



The Check Is in the Mail

October 2007

THE YOUNGEST CC MASTER ?



Anthony J. Kain has achieved his established USCF CC Master's rating at the age of 18 – as far as I can determine, the youngest US player ever to achieve the title.

Anthony, born in Vero Beach, Florida, on April 7, 1989, is a pre-med student at the Honors College of Florida Atlantic University. Anthony believes that correspondence chess has tremendously increased both his patience and focus, which, he notes, are two great attributes for studying and life in general.

Anthony learned chess from his father. In June of 2004 he began playing chess at the Indian River County chess club. Humberto Cruz, a Florida CC Master, emailed me in February that, "A. J. Kain, a young member of our chess club in Indian River County, Florida, is very excited about the correspondence game and getting quite good at it." Humberto is a great talent scout!

Thus A.J. has played chess for nearly four years and correspondence chess for eight months. He has won the first three events he was entered in and is awaiting entry into the semifinals of the 2006 Electronic Knights which he has qualified for.

GAME OF THE MONTH

Kain demonstrates an interesting equation – $\text{Attack}^2 = \text{Victory}$.

LESSER LONDON LINE (A45)

White: Robert Beavan (2113)

Black: Anthony Kain, (2205)

Walter Muir Webserver 2007

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bf4

An opening without a well-established name, so I suggest the Lesser London Line as it soon transposes into the London System.

2...e6 3.e3 d5 4.Nd2 Bd6 5.Bg3 0-0 6.Bd3 b6 7.c3

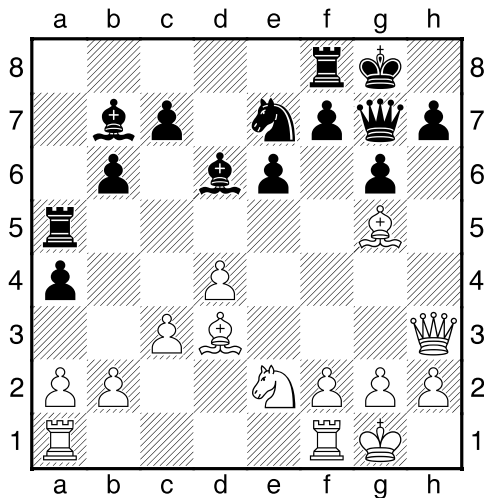
White plans to open up the center as in the Colle, but with his King still in the center, and behind in development.

This position was seen in Ruch-Bollore, AJEC 1990, which continued more peaceably with 7...Bb7 8. Qc2 c5, but then turned into a roughhouse with 9. f4!?

7...a5 8.e4 dxe4 9.Nxe4 Bb7 10.Nxf6+ Qxf6

The outcome of the opening play mildly favors Black.

11.Qh5 g6 12.Qh3 a4 13.Ne2 Nc6 14.0-0 Ne7 15.Bh4 Qg7 16.Bg5 Ra5



A wild west kind of move, defending against White's threat of Bh6 by tactical means. White does not believe such things can be, or he would have elected to play 17. f4! with unclear chances.

17.Bh6 Qf6 18.Bxf8 Rh5 19.Qxh5

White can't try 19. Bxe7 Qxe7 20. Qg4 Bxh2+ 21. Kh1 Rh4 winning for Black.

19...gxh5 20.Bxe7 Bxe7

Point-wise, White is doing OK with two Rooks for the Queen, but Black's two Bishops and mobile Queen have an edge over White's clumsy Rooks.

21.f4 Qg7 22.Rf2 h4

Kain must love Rook Pawns because he has so many of them in this game, and all three of them make their way deep into enemy territory..

23.Raf1 h3!

If White could play Be4 to trade off the laser on b7, White might be able to hold.

24.g3 Bg2 25.Re1

Sooner or later White will have to play 25. Rxc2. I think he should do it sooner to better organize a defense of his King.

25...Bd6 26.f5 e5 27.Bb5

This is the wrong idea: White plays to kill a Rook Pawn, but Kain advances this one and then the other one.

27...a3 28.bxa3 h5 29.Rxc2! hxc2 30.Kxc2 Qg4 31.Rf1 h4

Kain's style is very determined: Non-attacking moves are not considered.

32.Bd3 h3+ 33.Kg1 e4 34.Bc4 c5 35.dxc5

The most painful thing about correspondence chess is defending a difficult position week after week (or day after day by email). As the position opens up, White's King faces more and more problems. White had to try the computer-defense with 35. Kf2 and Ke1 though Black stands better.

35...Bxc5+ 36.Kh1 Bd6!

Black will reposition his Bishop on e5 and then plan the invasion by ...Qd2 when White will be helpless against the disappearance of his queenside.

37.Nd4 Qg5 38.Be2 Be5 39.Rd1

Of course 39. Nb3 is punished by 39...Qe3.

39...Bxd4 40.cxd4 Qxf5

Technically material is even, but with his King in a box, the passed e-Pawn,

and uncoordinated pieces, White is busted.

41.Kg1 e3 42.Rf1 Qc2 0-1

Anthony begins college this fall. Good skill in mastering those classes, AJ !

2006 IOWA CC CHAMPIONSHIP



John Knudsen keeps adding kudos to his resume – second in the 1988 ASPCC, 2nd board in the 15 Olympiad, the “Chessdude cartoons,” an IM title followed by his SIM in 2004, the John F. Cleeve Memorial book reviewed last month, the 2005 Iowa State CC championship, and now a repeat as the 2006 champion. Way to go, John !

2006 IOWA STATE FINALS

John Knudsen	2356			1	1	=	1	1	1	=	1	7-1
Steven Patterson	1843	0	0			=	=	1	1	=	1	4 ½3½
Hank Anzis	1459	=	0	=	=			0	=	=	=	3-5
Shawn Kmetz	2016	0	0	0	0	1	=			=	1	3-5
Craig Brophy	1837	=	0	=	0	=	=	=	0			2½-5½

Reuben Fine used to say that a Pawn was worth a finger. In this game from the championship, John grabs a Pawn in the opening and then skillfully disentangles himself into a winning endgame.

FRENCH DEFENSE (C18)

White: John Knudsen 2356)

Black: Steve Patterson (1943)

2006 Iowa State CC 2007

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Qc7 7.Qg4 Ne7 8.Qxg7 Rg8 9.Qxh7 cxd4 10.Ne2 Nbc6 11.f4 Bd7 12.Qd3 dxc3 13.Nxc3 a6 14.Ne2 0-0-0 15.Bd2 Nf5 16.h3 Nce7 17.g4 Bb5 18.Qc3 Qxc3 19.Nxc3 Bc6 20.Ne2 d4 21.Rh2 Nh4 22.0-0-0 d3 23.Nc3 Bf3 24.Re1 dxc2 25.Re3 Bc6 26.Rf2 Kb8 27.Kxc2 Rd7 28.Rd3 Rc7 29.Kb2 Rgc8 30.Be3 Nd5 31.Bc5 Bb5 32.Rxd5 exd5 33.Bd6 Bc6 34.Ne2 Ka7 35.Bxc7 Rxc7 36.Nd4 Re7 37.Kc3 Kb6 38.Bd3 a5 39.Rb2+ Kc5 40.Nb3+ Kb6 41.Kd4 Nf3+ 42.Ke3 Nh4 43.Kf2 Ng6 44.Kg3 a4 45.Nd4+ Kc5 46.Nf5 Rc7 47.Rc2+ Kb6 48.Nd6 Nh8 49.Kh4 Rd7 50.Kg5 d4 51.Rc4 Rd8 52.Rxd4 1-0

CC RATINGS ONLINE

The correspondence ratings are now a lot easier to find. As of 21 September (as this may change) you no longer need MapQuest. Just go to www.uschess.org then to “Resources” “Correspondence chess” and on the “Correspondence chess” page you will find Ratings.

SEPTEMBER TOURNAMENT WINNERS

John Collins

Lorenzo Eisma	05CD11	6-0
Sherlock McNab	05CB04	5 ½-½
Thomas Haggard	05C39	4-2
Mike Webb	05CD08	6-0

Walter Muir

Shane Lewis	06W06	6-0
Joe Hoffmann	07W16	4 ½-1 ½
Anthony Ragan	07W16	4 ½-1 ½
William Evans	07W01	6-0
Michael Hensley	06W21	4-2
Frank Serneels	06W21	4-2
William Evans	07W21	6-0

Express Tournament

Michael Quirk	07ET03	5 ½½
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WEB WATCH

QueenAlice is a free webserver where you can play correspondence chess with an international flavor. Supported in part by membership donation, located at www.queenalice.com, QueenAlice has been operating since 2004. I found the site very user-friendly. Upon entering, you are placed in a tournament of four players. The winner of the tournament goes on to the next round.

The games are rated based on the USCF Elo system. There are about 2700 members of the club, all playing CC. One innovation that I particularly liked is that there is a choice of two kinds of time controls, per move and per game. The per move time controls are 1,3,7, and 14 days per move; the per game time

controls are 10,30,60, and 90 days per player. I would like to hear from theorists out there: Is this dual time control better, worse, or just different from the standard 10 moves in 30 days time control of the USCF CC?

As an example of some of the fun available at Queen Alice, here is a game of mine from Round One of the introductory tournament.

QUEEN'S GAMBIT ACCEPTED(D25)

White: Alex Dunne

Black: conqueror

QueenAlice, 2007

1.d4 d5 2.c4 dxc4 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.e3 Bg4
5.Bxc4 g6 6.Bxf7+ Kxf7 7.Ne5+ Kg7
8.Nxg4 Nbd7 9.Nc3 e6 10.0-0 Bd6
11.e4 Be7 12.Bh6+ Kf7 13.d5 Nxg4
14.dxe6+ Kxe6 15.Qb3+ Ke5 16.f4+
Kf6 17.Nd5+ Kf7 18.Nxc7+ Kf6
19.Qe6# 1-0

Quote: Over the board masters in the main tend to belittle correspondence chess. Somehow it irks them to think that some players whom they would have no trouble in defeating over the board are capable of producing – certainly with considerable labor – games of a higher standard than the average over-the-board master tourneys.” – C. J. S. Purdy

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

SING ALONG WITH TEMKIN

Michael Temkin of Elkins Park, PA has sent in a correspondence chess song parody. Sting fans may shudder, but here is Michael's rendition of "King of Pain" by the Police.

KING of GREED

It seems that I'm a Pawn up today.
I got her response yesterday.
I took in the corner with the Queen
Just a move to consolidate is all I need.

I've got a few Days to think on this one
This opponent is harder than Attila the Hun
You can have time and space as long as you scream
Take six moves for a Pawn – I'm the King of Greed!

I'm happy with my position,
Attack for all I care –
I'm improving my position
Sack for all I care.

It seems that I'm a Pawn up today
So I can keep the Pawn – you say...
I expect to win in a month or so
Take a week on this move – my position is sound do-do-do-do-do

Well – I've never been even one Pawn down
I take every sacrifice, they're all unsound
More material, more material that's what I scream
That's why they call me the King of GREED!

-- Mike Temkin

SWIFT QUAD 06SQ06

Facing two Masters and another Expert, Steven Rosenthal scored 4 ½- 1 ½ to take undisputed first place. I was unable to attain any games from Steven, but here is a virtuoso win by second place Thomas Koehler.

His opponent, the always dangerous Joseph Shipman is a Master of the Pawn sacrifice in the opening. In the following game, however, Joe's sacrifice turns out to be a gift.

06SQ06

Steven Rosenthal	2132			1	0	1	1	1	=	4½-1½
Thomas Koehler	2127	0	1			0	1	1	1	4-2
Brian Stewart	2228	0	0	1	0			0	1	2-4
Joseph Shipman	2296	0	=	0	0	1	0			1½-4½

FRENCH DEFENSE (C15)

White: Thomas Koehler (2127)

Black: Joseph Shipman (2236)

06SQ06, 2007

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Nge2 dxe4
5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Nxc3 Nc6 7.d5 exd5
8.Qxd5 Qxd5 9.Nxd5 Nd4 10.Nxc7+
Kd8 11.Bf4 Nxc2+ 12.Kd2 Nxa1
13.Nxa8 Nb3+ 14.Kc3 Nc5 15.Bb8 a6
16.Bc4 Na4+ 17.Kb4 b5 18.Rd1+ Bd7
19.b3 Nb2 20.Rd2 bxc4 21.Rxb2 cxb3
22.Bc7+ Ke7 23.Rxb3 Nf6 24.Nb6 Bb5
25.Rg3 h6 26.Rc3 Re8 27.Rc5 Kf8
28.Bd6+ Kg8 29.a4 Bf1 30.Rc1 Bxg2
31.Ka5 Ng4 32.Bg3 g5 33.h4 e3 34.fxe3
Rxe3 35.Be1 Rxe1 36.Rxe1 gxh4
37.Nc8 h3 38.Ne7+ Kh7 39.Nf5 h2
40.Ng3 Kg6 41.Kxa6 f5 42.Kb6 f4
43.Ne2 f3 44.Nf4+ Kf5 0-1

The following game is greatly entertaining – beginning with an unsound sacrifice on Move 16, Black manages to outplay White move by move until the mating attack at the end.

ENGLISH OPENING (A10)

White: James Van Vranken (1965)

Black: Marc Plum (1958)

Walter Muir Quad 2007

1.c4 g6 2.g3 Bg7 3.Bg2 c5 4.e3 Nc6
5.Ne2 e5 6.Nbc3 Nge7 7.0-0 d6 8.d3 0-
0 9.a3 Be6 10.f4 a6 11.Qc2 Rb8 12.Nd5
f5 13.Rb1 b5 14.Bd2 bxc4 15.dxc4 e4
16.Nec3 Nd4 17.exd4 cxd4 18.Nxe7+
Qxe7 19.Nxe4 fxe4 20.Bxe4 Rfc8
21.Rfe1 Qf7 22.b3 d5 23.Bd3 dxc4
24.Bxc4 Bxc4 25.bxc4 Rxb1 26.Qxb1
Bf8 27.Qb6 Rxc4 28.Qxa6 Rc2 29.Bb4
Qd5 30.Re2 Rc1+ 31.Kf2 d3 32.Qf6
Bc5+ 33.Bxc5 Qxc5+ 34.Re3 Rc2+
35.Kf3 Qd5+ 0-1

When Black tries to play all over the board, White punishes him in the center, the king wing and the queen wing.

BIRD'S OPENING (A03)

White: Barry Walker (2039)

Black: J. Norman Cotter (1944)

2007 Golden Knights

1.f4 d5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3 c5 4.Bg2 Nc6
5.0-0 g6 6.d3 Bg7 7.Na3 0-0 8.Qe1 Bf5
9.c4 d4 10.h3 h5 11.Nc2 Qb6 12.Rb1 a5
13.a3 Rad8 14.b4 axb4 15.axb4 cxb4
16.Nxb4 Qc7 17.Bd2 Nxb4 18.Rxb4
Nd7 19.Nh4 Nc5 20.Nxf5 gxf5 21.Qb1
Rd7 22.Rb5 e6 23.Ba5 Qc8 24.Qb4 Na6
25.Qb2 Nc5 26.Qa3 1-0

Both sides play a strong game, but Black's will proves stronger

SICILIAN DEFENSE (B90)

White: Edmund Powers (1381)

Black: William Evans (1378)

Walter Muir Quads 2007

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 a6 6.f3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.Be3 Be7
9.Qd2 Nbd7 10.0-0-0 b5 11.g4 0-0
12.g5 b4 13.Nd5 Nxd5 14.exd5 Bf5
15.Rg1 a5 16.Bd3 Bxd3 17.Qxd3 a4
18.Nd2 Rc8 19.Kb1 f5 20.gxf6 Bxf6
21.Ne4 Qc7 22.Bh6 Rf7 23.Rg2 Kh8
24.Bg5 Nc5 25.Nxc5 Qxc5 26.f4 exf4
27.Bxf4 Bxb2 28.Bxd6 Qxd6 29.Kxb2
Qe5+ 30.Qd4 a3+ 31.Kb1 Qxd4 0-1

This game is as smooth as 25-year old whiskey.

PETROFF DEFENSE (C42)

White: Timothy Harris, T (2209)

Black: Michael Hensley, M (2062)

Walter Muir Quads 2007t

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.Nxe5 d6 4.Nf3
Nxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Bd3 Nc6 7.0-0 Be7 8.c4
Nb4 9.cxd5 Nxd3 10.Qxd3 Qxd5 11.Re1
Bf5 12.Nc3 Nxc3 13.Qxc3 Be6 14.Re5
Qc6 15.Qa5 Qb6 16.Qe1 0-0-0 17.d5
Bb4 18.Qe4 Bc5 19.Bg5 Bxf2+ 20.Kh1
Bd7 21.Bxd8 Rxd8 22.Re7 Qxb2
23.Rb1 Qf6 24.d6 Bb6 25.Ne5 cxd6
26.Rc1+ Bc5 27.Nxd7 Rxd7 28.Rxd7
Kxd7 29.Qxb7+ Kd8 30.Re1 Be3
31.Qc6 g6 32.h3 h5 33.a4 Qd4 34.Qa8+
Ke7 35.Qf3 g5 36.Qxe3+ 1-0