



The Check Is in the Mail

December 2007

SCHAKEL UNBOUND!

2004 Absolute Champion



Corky Schakel

SIM Corky Schakel, 2003's Absolute co-champion has climbed to the top of the heap by winning the last remaining game in the 2004 Absolute Tournament. Months before the end of the tournament, it had become clear that Corky's final position would depend on his game with Guido Stueber. In an unusual turn of events, Stueber used up almost all his reflection time and then took a 30-day leave during August. The game then moved slowly until the closeout date of 10 October. At this time the game had to be adjudicated. In a tight endgame position, the call went to Corky, a half point winner over the undefeated Ted Brandhorst.

GAME OF THE MONTH

FRENCH DEFENSE (C01)

White: Guido Stueber (2325)

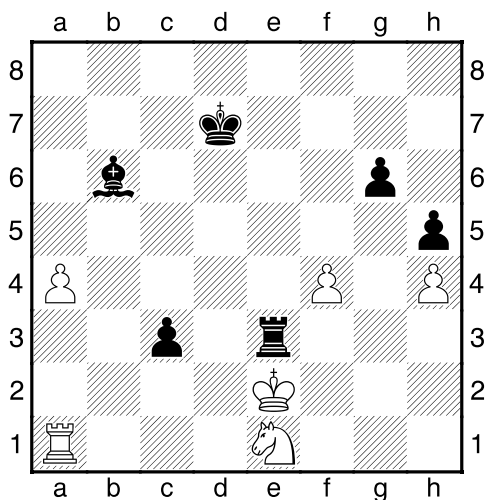
Black: Corky Schakel (2405)

2004 Absolute Championship

1.e4 e6 2.Nf3 d5 3.exd5 exd5 4.d4 Bg4 5.Bb5+ c6 6.Bd3 Qf6 If the opening seemed a bit unusual, you are right. The only CC precedent in my CC database is Castellano-Polatel, Corres. 2005. It is further unusual that both players were rated 1200 points lower than the present antagonists. 7.Nbd2 Bd6 8.0-0 Ne7 9.Re1 0-0 10.h3 Bf5 11.Nb3 h6 12.Bxf5 Qxf5 13.Nh4 Qf6 14.Qg4 Na6 15.Bd2 Nb4 16.Bxb4 A simple solution to the "bad" Bishop. White just exchanges it for the aggressive Knight. 16...Bxb4 17.c3 Bd6 18.Re2 b6 19.Rae1 c5 20.Re3 The result of the opening play is that White enjoys a slight pull. 20...g6 21.dxc5 bxc5 22.g3 Rfd8 23.Rf3 Qg5 24.Qa4 White's game has become slightly disorganized over the last four moves. 24...a6 25.Ng2 h5 26.Na5 Rab8 27.Nc6 Nxc6 28.Qxc6 Rxb2 29.Qxa6 d4 Although White has created an outside passed a-Pawn, Black's forces are dangerously active. 30.Qc4 Rf8 This has the appearance of too passive a move. The more active alternative was 30...Rd7. 31.Re8 Rb7 32.Re1 dxc3 33.Qxc3 Ra8 The battlefield has cleared considerably and the fight looks like it will be a classic Bishop vs. Knight duel in an endgame that favors the Bishop. 34.a3 Bf8 35.Qc2 Bg7 36.Qc4 Bd4 37.Kh2 Rd7 38.Re2 Qd8 39.Ne1 Qc7 40.Nc2 Bg7 41.Rfe3 Bf6 42.Kg2 Qc6+ After 43. f3 h4 White's kingside is airy, but Schakel's great strength is the endgame. It's a difficult choice either way. 43.Qe4 Rc8 44.Qxc6 Rxc6 45.f4 c4 46.Re4 Kg7 47.g4 Rc8 48.Ne3 c3 49.Kf3 Bd4 50.Rc2 Rc5 51.g5 f5 52.gxf6+ Kxf6 Black's maneuvers have left White with weak Pawns at f4 and h3, and a straggler at a3. 53.a4 Rc8 54.h4 Rc5 55.Nd1 Rdd5 56.Ne3 Rd8 57.Kf2 Kg7 58.Kf3 Bf6 59.Rc4 Rdc8 60.Rxc5 Rxc5 61.Ra2 Ra5 Black must not let the a-Pawn become dangerous. 62.Ng2 Kf7 63.Ke3 Ra6 64.Kd3 Rd6+ 65.Ke3 Bd8 66.Rc2 Bb6+ 67.Kf3 Rd3+ 68.Ke2 Rh3 69.Ra2 Ba5

70.Ra1 Ke6 71.Rd1 Ke7 72.Rb1 Kd6
 73.Ne3 Ke6 74.Ng2 Kd7 75.Rf1 Bb6
 76.Ra1 Rg3 77.Ne1 Re3+

Andrew Bussom 07SQ13 6-0
 Louis Spate 07SQ12 5-1



Time ran out here and the position had to be adjudicated. As the a-Pawn is no threat (Advancing it only loses it) and the f and h-Pawns are susceptible to attack by the Bishop and Rook, and the c-Pawn is safe, the position was adjudicated a win. Interested readers are free to comment.

John Collins Memorial

Mike Eberhardinger 05C37 5-1
 Ryan Richardson 06C30 5 ½-½
 Robert Therrien 06C23 5-1

Victor Palciauskas

Joseph Daudish 05P01 5 ½- ½

Trophy Quads

Thomas Langland 05QME18 5-1
 Laurence Anderson 05QME18 5-1
 John Meehan 07Q06 6-0
 Greg Whitlock 06Q08 5 ½-½
 Don Dostal 06Q05 4-2

Express Tournament

Edward Daley 07ET02 5 ½-½
 Jerry Snitselaar 07ET02 5 ½-½

NOVEMBER WINNERS

Walter Muir Quads

Keith Wood 07W06 5-1
 Thomas Segreto 06W25 4-2
 Richard Crago 06W25 4-2
 Guy Hadley 07W14 5-1
 Michael Proof 07W36 4-2
 John Ballow 07W36 4-2
 Russell Low 07W15 6-0
 Steven van Enk 07W24 5-1
 Timothy Harris 07W24 5-1
 Raymond Sollars 07W20 4 ½-1½
 Lionel Silva 07W23 6-0

Swift Quads

Andrew Bussom 07SQ14 5-1
 Jay Ryan 07SQ14 5-1

Trophy Quad 05QME18

Langland	2227	■	==	11	11	5
Anderson	2157	==	■	11	11	5
Leach	2204	00	00	■	11	2
Lieberf'd	00	00	00	00	■	0

07W36 Walter Muir Tournament

Proof	2200	■	==	==	11	4
Ballow	2173	==	■	==	11	4
Hensley	2048	==	==	■	1=	3=
Beavan	2038	00	00	0=	■	½

07W24 Walter Muir Tournament

vanEnk	2566	■	==	11	11	5-1
Harris	2217	==	■	11	11	5-1
Kain	2183	QQ	QQ	■	=1	1.5
Young	2055	00	00	=0	■	.5

2004 USCF Absolute Championship

	Player	Ratn	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	0	1	2	3	Total
1	Schakel	2405	=	=	1	=	0	=	1	1	=	1	1	1	1	9-3
2	Brandhorst	2446	=	=	0	1	=	=	=	=	1	1	1	1	1	8½-3½
3	Coplin	2378	0	1	=	=	=	=	1	=	1	=	1	1	1	8-4
4	Gray	2331	=	0	=	=	1	=	1	=	=	=	1	1	1	8-4
5	Jacobs	2391	1	=	=	0	=	0	1	=	=	1	=	1	1	7-5
6	Miettinen	2340	=	=	=	=	=	=	1	=	0	=	1	1	1	7-5
7	Stueber	2325	0	=	=	0	1	=	0	=	1	=	1	1	1	6½-5½
8	Fischvogt	2350	0	=	0	=	0	0	1	=	1	1	=	1	1	6-6
9	Novak	2428	=	0	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	=	5½-6½
10	Shipman	2308	0	0	0	=	=	1	0	0	=	=	1	1	1	5-7
11	Calogridis	2321	0	0	=	0	0	=	=	0	=	=	=	1	1	4-8
12	Pedersen	2323	0	0	0	0	=	0	0	=	=	0	=	1	1	3-9
13	Johnson	2320	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	=	0	0	0	1	½-11½

A BUFFET OF MINATURES

Nine hundred rating points AND the White pieces is just too much for Black.

ENGLISH OPENING (A26)

White: Walter Brower(2390)

Black: Edward Daley(1489)

2006 Electronic Knights

1.c4 e5 2.g3 Nc6 3.Bg2 g6 4.Nc3 Bg7
5.e4 d6 6.d3 f5 7.Nge2 Nf6 8.0-0 0-0
9.Nd5 Be6 10.Bg5 Qd7 11.Qd2 Nh5
12.exf5 Bxf5 13.b4 h6 14.Bxh6 Bxh6
15.Qxh6 Bxd3 16.Rfe1 Rf7 17.b5 Rh7
18.bxc6 bxc6 19.Qxh5 Rf8 20.Qg5 1-0

How many pieces can you soundly sacrifice in thirteen moves?

MODERN DEFENSE (B07)

White: N. Nettheim

Black:: David Hamilton

Australia corr 1958

1.d4 d6 2.e4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Bg5 Bg7
5.f4 0-0 6.e5 Ne8 7.Nf3 Nd7 8.h4 h6
9.h5 hxg5 10 Nxg5 Nb6 11. Bd3 f6
12.hxg6 fxg5 13.Rh8+ 1-0

Our Oops! Award goes to Black's resignation – after 6...Nh6 7. Bxh6 00 8. Bc1?! Nb4 ! It is White in trouble.

HUNGARIAN DEFENSE (C50)

WHITE: Andrew Bussom (0000)

Black: Edward Poole (0000)

1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Be7 4. d4
4xd4 5. c3 dxc3 6. Qd5 1-0

This is a whoof variation – White overlooked 18. exd5 e4 19. Bxe4 Nxe4 20. Qe6+ Rf7 21. Qxe4 Bg5+ 22. Kb1 Re7 22. Qd3 Re3 23. Qd2 Rxa3 24. Nf4 Bxf4 25. Qxf4 Qxc2 mate – Whoof!

SICILIAN DEFENSE (B96)

WHITE: Yuri Sheynberg (2352)

Black: Clive Barnett (2447)

4th NAPZ Championship ICCF

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6
5.Nc3 a6 6.Bg5 e6 7.f4 b5 8.Qf3 Bb7
9.a3 Nbd7 10.Bxf6 Nxf6 11.0-0-0 Be7
12.Bd6 Rc8 13.Nde2 Qc7 14.f5 0-0
15.fxe6 fxe6 16.Qh3 e5 17.Nd5 Bxd5 0-1

Don't bring the Queen out too early, it might be kidnapped by a Pawn.

BIRD'S OPENING (A03)

White: Barry Walker (2039)

Black: David Middleton (1591)

2006 Golden Knights

1.f4 d5 2.Nf3 Bg4 3.d4 Bxf3 4.exf3 e6
5.Be3 Ne7 6.Qd2 Nf5 7.Bf2 Nc6 8.Nc3
Qf6 9.0-0-0 Bd6 10.g3 0-0-0 11.h4
Bb4 12.Bb5 Rd6 13.g4 Nfe7 14.g5 1-0

One of the marks of the Expert is the ability to see his opponent's threats. Black sees the threats in this game, but at the end he is powerless to stop them.

MODERN DEFENSE (B06)

White: Peter Radomskyj (2141)

Black: Jack Shaw (2012)

2006 Golden Knights semifinal

1.d4 g6 2.e4 Bg7 3.Nf3 c6 4.c3 d5 5.e5
Nh6 6.Bf4 f6 7.Qd2 Nf7 8.Qe3 0-0 9.e6
Nd6 10.Bd3 b6 11.Nbd2 Na6 12.h4 Nc7
13.h5 g5 14.h6 1-0

White notes that 10. Nd5! Was the most difficult move of the game, exploiting the dark squares around black's King.

PIRC'S DEFENSE (B08)

White: Chris O'Connell (2446)

Black: Edward Addis (1934)

2005 Golden Knights semifinal

1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6
5.Be3 0-0 6.Qd2 e5 7.0-0-0 Ng4 8.dxe5
Nxe5 9.Nxe5 Bxe5 10.Nd5! Bg7 11.Bc4
Be6 12.Bg5 f6 13.Nxf6+ Bxf6 14.Bxe6+
Kh8 15.h4 Bxg5 16.hxg5 Qe7 17.Qc3+
Qg7 18.Rxh7+ 1-0

Knights can be sneaky.

PHILIDOR'S DEFENSE (C41)

White: Lorenzo Eisma (0000)

Black: Norman Gundrum (643)

John Collins 2005

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 d6 3.Nc3 c6 4.d4 Bg4
5.dxe5 Bxf3 6.Qxf3 dxe5 7.Bd3 b5 8.a4
Na6 9.axb5 Nb4 10.0-0 Nxd3 11.Rd1
cxb5 12.Nxb5 a6 13.Rxd3 Qb6 14.Rd5
f6 15.Qg4 Rd8 16.Rxa6 Qb7 17.Qe6+
Ne7 18.Ra8 Qxd5 19.Nc7 1-0

It only takes one little check to overthrow a whole army...

KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE

White: John Davis (1690)

Black: Charles Fortner (0000)

2007 Golden Knights

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6
5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.dxe5 dxe5 8.Qxd8
Rxd8 9.Bg5 c6 10.Nxe5 Re8 11.0-0-0
Nxe4 12.Nxe4 Bxe5 13.Rd8 Rxd8
14.Bxd8 Bf5 15.Nc5 Nd7 16.Nxd7 Bf4+ 0-1

When a national expert on the Morra Gambit loses a miniature Morra, it should cause some theoretical ears to prick up. Brandhorst's play against it is worth paying special attention to.

MORRA GAMBIT (B21)

White: Joseph Shipman (2444)

Black: Wesley Brandhorst (2283)

2006 Absolute Championship

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 a6
5.Bc4 e6 6.Nf3 b5 7.Bb3 Bb7 8.0-0 Bc5
9.Qe2 Qb6 10.Bf4 Ne7 11.a4 0-0 12.h4
f5 13.e5 Ng6 14.Bh2 Bxf3 15.Qxf3 Nc6
16.axb5 Nd4 17.Qd1 Nxh4 18.Na4 Qb7
0-1

Black forgets the First Commandment of the opening: Thou shalt not steal thy neighbor's Pawns.

KING'S GAMBIT (C34)

White: Robert Eisthen (1932)

Black: Ray Grinsteiner (1827)

2007 John Collins

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 d6 4.d4 g5 5.h4 f6 6.Bc4 Bg4 7.c3 Qe7 8.Qb3 Qxe4+ 9.Kf2 Ne7 10.Re1 1-0

The Max Lange still brings down the points—especially in the hands of a master of the attack like the late James Fisher.

MAX LANGE ATTACK (C55)

White: James Fisher (2281)

Black: William Jemty (2143)

2004 Golden Knights semifinal

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.0-0 Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.e5 d5 7.exf6 dxc4 8.fxg7 Rg8 9.Bg5 f6 10.Re1+ Kf7 11.Bh6 Kg6 12.Qc1 Bg4 13.Nh4+ Kf7 14.Qf4 Qd7 15.Nd2 Be7 16.Ne4 f5 17.f3 Bxh4 18.fxg4 Rae8 19.gxf5 Bf6 20.Nxf6 1-0

Sometimes this opening is bad business.

BUSINESSMAN'S OPENING (D02)

White: Kevin Paxson (1746) Black:

Michael Dennis (1635)

2004 Electronic Knights Final

1.d4 d5 2.Bf4 c6 3.Nf3 Bf5 4.c4 dxc4 5.Nbd2 b5 6.e4 Bg6 7.a4 Nd7 8.axb5 cxb5 9.Nh4 e5 10.Nxg6 hxg6 11.dxe5 Bb4 12.Be2 g5 13.Bg3 Nc5 14.Qc2 Nb3 0-1

They had minis in the old days, too. This one shows the crisscross Bishop mate

FALKBEERCOUNTERGAMBIT (31)

White: Cardiff CC

Black: Bristol

Correspondence 1891

1.e4 e5 2.f4 d5 3.exd5 e4 4.Bb5+ c6 5.dxc6 bxc6 6.Ba4 Qd4 7.c3 Qd6 8.Ne2 Bg4 9.0-0 Qd3 10.Re1 Bc5+ 11.Kf1 Qf3+ 12.gxf3 Bh3# 0-1

It might be an old story ...”I was just developing my pieces, when suddenly...”

KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE (E81)

White: Michael Temkin (1967)

Black: James Van Vranken (1990)

2007 Walter Muir

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f3 0-0 6.Be3 c5 7.d5 Nbd7 8.Nh3 Re8 9.Nf2 b6 10.Qd2 Ne5 11.Be2 a6 12.g4 b5 13.b3 bxc4 14.bxc4 Qa5 15.Rb1 Nfxg4 0-1

Even our champion of champions occasionally falters. Here the 2004 Absolute champion finds his whole game collapsing

CARO-KANN DEFENSE (B12)

White: Corky Schakel (2402)

Black: William Gray (2363)

2006 Absolute Championship

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nc3 e6 5.g4 Bg6 6.Nge2 c5 7.h4 h6 8.Be3 Qb6 9.f4 Nc6 10.f5 Bh7 11.Qd2 h5 12.fxex6 fxe6 13Bg5 cxd4 0-1

Today almost everybody knows the way to defang the Evans Gambit is Lasker's line – well, maybe there are still some teeth left. Witness this attack!

EVANS GAMBIT (C52)

White: Michael Celauro (1753)

Black: Gary Gallagher (1639)

2007 Golden Knights

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.b4 Bxb4
5.c3 Ba5 6.0–0 d6 7.d4 Bb6 8.dxe5 dxe5
9.Qb3 Qf6 10.Bg5 Qg6 11.Bd5 Be6
12.Nbd2 Na5 13.Qa4+ c6 14.Rfe1 Bxd5
15.exd5 f6 16.Nxe5 fxe5 17.Rxe5+ Kd7
18.Qg4+ 1–0

Honest people lose miniatures, too.
Clark Montgomery died before he could report the victory. Ron was then awarded a forfeit, but he rejected it and reported Clark's last win.

ROBATSCH DEFENSE (B06)

White: Clark Montgomery (1650)

Black: Ron Miller (1393)

2007 Golden Knights

1.e4 d6 2.Nf3 g6 3.d4 Bg7 4.Bc4 Bg4
5.Bxf7+ Kf8 6.Bd5 Bd7 7.Bxb7 Bc6
8.Ng5 Qd7 9.Qf3+ Nf6 10.Qb3 1-0

White's crisp opening play soon toasts Black.

FRENCH DEFENSE (C09)

White: Gillmore Hoefdraad (2074)

Black: Nona Oldner (0000)

2007 Electronic Knights

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 c5 4.Ngf3 Nc6
5.exd5 exd5 6.Bb5 Bd7 7.0–0 Be7
8.dxc5 Nf6 9.Nb3 Na5 10.Bxd7+ Nxd7
11.Nxa5 Qxa5 12.Qxd5 Qb5 13.Re1 Nf6
14.Rxe7+ 1–0

Here's an odd opening trap for the books,

RUY LOPEZ (C78)

White: James Anderson (1477) –

Black: William Johnson (0000)

2007 Golden Knights

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bb5 a6 4.Ba4 Nf6
5.0–0 d6 6.Bxc6+ bxc6 7.Re1 Bb7 8.d4
d5 9.Nxe5 dxe4 10.Bg5 c5 11.c3 Be7
12.Qa4+ Nd7 13.Nd2 Bxg5 14.Nxe4
Bxe4 15.Rxe4 1–0

When troubles come, they come not single file. The King's Gambit still nails a lot of victims quickly. This is from a CCLA Thematic tournament

KING'S GAMBIT)(C35)

White: Harry Simon (1959)

Black: S. Wunschel (1407)

CCLA King's Gambit, 2007

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Nf3 Be7 4.Bc4 Bh4+
5.g3 fxg3 6.0–0 gxh2+ 7.Kh1 Nh6 8.d4
Ng4 9.Bxf7+ Kf8 10.Bh5 1–0

A surprisingly virile attack without the Queen brings down our northern neighbor.

MODERN DEFENSE (B07)

White: Robert Boles (2118)

Black: Steve Fairbairn (2087)

2007 Golden Knights

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 Nbd7 4.f4 e5
5.dxe5 dxe5 6.fxe5 Nxe5 7.Qxd8+ Kxd8
8.Nf3 Bd6 9.Bg5 c6 10.0–0–0 Kc7
11.Be2 Neg4 12.Rxd6 Kxd6 13.Rd1+
Kc7 14.Bf4+ Kb6 15.Na4+ Ka5
16.Bc7+ b6 17.Nc5 Kb4 18.a3+ 1–0