

Exchanging one advantage for another. As here, it is rarely advisable to allow your fianchettoed Bishop to be swapped off. Black will miss the Bg7 later on, as white will profit from its' absence by attacking the black king on the weakened black-square complex. **14...Kxg7 15.Qc2** The Queen has nothing more to do on b3, so she retreats to c2 when 15...Nc5 will not gain a tempo, and now will have to be prepared by 15...a5, preventing 16.b4. **15...a5 16.e3** A nice positional move. White blunts the Re8, discourages f5-f4, and clears e2 for knight-manoeuvres. **16...Kg8** So that Qc3 will not be check and win a pawn, for instance [16...Nc5 17.Na4 Na6 (17...Ne4 18.Rac1 Re7 19.Re1±) 18.Qc3+ Kg8 19.Qxa5 Bd7 20.Nc3± The Queen is temporarily out of play on a5, but a pawn is "a-pawn"!] **17.Rac1 Nc5** Putting the knight to work, and blocking the sensitive c-file. **18.Nf4** White's knight also joins the fray. The e6-square looks inviting. Even after an exchange, d5xe6 would open up the white bishop's diagonal, free d5 for occupation by pieces, and target the weak-point at b7. **18...Bd7 19.Nce2!** Re-locating with Nc3-e2-d4 has a couple of advantages. It puts more pressure on e6, as well as vacating the c-file. **19...Qe7 20.Nd4**

To be continued.....

Editors Notes

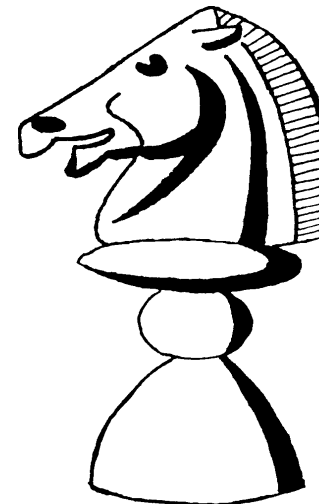
Hope everyone remembered to buy lots of stamps before the latest increase in prices, 46 pence for a first class stamp and 36 pence for a second class stamp.

TO ALL TOURNAMENT CONTROLLERS

**PLEASE SEND IN COPY FOR THE
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Issue No 321 April 2011

Readers Letters

How about a chess items for sale section, say on the back page?

A For Sale section would be good. I have a box of chess books in the garage that could go I suppose. But I am a manic for buying books—as my darling wife buys handbags and shoes. Although I did get those magnetic CD's, which I still use...Charles Neil.

Do you feel that the annual subscription of £6-00 is about right?

Subscriptions up to £10 would be fine by me. Chess players are notoriously stingy (apart from book buying). But the majority would have to realise that the SCCA is still good value for money. In the CT and KO tourney's Ray Pomeroy supplies FREE scorecards. The price of stamps will always climb in the coming years. I hope that the stipulation that playing by post remains the "default setting". It is my preference as I enjoy getting the cards and using my notebooks. I'm not wealthy but my experience of email chess and webserver is not as enjoyable. I hope postal play remains the first option.....Charles Neil

Premier Club Tournament

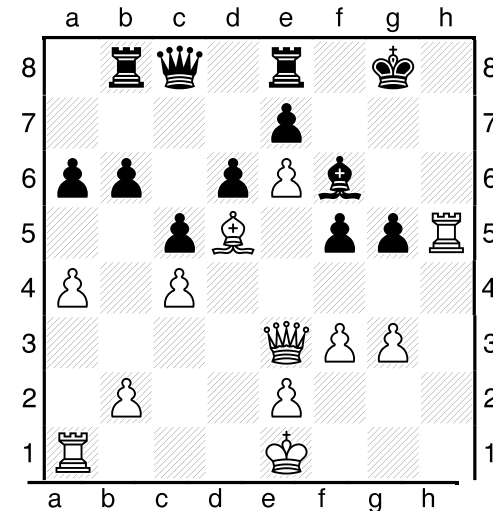
The League set up to encompass the SCCA Club Championship seems a good idea to me (but I'd never get out of the bottom divisions).....Charles Neil

Suggestions

Now here's something. I think a Thematic Tournament might be a good idea. Two Selected openings, a tourney for each opening. Openings could be the extremely rare, the Grob for example, or mainline Queens Gambit Chigorin for one.....Charles Neil (Further comments from Charles Neil in the next Checkmate).

I sincerely believe, that the way forward for all correspondence chess clubs, is the organisation of email tournaments. I would like to volunteer to run such tournaments.....Arthur Dawkins.

I would really like to see a few games included in the magazine.



1-0, as Black cannot avoid being mated, for example 23...Kf8 24.Rxg5 Rd8 (24...Bxg5 25.Qxg5 etc.) 25.Rg6 Bg7 26.Qg5 etc.] **7.0-0 d6 8.Qb3 Nc6** [Here my theory gives instead 8...Na6 but Black's move looks better, shielding b7, and developing towards the centre (a knight on the rim is dim here!) and also putting pressure on d4. Of course, 8...Nc6 invites white to play d4-d5, but black can then play Ne5, as a result of white's knight being at h3, and not on f3.] **9.Rd1 Re8** A not so mysterious Rook move. Black invites 10.d5, as he will then have the half-open e-file for the Re8, and if white does not play d4-d5, 9...Re8 prepares for an eventual ...e6-e5 as well. **10.d5** [Normal development with 10.Bg5 does not achieve much after 10...h6 etc. so white clears d4 for his Bishop instead.] **10...exd5** [10...Ne5 11.dxe6 (11.c5!?) 11...c6 is another perfectly playable option.] **11.cxd5 Ne5 12.Be3 Neg4** I cannot see much point to this move. The Bishop is going to d4 anyway. **13.Bd4± Nd7** [Insisting on an exchange which is only advantageous for white. If 13...Qe7 14.e3± when White has a solid position with more space and no weaknesses. In other words, an advantage. The c-file and c7-pawn in particular will then be quite troublesome for Black.] **14.Bxg7**

Vivante-Sowter,John (ENG) – Saunders,Steve (CAN) (2468)

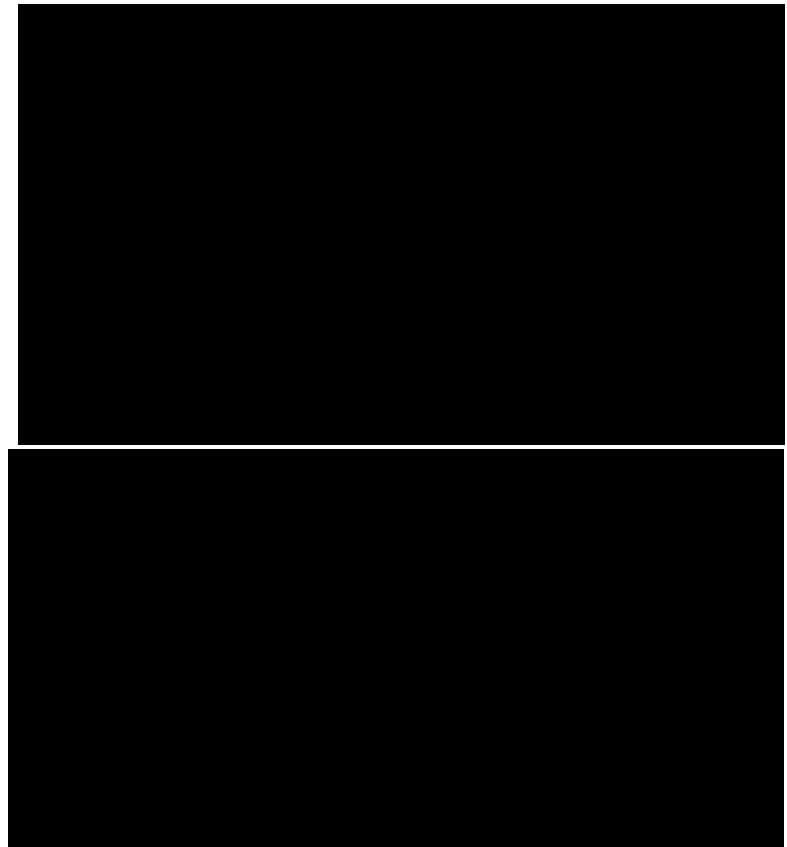
NATT5 Board 7 (2001-2004)

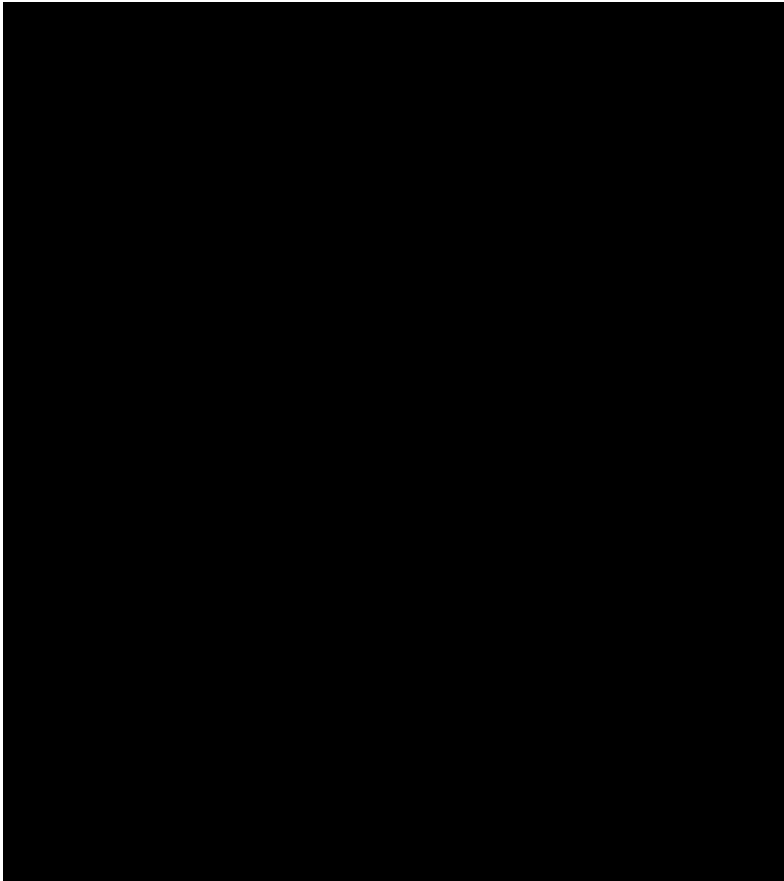
[Vivante-Sowter,John]

The event this game was played in was the first time I ever played for an England team. I was understandably a little bit nervous and played cautiously. However, this back-fired on me, and a combination of insipid opening play by me and some luck on the part of my opponents meant after nine games I had a score of eight draws and one loss. Typically I saved the best until last (compare Hegoburu and F.Huybrecht) and against the highest-rated player... **1.d4 f5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 g6 4.Nh3!?** In general "a knight on the rim is dim" However, in the Leningrad Dutch (...g6 andd6) White can play d4-d5 and later Nh3-f4, with a grip on the white squares, especially sensitive being e6. **4...Bg7 5.c4 0-0 6.Nc3 e6** [This move looked a bit odd to me, especially as black plays 6...d6 next move anyway.; An earlier CC game, JVS-Ian Mason, BPCF Preliminary section P420 (1997) continued: 6...Nc6 7.Nf4 d6 8.d5 Ne5 9.Qb3 c5 10.Bd2 Rb8 11.h4 a6 12.a4 Bd7 13.h5 b6 14.hxg6 hxg6 15.Ne6 Bxe6 16.dxe6 Qc8 17.Bg5 The game continued 17...Re8 (17...Qxe6 looks like it is asking for trouble, e.g. 18.Bxf6 Qxf6 19.Nd5 Qe6 20.Nf4 (20.Nc7!/? Qc8 21.Bd5+ Rf7 22.Bxf7+ Kxf7 23.Nd5 e6 24.Nf4± is not as convincing.) 20...Qf6 21.Bd5+ Nf7 22.Ne6!! Qxb2 (22...Rfc8 23.0-0-0 b5 24.cxb5 c4 25.Qa2 Rb6 (25...c3 26.b4+-) 26.e3! c3 (26...g5 27.f4!) 27.Nxg7 Kxg7 (27...Qxg7 28.Bxf7+ Kf8 (28...Qxf7 29.Rh8+ Kg7 30.Rh7+) 29.Bxg6) 28.Bxf7 cxb2+ (28...Qxf7 29.Rh7+) 29.Kb1 axb5 30.a5+-) 23.Qxb2 Bxb2 24.Rb1 Bc3+ 25.Kd1 Rfc8 26.Ng5 Rf8 27.Kc2 Bf6 28.Nxf7 Rxf7 29.a5! b5 30.cxb5 axb5 31.a6 e6 32.Bxe6 b4 33.Rhd1 Rb6 34.Ra1 b3+ 35.Bxb3 Bxa1 36.Rxa1 Rxb3 37.Kxb3 Ra7 38.Kc4 and wins.) 18.Nd5 Nxd5 19.Bxd5 Ng4 20.f3 Nf6 (20...Ne5 21.g4 b5 22.f4!) 21.Bxf6 Bxf6 22.Qe3 g5 23.Rh5 Diagram

Match Captain's Report March 2011

Firstly, thank you to all who represent the association in external events and help to keep us 'on the map.' The rest of you, do not be afraid to volunteer for teams - it can make your games more meaningful and I shall try to give you opponents of a similar standard. The fewer who offer to represent the association, the more stretched we become! The BCCTC is the main team event in the UK and we have lost two strong players in John Dyson and Edward Sowden, while David Cumming resigned his games on leaving the Association, so we unlikely to be competing for the title this year!





Arthur Dawkins has volunteered to run an email tournament on behalf of the SCCA.

If you want to take part in an email tournament please contact Arthur Dawkins on telephone 01708-788096 or email snikwad132@yahoo.co.uk

1000 Checkmate Combinations

Author: Victor Henkin

Batsford Chess, £15.99

When Mikhail Tal commends a book then it is time to sit up and listen. 1000 checkmate Combinations is a translation of the Russian Chess Classic of which Tal wrote, 'This book will be particularly useful for chess players who are starting their creative life. It serves as a solid guide to the world of chess combinations, explains the significance of many of the 'road signs' and shortens the road to mastery'.

I initially approached this book with a little trepidation as my first impulse when I see a title such as '1000 combinations' is to turn away, there are far too many published books containing database dumps of positions with little to guide the reader other than perhaps a comment that white mates in three. However I decided to look a little further and am glad that I did for this Russian classic is actually very good.

We are given 14 chapters that each look at various pieces with example positions given to explain how they influenced the game, each chapter ends with a series of positions for the reader to solve using the examples previously given. Those chapters include 'Rook & Bishop', 'Two Knights' and 'Queen & Knight'. The 15th chapter provides the problem solutions.

This is a very enjoyable book which you can dip into or study in detail, it was particularly pleasing to find so many games that I have not seen before, for example a correspondence game Tsivits v Gergya (1970-72) which features a Bishop and Knight mate described as a 'real anthem to chess combinations!'.

This book is one Russian Investment that isn't high risk, an excellent example of high quality Russian chess literature.

Calculate Like A Grandmaster

Author: Danny Gormally

Batsford Chess, £14.99

A feast of entertainment awaits the reader of this book of 42 games played since the time of Tal who himself is featured in 8 of the annotated games.

Other star players whose games we focus on include Shirov, Topalov, Morozevich, Anand, Fischer, Karpov, Kasparov and Carlsen with a final chapter 'My own experience' featuring the author himself.

Throughout the book Danny adds entertaining commentary about other matters such as computers, playing online and conditions for chess in the UK.

This is British GM Danny Gormally's first book and hopefully he hasn't run out of steam by doing so well the first time, the game analysis is insightful and to a depth that makes the game interesting without focusing too much on what might have been.

The text is pitched at all players with Batsford placing it into the Strategy/Tactics group and that is a good way to sum this book up, it offers something for the majority of players and should provide a good steer to the right tactics required to overcome strong players.

A variety of openings and defences are featured in the games of these masters, so whether you are a d4 or e4 player, there is something here for you.

