



The Check Is in the Mail
December 2008



John Menke, 2004 Electronic Knights Champion

John Menke who has won the 2004 and 2005 CCLA Championships has annexed the first Electronic Knights Championship. The email tournament, inaugurated in 2004, has come to an end, and with it, John's CC career.

John gave up OTB play in 1999 after a 1996 surgery. After he earned the CCLA Senior Master title, he gave up postal play for email chess. And now after his greatest victory yet, John has announced his retirement from email play. Perhaps when the USCF server comes into use, he will continue play there!?

2004 Electronic Knights Standings

John Menke	37.90
Robert Fass	37.25
Gino Figlio	36.15
Carl Siefring	36.15
Henry Ceeto	36.10
Patrick Ryan	34.50
Mikhail Sher	32.90
Eric Fischvogt	32.85
Dennis Michael	29.65
Gerald Weiner	28.25
Jeff Sellers	27.95
Michael Hensley	27.35
Henry Ceeto	27.30
Bill Turin	27.30
Eugene Schrecongost	26.85
Bill Young	24.60
John Bourdelais	24.50
David Ballard	22.65
Kevin Paxson	18.90
William Young	18.90
Henry Ceeto	15.90
Edward Lupiensi	15.00

GAME OF THE MONTH

Robert Fass, our second place finisher, had the unenviable task of facing Menke in all three rounds of the tournament.

SICILIAN DEFENSE (B48)

White: Robert Fass (2192)

Black: John Menke (2253)

Electronic Knights Semifinals 2004

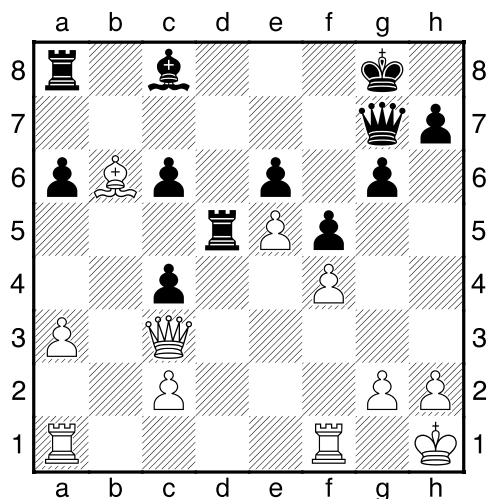
1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 e6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nc6
5.Nc3 Qc7 6.Be3 a6 7.a3 b5 8.Nxc6 dxc6
9.Qf3 Bd6 10.Qg4

An unusual reply that doesn't seem to offer White any advantage.

10...Be5 11.f4 f5 12.Qh5+ g6 13.Qf3 Bxc3+ 14.bxc3 Nf6 15.e5 Ne4 16.Bd3 Nxc3 17.0-0 18.Bc5 Rd8 19.Kh1

Of course 19. Bxf5? is met by 19...Na4 and Black is winning.

19...Qg7 20.Bb6 Rd5 21.Bc4 bxc4 22.Qxc3



22...c5!

Reaffirming the maxim that there are no bad Bishops, only misunderstood ones, Black frees the a8-h1 diagonal for his Bishop.

23.Qxc4 Qd7 24.Ba5 Bb7 25.Rab1 Bc6 26.Qb3

Now Black maneuvers to put continual pressure on White's position, but Fass holds fast. Chances are even.

26...Rd4 27.Rf2 Bd5 28.Qe3 Qa4 29.Be1 Rc4 30.Qc1 Be4 31.Qd2 Rd4 32.Qc3 Qc4 33.Qb2 Bc6 34.Qc1 Re4 35.Qd2 Qd4 36.Kg1

Exchanging Queens gives Black some pull in the endgame with play against c2.

36...Rc8 37.h4 Bd5 38.c3 Qc4

And here exchanging Queens is even after 38...Qxd2 39. Bxd2 Ra4 40. Bc1

39.Rb6 a5 40.Qc1 Qd3 41.Kh2 Kf7 42.Qd2 c4 43.Rb5 a4 44.Rb4 Re3 45.Qxd3 cxd3 46.Bd2 Re4 47.Rb5 Rec4 48.Rb2 Kg7 49.Rf1 Kh6 50.Rc1 Kh5 51.Kh3 Re4 52.Re1 Rxe1 53.Bxe1 Bb3 54.Bd2 Rc4 55.Rb1 Rc7 56.Rc1 1/2-1/2

NOVEMBER RESULTS

John Collins

Walter Lewis 07C28 4 1/2-1 1/2
 John Niven 07C35 5-1
 Jorge Guerra 07C35 5-1
 Vernon Simmons 07C25 5 1/2- 1/2

Trophy Quad

Joseph Daudish 07Q22 6-0
 John Cordisco 08Q04 6-0

Walter Muir

Bobby White 07W48 6-0
 Gary Walters 07W47 5-1

Victor Palciauskas Tournament

Jean Moeckel 07P03 5 1/2- 1/2

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

John Collins 07C28: Lewis

Lewis	2014	1=	1=	1=	11	4½
Birt	2059	0=	=1	=1	1=	3½
Mahon	2022	==	=0	=1	1=	3
Fairbairn	2114	00	0=	0=	1=	1

Walter Lewis scored an undefeated 4 ½-1 ½ in the all Expert John Collins 07C28.

WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP

Both US entries into the World Junior Correspondence Chess Championship have silently withdrawn and forfeited their remaining games.

Quote: When the position gets tough, the postal service gets worse. -- William Jones

LIGHTS ! CAMERA ! ACTION !

Welcome to this year's menagerie of mayhem, the miniature (mis)adventures!

Many times Knights get trapped at the edge of the board. Sometimes they even get trapped near the edge of the board

SOKOLSKY OPENING (A00)

White: Jean Moeckel (1509)

Black: Christopher Bastin (1438)

2007 John Collins

1.b4 e5 2.Bb2 e4 3.a3 b6 4.d3 exd3 5.cxd3 d5 6.Nf3 c5 7.Nbd2 cxb4 8.axb4 Nc6 9.b5 Nb4 10.e3 Bf5 11.Qb3 Nf6 12.Be2 Rc8 13.0-0 Rc7 14.Ra4 1-0

The Knight fork at the end is too much.

KING'S INDIAN ATTACK (A08)

White: Eric Selin (1445)

Black: Richard Wienckowski,R (1590)
2008 John Collins

1.Nf3 d5 2.g3 c5 3.Bg2 Nc6 4.0-0 e5 5.d3 Nf6 6.c3 Be7 7.Qb3 0-0 8.Be3 Rb8 9.Qc2 Nd7 10.a3 f5 11.b4 a6 12.d4 f4 13.Bd2 e4 14.Ne5 Ndx5 15.dxe5 f3 16.Bh1 cxb4 17.exf3 exf3 18.axb4 Qc7 19.Bf4 Nd4 0-1

Hans Kmoch used to call white square weakness leucopenia. Albert demonstrates the leucopenalty.

SLAV DEFENSE (D11)

White: Jason Albert (2067)

Black: Gerald Sitter (1382)

2007 Golden Knights

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Be6 4.Nc3 dxc4 5.a4 f5 6.e4 fxe4 7.Nxe4 Bd5 8.Qc2 Nd7 9.Bxc4 e6 10.0-0 h6 11.Bxd5 exd5 12.Neg5 Qf6 13.Re1+ Be7 14.Re6 Qf8 15.Qg6+ 1-0

Watching White's Bishops aiming at the King is a little like watching a firing squad getting ready,

BIRD'S OPENING (A03)

White: William Perez (1612)

Black: Allen Herridge (1529)

2006 Golden Knights

1.f4 d5 2.e3 Nf6 3.Nf3 Bg4 4.h3 Bxf3 5.Qxf3 e6 6.Nc3 Nbd7 7.b3 Bb4 8.Bb2 0-0 9.0-0-0 Bxc3 10.Bxc3 c5 11.g4 a6 12.Bd3 b5 13.g5 Ne8 14.Rdg1 c4 15.Bxh7+ Kxh7 16.Qh5+ Kg8 17.Rg4 Ndf6 18.gxf6 1-0

Add this one to the list of opening traps you should know.

BENKO COUNTER GAMBIT (A)

White: Michael Hensley (2058)

Black: Adam Bell (2123)

2007 Walter Muir

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 c5 4.d5 b5
5.Bg5 Qa5+ 6.Nbd2 Ne4 7.b4 Qxb4
8.Rb1 Qc3 9.Rb3 Qa5 10.Rxb5 Qc3
11.e3 Ba6 12.Rb3 Qa5 13.Qb1 1-0

From Iakov Neishtadt's book
Catastrophe in the Opening. White
makes a brilliant move and Black
resigns. But if Black had made an
equally brilliant reply, White would have
resigned.

MODERN OPENING (B06)

White: I. Krasilnikov

Black: B. Beckman
ICCF 1978

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 d6 4.Be3 c6
5.Qd2 b5 6.Bd3 a5 7.f3 Nd7 8.d5 cxd5
9.Nxb5 dxe4 10.Bxe4 Rb8 11.Qe2 Nc5
12.Bxc5 dxc5 13.Rd1 Qb6 14.Rd6 1-0
Black Resigned -- but ! 14...Bc3+!
15.bxc3 exd6 16.Bc6+ Kf8
17.Qe8+Kg7 18.Nxd6 Be6 0-1

Capturing the g2 Pawn can be as
dangerous to the Queen as the b2 Pawn.

TROMPOVSKY ATTACK (A45)

White: Dana Daves (1742)

Black: Steven Boot (2294)

2007 Golden Knights

1.d4 Nf6 2.Bg5 Nc6 3.Bxf6 exf6 4.Nc3
Bb4 5.e3 d5 6.Bd3 Bxc3+ 7.bxc3 f5
8.Ne2 Qg5 9.h4 Qxg2 10.Ng3 0-0
11.Bf1 Qxh1 12.Nxh1 1-0

Black varies from Jasinski-Koralewski,
Poland 1998 11..Kg7 which proved
vulnerable to an eventual Be5 when
White won.

KING'S GAMBIT (C39)

White: SM Jindrich Trapl (2516)

Black: SM Edward Duliba (2549)

13 Olympiad, 2006

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 g5 4.h4 g4
5.Ng5 h6 6.Nxf7 Kxf7 7.d4 d5 8.Bxf4
Nf6 9.Nc3 Bb4 10.Bd3 dxe4 11.Bc4+
Kg6 12.0-0 Bxc3 13.bxc3 Qe7 14.Qe2
Be6 15.d5 Bf7 16.Be3 Nbd7 17.Rf4 Kh7
18.Raf1 Rhf8 0-1

In the confusion, Black loses his King.

BIRD'S OPENING (A03)

White: F. Toenies (1869)

Black: James Ward (1677)

2007 Golden Knights

1.f4 d5 2.e3 h5 3.Nf3 Bf5 4.c4 dxc4
5.Bxc4 e6 6.Qb3 Be4 7.Nc3 Bxf3 8.gxf3
Qh4+ 9.Ke2 b6 10.Nb5 Bd6 11.Bd5 c6
12.Nxd6+ Ke7 13.Qa3 Qh3 14.Nb5+
Kf6 15.b3 Qg2+ 16.Kd3 cxd5 17.Bb2+
e5 18.Bxe5+ 1-0

Flash tactics on
www.schemingmind.com web server
shine on a Rook in the corner. Guess
which corner.

CATALAN OPENING (E08)

White: Vojvoda

Black: Alex Dunne

SchemingMind, 2006

1.Nf3 d5 2.d4 Nf6 3.c4 e6 4.g3 Bb4+
5.Bd2 Be7 6.Bg2 0-0 7.0-0 c6 8.Qc2
Nbd7 9.Bf4 b6 10.Rd1 Bb7 11.Ne5
Nxe5 12.dxe5 Nd7 13.e4 dxc4 14.Qxc4
Nxe5 15.Rxd8 Nxc4 16.Rd7 Bf6 17.e5
Bc8 18.Bxc6 Bxd7 19.Bxa8 Nxe5
20.Be4 Nf3+ 0-1

Some openings are just fun, fun, fun

LATVIAN GAMBIT (C40)

White: Brian Newberry (1718)

Black: David Stone (1653)

Walter Muir 2007

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.Bc4 fxe4 4.Nxe5 d5
5.Qh5+ g6 6.Nxg6 hxg6 7.Qxg6+ Kd7
8.Bxd5 Nf6 9.Nc3 Qe7 10.d3 exd3+
11.Be3 Nxd5 12.Nxd5 Qg7 13.Qxd3
Bd6 14.Bd4 Be5 15.Bxe5 Qxe5+
16.Kd2 Rd8 17.Rae1 Qg5+ 18.Kc3
Qg7+ 19.Nf6+ 1-0

Something went horribly wrong...

CENTER COUNTER (B01)

White: Axel Van der Velden (2334)

Black: Alex Palanker (2188)

2006 Swift Quad

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Qf3 Nf6 4.Nc3
Qa5 5.Bb5+ c6 6.Ba4 Bg4 7.Qe3 Nbd7
8.Ne4 Nxe4 9.Qxe4 Be6 10.Bb3 Nc5
11.Qe3 Bxb3 12.cxb3 0-0-0 13.Nf3
Nd3+ 14.Ke2 Rd5 0-1

Black wins with a stock sacrifice that everyone who plays the Dragon should be familiar with,

SICILIAN DEFENSE (B78)

White: Charles Gruver (0000)

Black: Larry Kocian (0000)

2008 Electronic Knights

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 g6 6.Be3 Bg7 7.f3 0-0 8.Qd2 Nc6
9.Bc4 Bd7 10.0-0-0 Rc8 11.Bb3 Ne5
12.Bh6 Bxh6 13.Qxh6 Rxc3 14.bxc3 a5
15.a4 Qc7 16.Kd2 Rc8 17.Rhe1 Qxc3+
18.Ke2 Bxa4 19.Ne6 Bb5+ 0-1

Welcome to the wild e-West

GRUNFELD DEFENSE (D82)

White: William Young (2031)

Black: William Clardy (1733)

2008 Electronic Knights

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 4.Bf4 dxc4
5.e4 Bg7 6.Bxc4 b6 7.e5 Ng8 8.Nf3 Bb7
9.0-0 e6 10.d5 exd5 11.Nxd5 c6
12.Nc7+ Qxc7 13.e6 Qxf4 14.exf7+ Ke7
15.Re1+ 1-0

The Latvian Gambit hasn't been doing too well in recent years. White's TN on Move 12 may start elegies.

LATVIAN GAMBIT (C40)

WHITE: Patrick Ryan (2302)

Black: Robert Miehme (2158)

2005 Golden Knights semifinals

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 f5 3.Nxe5 Qf6 4.d4 d6
5.Nc4 fxe4 6.Nc3 Qg6 7.f3 exf3 8.Qxf3
Nc6 9.Nb5 Bg4 10.Qc3 0-0-0 11.d5 a6
12.dxc6 axb5 13.cxb7+ Kxb7 14.Na5+
Kc8 15.Bxb5 Qe4+ 16.Be3 Ne7 17.0-0
Qa8 18.Rae1 Bd7 19.Bb6 1-0

When White's attack comes, it comes like a Pennsylvania blizzard: cold, sharp, and destructive.

COLLE OPENING (A47)

White: Anthony Ragan (1573)

Black: Thomas Rampley (1439)

2008 Walter Muir

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.e3 c5 4.Bd3 b6
5.0-0 Bb7 6.Nbd2 Be7 7.b3 0-0 8.Bb2
cxd4 9.exd4 d6 10.Re1 Nbd7 11.c4 Re8
12.Qc2 Rc8 13.Ng5 g6 14.Rxe6 h6
15.Nxf7 Kxf7 16.Bxg6+ Kg7 17.Bxe8
Qxe8 18.Rae1 Ng8 19.d5+ 1-0

White's 8th was recommended by Larry Kaufman in The Chess Advantage in Black and White.

CARO-KANN DEFENSE (B12)

White: Robert Boles (2188)

Black: Robert Kelo (1950)

2007 Golden Knights semifinal

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nf3 e6 5.Be2 c5 6.Be3 Qb6 7.Nc3 Qxb2 8.Qb1 Qxb1+ 9.Rxb1 b6 10.dxc5 bxc5 11.Nb5 Na6 12.Nd6+ Bxd6 13.Bb5+ Kd8 14.exd6 Nb4 15.Ne5 Nxc2+ 16.Ke2 Nf6 17.Nxf7+ Kc8 18.Bxc5 a6 19.Bc6 Ne4 20.Rb7 1-0

The finish that didn't happen – White has no defense after 11. Bd2 Nd4!

NIMZOINDIAN DEFENSE (E37)

White: John Davis(1690)

Black: Thomas Connelly (2073)

2003 Golden Knights semifinal

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 d5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Qxc3 Ne4 7.Qc2 c5 8.dxc5 Nc6 9.cxd5 exd5 10.Bf4 Qa5+ 0-1

From Tim Krabbe's wonderful columns on the unusual in chess – a winning King move on move 5 !

ALEKHINE'S DEFENSE (B03)

White: G. den Broeder

Black: R. van der Ent

Netherlands CC

1.e4 Nf6 2.e5 Nd5 3.d4 e6 4.c4 Bb4+ 5.Ke2 1-0

OBITUARIES

John Vernon 10/16/42–10/19/08

John Vernon died on October 19, 2008. John loved the game but had not been in good health the last three years. Many years ago, John played someone who passed away during the game. Sometimes life travels in circles.

NIMZOINDIAN DEFENSE (E46)

White: Michael Burke (1225)

Black: John Vernon (1809)

2008 Electronic Knights

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Bd2 0-0 5.e3 d5 6.a3 Be7 7.Nf3 b6 8.Bd3 dxc4 9.Bxc4 Ba6 10.b3 Bxc4 11.bxc4 Nbd7 12.0-0 c6 13.Ne5 Nxe5 14.dxe5 Nd7 15.Ne2 Nxe5 16.Nd4 Qc7 17.Qb3 a6 18.e4 Rad8 19.Be3 c5 20.Nf3 Rd3 21.Qb2 Nxf3+ 22.gxf3 Bf6 23.Qc2 Bxa1 24.Qxd3 Bf6 25.Rd1 Rd8 26.Qb1 Rxd1+ 27.Qxd1 h6 28.Kg2 b5 29.Qc2 Be7 30.Qd3 bxc4 31.Qxc4 Qc6 32.f4 Qb5 33.Qxb5 axb5 34.Kg3 c4 35.Bc1 f6 36.Kg4 g6 37.h4 f5+ 38.exf5 exf5+ 39.Kh3 Kf7 40.f3 0-1

James Brailsford 3/30/41-10/19-08

James Brailsford played some fine chess. Jim is currently tied for first in the 22nd CCLA Championship.

Here he shows that sometimes imagination is superior to material.

BENKO COUNTER GAMBIT (A57)

White: P. Joseph (2102)

Black: James Brailsford (2200)

17th US Championship 2004

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.f3 e6 6.e4 c4 7.dxe6 fxe6 8.Bxc4 Bc5 9.Nc3 0-0 10.Nge2 axb5 11.Nxb5 d5 12.exd5 exd5 13.Bb3 Ba6 14.Nbc3 Nc6 15.Bg5 Nb4 16.Nxd5 Nd3+ 17.Kf1 Kh8 18.Qc2 Nxd5 19.Qxc5 Qxg5 20.Qxd5 Qe3 21.Qd4 Rxf3+ 22.gxf3 Qxf3+ 23.Kg1 Bb7 0-1