



The Check Is in the Mail April 2009

POST OFFICE SETS NEW POSTCARD RATES – CC PLAYERS PLAY FREE !

In an attempt to recharge a faltering economy, the US Post Office announced on Saturday that postal chess players will be able to obtain special cc postcards at the post office that will allow them to play for free. A leading post master said, “The Post Office lost 2.4 billion dollars last year. More and more people are switching to email. It was either let the chess players play for free or raise our rates and cut back on our services. That one was a no-brainer!” The Post Office suggests you do not ask for these cards.

INVESTORS WANTED! NEW LEFT-HANDED CHESS BOARD!

If you are like most left-handed chess players, you are probably tired of being discriminated against. It’s always the same old story – “White on the right” – “Always have a light square on the right hand side when setting up the chess board”. Thanks to a new invention, you no longer have to be a slave to the right-handed majority. We are looking for left-handed investors who would like to spend a lot of money on the Lefty-chess, a revolutionary new chess board with a dark square in the left hand corner! Send money now!

CORRESPONDENCE CHESS BANNED AS TORTURE BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

Correspondence chess was branded as an extreme form of mental torture by International Amnesty. Anyone who has been under constant mental pressure for twenty moves, lost a Pawn, and then watched helplessly as the Pawn inexorably moved up the board causing resignation after sixty moves, and all this multiplied by days or possibly weeks for the postcard to arrive, knows the delightful torture known as correspondence chess. Amnesty International recommends everyone to play more correspondence chess to further study this issue.

Austrian stamp featuring XVI World Champion Tunc Hamarat



Now that Austria has set the standard with this stamp commemorating XVI World Chess Champion Tunc Hamarat, can we expect the United States to issue stamps honoring Hans Berliner ? Victor Palciauskas ? or even Paul Morphy ? Bobby Fischer ? If your answer is yes, have a happy April Fool’s Day !

TREASURES OF THE PAST

It is an odd mixture of sadness and joy that I have been experiencing lately. I have been gathering games for writing a book on the USCF Absolute tournaments. The sadness comes from the realization of how spotty our historical record is when it comes to saving the games of these great tournaments. In some of the Absolute tournaments I have found a total of no games by some of the participants. I am working hard to find some of those games, and I could use your help. But before I put you to work, let us first take a look at some of the joy.

Let's go back thirty-one years. It is 1977, the second USCF Absolute tournament.



Frank Camaratta as he was then (1977)

SICILIAN DEFENSE (B96)

White: Frank Camaratta

Black: Donald Dean

1977 Absolute

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 b5

This game was played in the heyday of Polugaevsky's "Sicilian Labyrinth" still topical today.

8.e5 dxe5 9.fxe5 Qc7 10.Qe2

Today most of the analysts are interested in 10. exf6 Qe5+ 11. Be2 Qxg5 as in Kogan-Smirin, Maalot-Tarshiha 2008

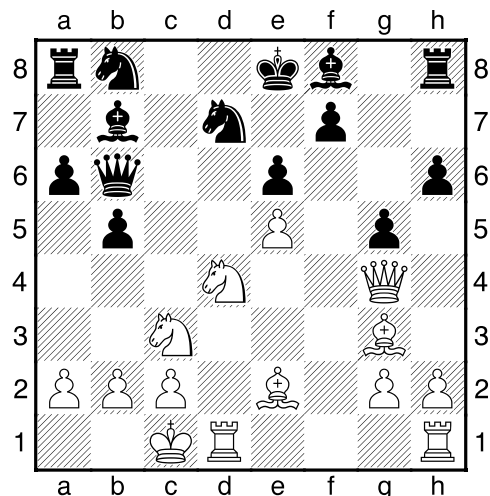
10...Nfd7 11.0-0-0 Bb7 12.Qg4 Qb6 13.Be2 h6

This weakens Black's Pawn structure and its not seen too often today. Fun was 13...Nc5 14. Rhf1 b4 15. Qf4 Qc7 16. Ndb5 axb5 17. Qxf7+! Mahini-Ghader Pour, Zone 2001. The key line today is 13...Nxe5 14. Qg3 Nbd7 15. Bf4 b4 16. Na4 Qa5 17. Nb3 Qxa4 with the better game for Black in Balashov-Mecking, Manila 1976.

14.Bf4!?

This seems to be a Camaratta TN neglected these many years. Kavalek-Polugaevsky, Las Palmas 1974 (and others) saw 14. Qh3 Nxe5 15. Rhe1. Can it be repeated ? I will leave that up to the reader.

14...g5 15.Bg3!



Amazing. White keeps the e5 Pawn secure even at the cost of his Queen.

**15...Bxg2 16.Rhg1 h5 17.Qxg5 Bh6
18.Qxh6 Rxh6 19.Rxg2 Ra7?**

Black has the material, but White has the mobility. A fair fight now would be 19...Nc5! 20. Bf3 Ra7 21. b4 Rd7!? 22. bxc5 Qxc5 when Black may have an edge.

20.Bf2!

The line up of Queen and Rook versus this Bishop promises White a tactical payday.

20...Qa5

Black can stay in the fight with 20...Rh8 21. Ndx5 Qc6 22. Rg3 axb5 23. Bxa6 Qc7 24. Bxb8 Nxb8 25. Bxb5+ Kf8 26. Re1

21.Rg8+ Nf8

Black runs into a mate after 21...Ke7 22. Nf5+ exf5 23. Nd5+ Ke6 24. Re8 mate

22.Nb3

22. Ndx5 works well here, but Camaratta holds it back for later.

22...Qc7 23.Bc5 Nbd7 24.Nxb5

This sacrifice is clearly winning but 24. Rxd7! Kxd7 25. Rxf8 Qxe5 26. Rxf7+ Ke8 27. Rxa7 is more fun.

24...Nxc5!?

And now Dean strikes back with a counter sacrifice of the Queen which stops the onslaught, but leaves White well in command.

25.Nxc7+ Rxc7 26.Nxc5 Rxc5 27.Bxa6

The fireworks have stopped. An endgame is reached that will be an easy win for White.

**27...Rg6 28.Rxg6 Nxg6 29.b4 Rxe5
30.c4**

This trio of soldiers is unstoppable, but Black manages to force Camaratta to fight for the point.

**30...Re4 31.Bb5+ Ke7 32.a3 Ne5 33.c5
f5 34.Rd2 Nc4 35.Bxc4 Rxc4+ 36.Rc2
Rg4**

Nor does 36...Rxc2+ help. A king can stop two connected passed Pawns, but three connected Pawns is another story.

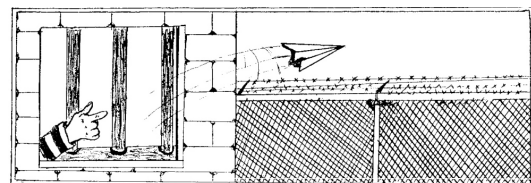
37.c6 Kd8 38.b5 Kc7 39.b6+!

Once you start these sacrifices, it's hard to stop even in the endgame.

**39...Kc8 40.c7 Rg8 41.a4 Kb7 42.a5
Rc8 43.Rd2 1-0**

After Rd8 a White Queen will return to the board.

I am sure you enjoyed this game. If you are or have been an Absolute player, I appeal to you to send me your games for the historical record (and so that others may enjoy your play!) Please send them to Alex Dunne, PO Box 367, Sayre, PA 18840 or chesskinetics@stny.rr.com



Prisoner postal chess by Michael Ware

**JOHN BALLOW WINS 07P05
PALCIAUSKAS TOURNAMENT**

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

CHARLES TRUAX FIRST IN 07C39

Charles Truax of Bloomington, Indiana, scored 5-1 to take first in the 2007 John Collins tournament 07C39.

07C39

Truax	2076		11	10	11	5
Delehanty	2233	00		1=	11	3½
Babcock	2051	01	0=		11	3½
Bendinskas	2009	00	00	00		0

I wrote to the participants of 07C39, but was unsuccessful at gaining any games for the readers.

Ballow	2173		1	1	=	1	1	1	5½
Levine	2361	0		=	1	1	=	1	4
Boege	2255	0	=		=	1	1	1	4
Robledo	2329	=	0	=		1	=	1	3½
Fisher	2054	0	0	0	0		1	1	2
Earsley	2044	0	=	0	=	0		1	2
Garcia	2064	F	F	F	F	F	F		0

KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE (E92)

White: John Ballow (2173)

Black: Joel Levine (2361)

2007 Palciauskas Tournament

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6
5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.0-0
Nbd7 9.Qc2 c6 10.Rd1 Qe7 11.Be3 Ng4
12.Bg5 f6 13.Bc1 f5 14.exf5 gxf5
15.Ng5 Ndf6 16.h3 Nh6 17.a4 a5 18.c5!
Qxc5 19.b3 Qe7 20.Bc4+ Kh8 21.Ba3
c5 22.Rd2 b6 23.Rad1 e4 24.Rd6 Ne8
25.Rxb6 Qxg5 26.Bxc5 e3 27.Bd5 Ra6
28.Rb8 Bd7 29.Bxf8 Bxf8 30.Qe2 exf2+
31.Kf1 Rd6 32.Nb5 Rf6 33.Qe5 Qg7
34.Rxe8 Bxe8 35.Qxe8 f4 36.Nd4 Nf5
37.Nxf5 Rxf5 38.Kxf2 Qc3 39.Kf1 Qf6
40.Qa8 Qe5 41.Be4 Rf7 42.Kg1 Qc3
43.Bd5 Rf6 44.Kh1 Rf5 45.Be4 Rf7
46.Qd5 Qc7 47.Qh5 Re7 48.Qf5 Rf7
49.Qg4 Rg7 50.Qh4 Bd6 51.Qf6 Be7
52.Qf5 Bd6 53.Bd5 Qd7 54.Qf6 Qe7
55.Qc3 Bb4 56.Qa1 Qe3 57.Rc1 h5
58.Bf3 Kh7 59.Qb1+ Kh8 60.Rc8+ Rg8
61.Qb2+ Kh7 62.Rc7+ Be7 63.Qb1+
Kh8 64.Rc6 Bf8 65.Rf6 Qe7 66.Qa1
Qh7 67.Rh6+ 1-0

FAIRBAIRN TOPS COLLINS 06C45

Steven Fairbairn of Toronto, Canada
Scored an undefeated 5-1 to win the
2006 John Collins Memorial 06C45.

Fairbairn	2087		1=	=1	11	5
Hiber	2127	0=		==	11	3½
Lewis	2002	=0	==		11	3½
Chandler	2097	0Q	QQ	QQ		0

DUTCH DEFENSE (A99)

White: Steven Fairbairn (2087)

Black: Charles Hiber (2127)

2006 John Collins

1.c4 f5 2.Nf3 Nf6 3.g3 e6 4.Bg2 Be7
5.0-0 0-0 6.Nc3 d6 7.d4 Qe8 8.b3 Nbd7
9.Ng5 Nb6 10.Qd3 e5 11.dxe5 dxe5
12.Nd5 Nbx5 13.cxd5 e4 14.Qc4 Bd6
15.Bb2 h6 16.Nh3 g5 17.f4 Qg6
18.Rad1 e3 19.Kh1 Bd7 20.a4 Rae8
21.Be5 g4 22.Ng1 h5 23.Qd4 Rf7
24.Qxe3 Qh6 25.Qc3 h4 26.gxh4 Qxh4
27.Rd3 Rh7 28.h3 Ne4 29.Bxe4 fxe4
30.Rg3 Bb4 31.Qe3 Bd2 32.Qf2 e3
33.Qg2 Bf5 34.Nf3 Qxg3 35.Qxg3
Rxx3+ 36.Qxh3 gxh3 37.Kh2 Rd8
38.Rg1+ Kf8 39.Nd4 Bc8 40.Ne6+ Bxe6
41.dxe6 Ke7 42.f5 Rd5 43.Rg7+ Ke8
44.f6 Bb4 45.Rg8+ 1-0

What to do in the Sicilian when your c3
Knight is attacked - just put it on another
square where it is attacked.

SICILIAN DEFENSE (B99)

White: Lawrence Coplin (2392)

Black: Roy Tate (2358)

2005 Absolute

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 Be7 8.Qf3 Qc7 9.0-
0-0 Nbd7 10.g4 b5 11.Bxf6 Nxf6 12.g5 Nd7
13.f5 Nc5 14.f6 b4 15.Ncb5 axb5 16.Nxb5
Qd7 17.fxe7 Nb7 18.e5 d5 19.Kb1 Qxe7
20.Bd3 Ra5 21.Rhf1 0-0 22.Bxh7+ Kxh7

23.Qh5+ Kg8 24.Rf3 1-0

OBITUARY



Daryl Hall of Centerville, Ohio, born 31
December 1959, died on 7 February.
Daryl had returned to postal chess after a
long absence.

Quote: The best correspondence age is
between 45 and 50 years – Grigory
Sanakoev

MARCH RESULTS

Walter Muir

Richard Miller	08W48	6-0
Charles Allen	08W32	4½-1½
Brennan Price	08W12	6-0
Robert Teufel	08W37	6-0

Swift Quad

Kendrick Aung	09SQ02	5½-1½
Jessica Lauser	09SQ01	5-1
Scott Kolb	09SQ01	5-1
Michael Miller	08SQ10	5-1

John Collins

Chris Sanjurjo	07C20	5-1
Jeff Ensley	07C27	5-1
Frank Spooner	06C40	5-1
Steve Kha	07C03	6-0

Trophy Quad

Mark Wagner	07Q07	5-1
Allen Woollen	07Q10	5-1

The race goes not always to the swift, but the attack seems to always go to the strong.

CARO-KANN DEFENSE (B)

White: Kendrick Aung (1985)

Black: Brian Gerbera (1972)

2009 Swift Quad

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nf6
5.Nxf6+ gxf6 6.c3 Bf5 7.Nf3 e6 8.g3
Nd7 9.Bg2 Bd6 10.0-0 Qc7 11.Nh4 Bg6
12.c4 0-0-0 13.c5 Be7 14.b4 f5 15.Nf3
Bf6 16.Qa4 a6 17.Re1 Rde8 18.Bf4 e5
19.dxe5 Nxe5 20.Nxe5 Bxe5 21.Bxc6
bxc6 22.Qxa6+ Kb8 23.Rxe5 Rxe5
24.b5 Rhe8 25.bxc6 1-0

The combination initiated on Move 13 is still felt on Move 50.

RAT OPENING (A40)

White: Robert Fass (2247)

Black: John Bourdelais (2198)

2004 Electronic Knights Final

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.c4 Nc6 4.d5 Nd4 5.Ne2
c5 6.Nxd4 cxd4 7.Be2 e5 8.0-0 d6 9.f4 f5
10.fxe5 Bxe5 11.Nd2 fxe4 12.Nxe4 Qh4
13.Bf4 Bxf4 14.Rxf4 Qxf4 15.Qxd4 Qe5
16.Nxd6+ Qxd6 17.Qxh8 Qc5+ 18.Kh1 Qf8
19.Qxh7 Qf7 20.Qh4 Bf5 21.Bf3 Qf6
22.Qf2 0-0-0 23.Re1 Qa6 24.Qc5+ Kb8
25.d6 Rc8 26.Qe5 Bd7 27.b3 Qb6 28.h3 Qf2
29.Re2 Qh4 30.Re4 Qf6 31.Qxf6 Nxf6
32.Re7 Bc6 33.Bxc6 bxc6 34.g4 g5 35.Kg2
Rd8 36.Re6 Rf8 37.b4 Rf7 38.h4 gxh4
39.g5 Nh5 40.Re8+ Kb7 41.Kh3 Rd7 42.c5
a5 43.bxa5 Ka6 44.Kxh4 Nf4 45.Kg4 Nd3
46.Re7 Rd8 47.g6 Nxc5 48.g7 Nb7 49.d7
Rg8 50.Kh5 1-0

Heavy piece endgames are always difficult to play. Here David Buhan shows how it is done well.

CARO-KANN DEFENSE (B18)

White: Keith Storey (1716)

Black: David Buhan (1689)

2008 Express Tournament

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Bf5
5.Ng3 Bg6 6.Nf3 Nd7 7.Bd3 Bxd3
8.Qxd3 e6 9.0-0 Ngf6 10.c4 Be7 11.b3
Qc7 12.Bb2 0-0 13.Rad1 Rad8 14.Qc2
Bd6 15.Ne4 Nxe4 16.Qxe4 Nf6 17.Qc2
Ng4 18.h3 Nf6 19.Rd2 Bf4 20.Rd3 Qa5
21.Bc1 Bxc1 22.Rxc1 Qc7 23.Rcd1 Rd6
24.Qe2 Rfd8 25.Ne5 a6 26.Qe3 Qe7
27.Qf4 Nd7 28.b4 Nxe5 29.Qxe5 b5
30.c5 Rd5 31.Qe4 Qd7 32.f4 f6 33.Re3
e5 34.fxe5 fxe5 35.Rde1 exd4 36.Rd3 a5
37.a3 axb4 38.axb4 Ra8 39.Red1 Re8
40.Qf4 g5 41.Qf2 Rf8 42.Qg3 Rf4
43.Rf1 Rxf1+ 44.Kxf1 Qe6 45.Kg1 Kg7
46.Qc7+ Kg6 47.Qg3 Qe4 48.Qc7 Qe1+
49.Kh2 Qe8 50.Kg1 h5 51.Qg3 h4
52.Qf2 Qe4 53.Qd2 Kh5 54.Qd1+ g4
55.hxg4+ Kg5 56.Qd2+ Kxg4 57.Qd1+
Kg5 58.Qd2+ Kg6 59.Qd1 Rg5 60.Qd2
Rg4 61.Kh2 Qf4+ 62.Kg1 Qxd2 0-1

SIMs OVERLOOKED

Last month in the list of SIM's Wesley Brandhorst and Stephen Ham were overlooked. Sorry, gentlemen.