoks,A - Blair,D [B01]

IXXΦ Ορορλδ Χυπ11 EM πρελ εμαιλ, 1997

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 Qa5 5.d4 c6 6.Bc4 Bf5 7.0-0 The main line nowadays is **7 Bd2 e6 8 Qe2. 7...e6 8.Re1 Nbd7** Auvinen-Pihlajamaki Helsinki 1997 went **8...Be7 9.Re5 1-0** in 18. **9.Bd2 Qb6 Qc7** comes into serious consideration **10.Qe2 Bg4**

10.Bxc2 is speculative against a strong opponent, in the course of the game Kazoks became an IM. **11.d5** Looks dangerous but Black takes it in his stride. **11...cxd5 12.Nxd5 Nxd5 13.Bxd5 Bd6** Qxb2 is asking for trouble **14.h3 0-0!** If **14...Bh5** the sacrifice on e6 might not be sound but why take the risk? [**14...Bh5 15.Bxe6 fxe6 16.Qxe6+ Kd8] 15.hxg4 exd5 16.Bc3 Bc5** I was always very happy with this isolated pawn position as black has very active play **17.Rad1 Rae8 18.Qxe8** [18.Qd2 looks a better try, to play against the isolated d-pawn, but of course White does not have an ideal pawn structure either.] **18...Bxf2+ 19.Kf1 Rxe8 20.Rxe8+ Nf8**



At first sight this looks dangerous for black but I had calculated correctly that whites King position is at least as precarious as blacks **21.Rxd5 Bg3 22.Bd4 Qa6+ 23.Kg1 Bd6** In this position with an insecure White king and dodgy pawns, the queen seems a match for the rooks despite the pin on Black's knight. **24.Ra8 Qc6 25.c4 b5 26.Rd8 Be7 27.Ne5 Qh6 28.Re8 Qc1+ 29.Kh2 Qf4+ 30.Kh3 h5 31.g3** Settling f or a draw. White has had enough of Black's tricks and doesn't want to risk. [31.Rxe7 h4 32.Kxh4 Qf6+ 33.Kg3 Qxe7] **31...hxg4+** A good result against the strong Latvian IM. 1/2-1/2

Blair,D - Zelinski,P [E39]

Class1.110 IECG email, 1998

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 c5 5.dxc5 0-0 6.a3 Bxc5 7.Nf3 b6 8.Bg5 Nc6 This is less often played than **Bb7** but is quite acceptable, the problem is Black gets 2 systems mixed up! **9.Rd1** There are 3 other plans here either **9.0-0, e4** or **e3** are possible. **9...Bb7 10.e4 Be7 11.Qd2!?** Polgar-Scholsser Brno 1993 continued **11.Be2** and drawn in 15 moves! **11...Rc8± 11.Qc7/d6** and **h6** are all better options **12.e5 Ng4 13.Qxd7 Qxd7 14.Rxd7 Bxg5 15.Nxg5 Na5** White only has a small advantage here

16.f4 Ne3 17.Kf2

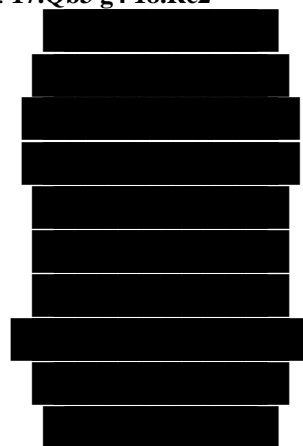


17...Nxc4? much better is **Nxf1** with a slight advantage to white **18.b4** The point no matter how black wriggles he sheds material relatively best is **18. h6 Nh3 19.Nxe5 fxe5 20.Rxc3 bxa5** which is hardly attractive. **1-0**

Olsen,J - Blair,D [E99]

ICCF World Cup11 prel corr, 1997

1.Nf3 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.d4 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Ne1 9.b4, Nd2 and **Bg5** are other ways of playing this position **9...Nd7 10.f3 f5 11.Be3 f4 12.Bf2 g5 13.Rc1 13.a4** is a quicker plan **13...Ng6 14.Nd3 Nf6 15.c5 Rf7 16.cxd6 cxd6** This line with **Nd3** is good for Black according to Nunn & Burgess in *The New Classical King's Indian*. **17.Qb3 g4 18.Rc2**



Now comes the thematic breakthrough. **18...g3! 19.hxg3 fxg3 20.Bxg3 Nh5 21.Bf2 21.Bh2** is another try **21...Qg5 22.Rd1 Ngf4 23.Nxf4 Nxf4 24.Bf1 24.g3 Nh3+25.Kg2** is maybe ok for white **24...Nh3+ 25.Kh1 Kh2= 25...Nxf2+ 26.Rxf2 Qh6+ 27.Kg1 Bf6 28.g3 Bg5 Bd8** is the other try **29.Rh2 Qf8 30.Rd3** Defeatist but **30.Rf2 Be3; 30.Be2 (or Bg2) Rxf3 31.Bxf3 Qxf3** with a very strong attack for Black. **30...Rxf3 31.Rxf3 Qxf3 32.Nd1 Qxe4 33.Nf2 Be3 34.Bd3 Qf3 35.Bxh7+ Kf8 36.Qc2 Bg4! 37.Be4 Qxg3+ 38.Rg2 Qf4** The black rook will enter the fray with

GAMES SECTION

the knockout blow! **0-1**