

# PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

By Med Samraoui

Following the tradition of my predecessors, may I take the opportunity of sending a message to wish you all a peaceful and blessed season.

Of course, 2005 will remain a specific year in ICCF's history, with some good and some less good things having occurred but, hopefully, all our actions can now be oriented to the future.

During the last year, we lost several valuable officers like former President Josef Mrkvička, World Tournament Director Chris Lüers, Direct Entry Administrator John Knudsen, Finance Director Grayling Hill and Games Archivist Wes Green and I just would like to thank them for their great efforts and say they will all be welcome to rejoin the ICCF team, at any time.

Most vacant positions were filled by the ICCF Congress in Los Angostura and I am confident about the abilities of the newly appointed officers. All will work very hard to improve ICCF standards and to offer, in coordination with National Federations, good service to all players.

Significant planning has been started this month to further improve the facilities of the ICCF Webserver and recently more than 2000 players were recorded as having used the webserver, which confirms the correctness of the decisions of my predecessors to invest in this modern technology system. Playing new forms of CC is growing permanently but postal players can be assured that ICCF will continue to serve those who enjoy playing their CC games by post.

With this message, I address an appeal to all National Delegates to encourage volunteers to join ICCF Commissions. We need active representation in the Marketing and Webserver Commissions, including Help Desk, and in Website tasks etc. as well as in providing regular and interesting articles to Raymond Boger, the editor of "ICCF AMICI". This publication (ICCF's online magazine) is yours and it needs to be supported by all National Federations.

One of our major goals for 2006 is to have strong relationships with FIDE and, for the first time, an ICCF team will be playing in the FIDE Olympiad in Torino (Italy). We hope that ICCF will also be able to be represented by a ladies team from 2008, which would be a great stimulus for promoting women's correspondence chess in the future. We will also start to be more proactive in encouraging juniors and younger players to take up CC eg by webserver.

All pending issues will be considered actively in the coming months and far reaching ideas and proposals will be prepared for consideration and decision at the next ICCF Congress in Dresden (GER) from 14<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> October 2006. We are hoping for a great attendance at the 2006 Congress as Dresden is ideally situated and very well served in terms of transportation.

As we move towards 2006, it is a time to wish to all members of the Executive Board and Management Committee, all members of Commissions, all National Delegates and all CC players and friends a happy New Year with lots of friendship, health, happiness and success.

AMICI SUMUS.

19.12.2005

Med Samraoui

ICCF President.

# POINT OF VIEW

By Raymond Boger

## Dear Chessfriends,

First of all; I must apologize for the magazine being a little bit late. this due to some late received supplies - today !, but better late than never.

I must thank those of you who took the time to contribute to this number of ICCF AMICI, in particular George Pyrich and Eric Ruch.  
Nor must I forget to thank the newcomer Corky Schakel.

There is a President's Column this time. Since we have a new president in Med Samraoui. Who also contribute with a zonal report from the Africa / Asia zone. Thank you Med !.

In this number we also have a interview with Ivar Bern who have the possibility to become the new CC Worldchamp.

This interview was first printed in 2004 in NSB.  
(Norsk Sjakkblad – Norwegian Chess Magazine)

We hope to have a new interview with Ivar Bern when he have become the new world champion in CC. !

I have seen our new ICCF-president is writing in his zone-report that Japan is the new CC-dominator in the zone Africa/Asia.  
I will accordance to this have to say a few words: Norway is the leading Chess Nation of the World! An I will argue in this way .....

I will garantuee for 96% for security that Norway will have the next CC Worldchamp. He is interviewed in this number of ICCF AMICI and his name is Ivar Bern.

He is first in the ongoing [WC XVII](#), and only one draw for his opponent Borioslav Vukcevic is probably enough for Bern to win.

A little bit history..... I remember a cold afternoon in September 2003 at the Prague Airport I was waiting for the check-in to Ostrava, eastern in the Czech Republic, the place for the ICCF Congress this year.

I saw a typical Englishman walking ( sorry Iain! ) around in the waitinghall with his suitcase. He must be more than a chessplayer, a CC-player!, I thought. I took contact and we gave each other a short presentation. And quite true I was right: We had just played against each other in the First North Sea Team Tournament.

My new friend was Scotsman Iain Mackintosh and he told me he was on his way to Ostrava too. His was heading for this year ICCF congress to try to rerise his ICCF webserver Project. Which nothing had been done with since Rimini 2001. Sitting at the airport in amusing friendship we caught sight of a ( new )

man stressing at both sides. I thought he was not a typical Englishman!,  
but he has to be a chessplayer, I was sure.

We took contact and sure I was right, he was a chessplayer, and also the  
editor of the CC-magazine Chess Mail. his name was Tim Harding.  
He took place by our table and we where talking about much, most chess.

After a while I mentioned we in Norway has a very great talent  
named Magnus Carlsen 12 yaers old. I don't know if Iain and Tim did  
believe me?! Perhaps my both friends thought I was a bit out of mind telling  
them about a little young boy from Norway.

The rest is history. Magnus has showed his great talent: He was the  
youngest GM at a time when he was 13. Nobody has reached so long in  
World Cup as him, both Fisher and Kasparov was elder.

Magnus is now back from the World Cup in Sibir being number 10, and among  
the qualified in the candidates matches 2006. Magnus can perhaps be the next  
World Champ. Perhaps then Norway will have two maestros!

Albeit we aren't the best chess nation in the world;  
then we have to be better than Sweden !!

One last thing; Magnus have now started to play CC.  
He is now playing for Norway in our celebration / friendly match against Sweden

Anyway I will use the opportunity to wish you all a Happy new year!

Enjoy the reading !.....

Best wishes & Amici Sumus!  
Raymond Boger

## **Correspondence Chess Reminiscence N°7** **Eric RUCH**

**The Radio Match Great Britain – URSS (1946)**

The first game played by radio between Great Britain and URRS took place between June, 19 and June, 20 1946. It was the first event organized by the “Anglo – Russian” chess club and was recognized by both chess federations.

According to the newspaper, this match was also the opportunity to demonstrate the friendship between the two countries. The rooms, where the games were played, were decorated with the flags of the two countries, and many Britain officials visited the place during the games.

M. Silkin, minister of government, welcomed the players with a magnificent speech that the English players will remember for ever. Emphasizing the development of chess in his country, he said that the Members of the Parliament used to play much more than in the past. He concluded by wishing that MM. Bevin and Molotov could solve their different points of view on a chessboard!

The players of the two teams, listed from board 1 to board 12:

<b>Great Britain</b>	<b>USSR</b>
C.H.O.D Alexander	M. Botvinnik
E. Klein	P. Kérès
I. Konig	V. Smyslov
H. Golombek	I. Boleslavsky
W.A. Fairhurst	S. Flohr
P.M. List	A. Kotov
W. Winter	D. Bronstein
J.M. Aitken	I. Bondarevsky
B.H. Wood	A. Lilienthal
G. Abrahams	V. Ragozine
Miss E. Tranmer	V. Byelova
Mrs R.M. Bruce	I. Rudenko

Viacheslav Ragozine, the second correspondence world champion, wrote an article about this match, that was published in “*Le Monde des Echecs*” in 1946. It is a very interesting document that was probably not published (as far as I know) outside URSS.

The defeat of the English chess players.

**By V. RAGOZINE**

We hope that the “American Tragedy” can be avoided, wrote the English chess players in the letter they send to their soviet colleagues when proposing a radio match after the tournament played between USSR and USA. The soviet team had defeated the American with the astonishing score of 15 ½ to 4 ½. The chess world was surprised. For many persons, this result was a shock, and the American players were not at all prepared to such a score. Obviously they had underestimated their opponents.

The British players did not make the same error. They had a good knowledge of the strength of the soviet team and they had well prepared all the games. They had the opportunity to carefully study the style and the opening repertoire of each member of the soviet team: the english and the american chess magazines were full of games played by the soviets and opening study analyzed by the leading soviet masters during the months preceding the match. All the games of the first international tournament USRR – USA had been published in these magazines, with deep annotations and analysis.

It was much more difficult for the players of the USSR to prepare the games of this match. Some of the English players, such as Alexander or Clyne, did not take part to the major tournaments during the last six years and we could not study their games to be well prepared for the struggle.

The English players were well prepared. The English master, Golombek, has played the Indian defense against Boleslavsky, a master of this defense. Golombek played a line where the queens are exchanged very early in the game, getting then a very quiet game. This tactic was successful, and Golombek could secure the draws in the two games.

Each team had two ladies players. This match was the first international tournament for the two soviet ladies. Belova and Rudenko obtained very good results, winning their four games. In the two games, Valentine Belova, USSR lady champion, could prove her endgame technique against her opponent Miss. Tranmer. Ludmila Rudenko won her two games against Mrs. Bruss by a direct attack on the King during the middlegame Her second game was the shortest and the most spectacular game of the match.

For the men, the best results were obtained by the grand masters Vassili Smyslov, Alexander Kotov and Igor Bondarevski. They have won their two games The grand masters Paul Keres, Salomon Flohr and André Lilienthal have secured 1 ½ points out of the two games.

The big surprise has been the defeat of the USSR champion Botvinnik in the second game. Mikhail Botvinnik is a player having a large variety of style. He is as strong in calm positional games as in very tactical and complicated positions.

Many players think that the win with Black is more valuable than the win with the white pieces. Botvinnik has won more games with Black than with White in his tournaments. When playing Black, Botvinnik generally plays complicate opening where it is very difficult to give a correct assessment of the position. But of course, Black has also to play very carefully in such openings. In the second game played against Alexander, Botvinnik played a French defense and get a position where both players had good chances for sizing the attack. He played a wrong move and was forced to play in defense. Botvinnik does not very often make mistakes, but in this particular case, the lack of training during more than a whole year could be felt. Botvinnik did not take part to any tournament since the 14<sup>th</sup> USSR championship played in May 1945.

As in the first radio match between the URSS and the USA, the games played in this second match took twice more time than an usual game. The game Flohr – Firehearst lasted 22 hours over two days! As long as the radio technique will not permit the games to be played in eight hours, this type of games will be very tiring for the players.

Has the English team be able to avoid the “American Tragedy”? Indeed, the percentage is not as disastrous as the American one, but the defeat could not be avoided.

The art of soviet chess has won a prestigious victory in the radio match URSS – Great Britain.

## **V. Ragozine.**

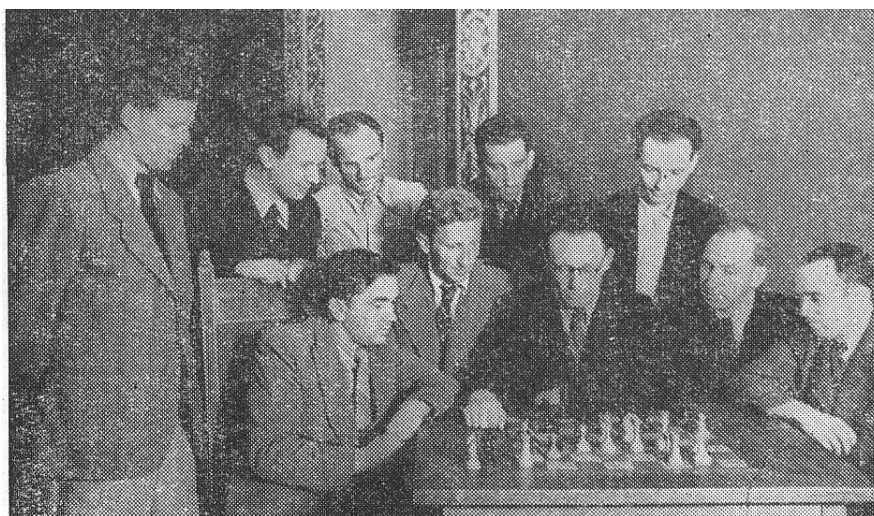
## Great Britain

C.H.O.D Alexander	1	1
E. Klein	½	1 ½
I. Konig	0	2
H. Golombek	1	1
W.A. Fairhurst	½	1 ½
P.M. List	0	2
W. Winter	1	1
J.M. Aitken	0	2
B.H. Wood	½	1 ½
G. Abrahams	1 ½	½
Miss E. Tranmer	0	2
Mrs R.M. Bruce	0	2

## USSR

M. Botvinnik
P. Kérès
V. Smyslov
I. Boleslavsky
S. Flohr
A. Kotov
D. Bronstein
I. Bondarevsky
A. Lilienthal
V. Ragozine
V. Byelova
I. Rudenko

The magazine published a photo of the soviet team who played in the game against the USA, and some of these members, amongst them Ragozine, played also in the match against Great-Britain.



Quiz : Are you able to recognize all these champions ?

The two games played by Alexander and Botvinnik have also been published in *Le Monde des Echecs* (pages 261 – 262 & 356-358).

**C.H.O.D. Alexander – M. Botvinnik [C18]  
(radio), 1946**

F. Molnar "*Le Monde des Echecs*" (1946)

**1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.♘c3 ♗b4**

The preferred move of Botvinnik in the French, his first choice against 1.e4

**4.e5 c5 5.a3 ♕xc3+ 6.bxc3 ♖e7 7.♗g4**

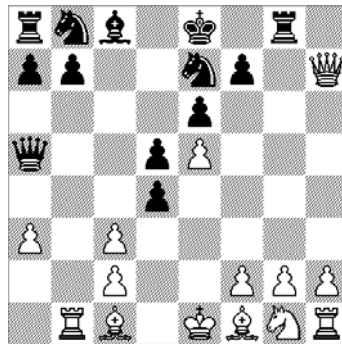
Master Alexander is not intimidated and uses an aggressive move 7.♖f3 ♖bc6 8.♙d3 ♗a5 9.♗d2 c4 10.♙e2 ♗a4 to avoid a4, Pogrebysski - Botvinnik en 1939.

**7...cxd4 8.♗xg7 ♖g8 9.♗xh7 ♗a5?**

Who will be the first? White wants to make the decision on the King side, whereas Black launches an attack on the Queen side. But the move ...♗a5 is not as efficient as ...♗c7, due to the double threat ...♗xc3 and ...♗xe5 while defending b7.

After 9...♗c7 the game continues 10.♖e2 ♖bc6 11.f4 ♙d7 12.♗d3 dxc3 13.♖xc3 a6 14.♖b1 ♖c8 15.♙d2 ♖a5 16.♗h3 b5 17.♙d3 ♖c4 and Black has the better game Lilienthal - Löwenfisch, Moscow 1936.

**10.♖b1**



A very strong move. The defensive move ♖ge2 would lead to a similar game as in the preceding line.

**10...♗xc3+ 11.♙d2 ♗c7**

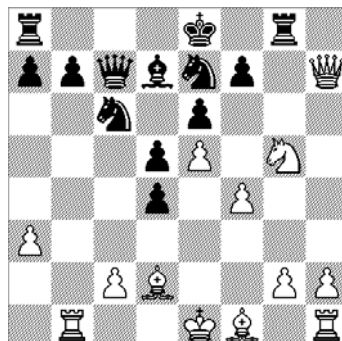
11...♗xa3 should be tried.

**12.f4 ♖bc6**

12...♖d7 would be a complete resignation . 13.♖f3 ♖f8 14.♗d3 ♖f5 15.♖xd4 ♖xd4 16.♗xd4 ♗xc2 17.♙b5+ followed by the castle and White has an overwhelming position.

**13.♖f3 ♙d7 14.♖g5!**

A very aggressive move. White attack can now hardly be refuted.



**14...♖xg5**

The exchange sacrifice is mandatory. Black tries to escape from the struggle by dominating the center, but all tries will be unsuccessful.

If Black plays 14...♖d8 15.♗b4 and Black position is completely blocked and the Queen side castling is no more possible. Moreover 14...♞f8 would be bad, in view of 15.♞h5 and the threat is ♖h7.

### 15.fxg5 0–0–0

The sacrifice of the f7 pawn cannot be avoided and Black is seeking for more space.

15...♞xe5+ 16.♔d1 b6 17.♗d3 and Black game would be completely paralyzed.

### 16.♞xf7 ♞xe5+ 17.♔d1

White king is in safety and the passed pawns become now very dangerous.

### 17...♖f5 18.g6 ♖e3+ 19.♔c1 ♞e4

The threat of mate allows Black to win a pawn, while White is continuing his development.

### 20.♗d3 ♞xg2 21.♞e1 ♖e5 22.♞f4 ♖f3 23.♞e2 ♞h3

If 23...e5 24.♞xg2 exf4 25.g7 ♗c6 26.♞g6 ♗g8 27.♞f6 etc.

### 24.♗xe3 e5 25.♞f7 dxe3 26.g7

The little pawn is growing....

### 26...♞g4 27.h3 ♞g1+ 28.♔b2 ♞g3 29.♗g6 ♖d4

Black's position is hopeless, and the rest of the game is merely a question of technique.

### 30.g8♞ ♞xg8 31.♞xg8+ ♔c7 32.♞h7 ♔d6

If 32...♖xe2 33.♗f5 wins.

### 33.♗d3 e4 34.♞h6+ ♔c7 35.♞xe3 ♞e5 36.♔a2

To unpin the King.

### 36...♖f5 37.♞g5

The Knight and the pawn are pinned.

### 37...♗e6 38.♗e2 d4+ 39.♞eb3 b6 40.♞d2

To prevent the push a5–a4 that threatens to win the Rook.

### 40...d3 41.♗g4 1–0

Black has no other choice than to resign.

## M. Botvinnik, M – C.H.O.D. Alexander, C [E49] (radio), 1946

I. Shernetsky " *Le Monde des Echecs*" (1946)

### 1.d4 ♖f6 2.c4 e6 3.♖c3 ♗b4 4.e3

This move has been first played by the grand-master Rubinstein. Many "young" grand-masters have adopted it, especially the young one such as Botvinnik, Reshevsky, Fine, Flohr et Lilienthal. For a long period, the best line against the aggressive "Nimzowitsch Defense" has been 4.♞b3 c5 5.dxc5 ♖c6 6.♖f3 etc, then 4.♞c2 d5 5.cxd5 exd5 6.♗g5 ♞d6 7.e3 ♖e4 8.♗f4 has been the favorite line of play.



#### 4...d5 5.a3

The great Akiba preferred 5.♘g2 0-0 6.a3 ♕xc3+ 7.♗xc3 avoiding the doubled pawns, but the modern grand-masters consider that the pawn complex c3-c4-d4 can be accepted, once Black has played d5. That's why Black tends to adopt the pawn formation c5-d5-e5 that seems to create more problems to White.

#### 5...♕xc3+ 6.bxc3 c5 7.cxd5 exd5

Probably better was 7...♗xd5 avoiding the possibility to have an isolated pawn at d5. But the missing Knight at f6 makes White attack on the King side much more efficient.

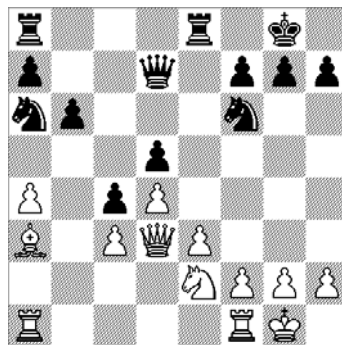
#### 8.♕d3 0-0 9.♗e2 b6

Preparing the development of the Bishop on a6 and not on b7, to exchange it against the very active white Bishop.

#### 10.0-0 ♕a6 11.♕xa6 ♗xa6 12.a4 ♖d7 13.♕a3 ♜fe8 14.♞d3

In order to provoke the pawn push ...c4 to release the tension on the Queen side where the four black pawns are blocked by the three white pawns, and then attack on the King side by playing f3-e4-e5-f4-f5 etc.

#### 14...c4



This move is probably the cause of Black problems.

We would have preferred 14...♞b7, maintaining the tension around c5 and d4.

After 14...♗b8 White could have played 15.c4!

#### 15.♞c2 ♗b8 16.♞ae1 ♗c6 17.♗g3 ♗a5 18.f3 ♗b3 19.e4! ♞xa4

Played as in the well known game Botvinnik - Capablanca, Avro, 1938.

Black has won the a4 pawn and White has to demonstrate that his initiative on the King side is worth the sacrifice.

The two games are almost identical, the sole difference is that White has played his Bishop on b2 and not on a3.

#### 20.♞b2

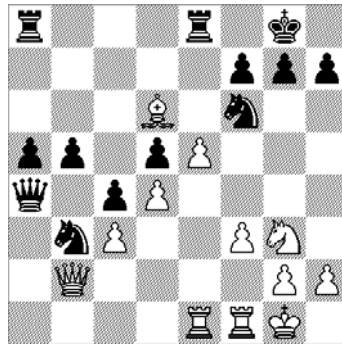
If 20.♕b2 Black wins a valuable tempo by playing 20...♗c5! 21.♞f2? ♗d3 etc, or even 20.♕b4

#### 20...a5 21.e5 b5!

Ignoring the attack on the King side, Black tries to use his pawn majority on the Queen side.

#### 22.♕d6!

If 22.exf6 b4! winning back the piece.



22...♖e6 23.exf6 ♜xd6 24.fxg7 ♜b4 25.♖e5 ♛d7 26.f4 ♜e8 27.♞e2 ♜de6 28.f5 ♜xe5 29.dxe5 ♞a7+

Black has no time to play 29...f6 because 30.♗h5! would be decisive.

**30.♗h1 bxc3**

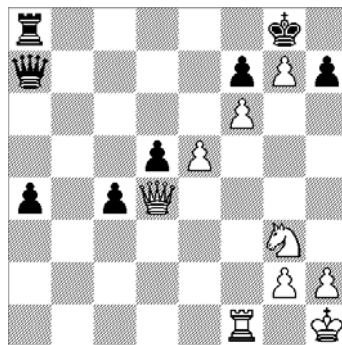
To give the d4 square to the black Knight, but it is too late to bring back this piece to defend the King.

**31.f6 ♗d4 32.♞e3**

Otherwise 33.♗f5 wins

**32...♖a8 33.♞xc3 a4 34.♞xd4!**

This pseudo sacrifice could have been played at the previous move



**34...♞xd4 35.♗f5 h5**

Mandatory in view of the threats ♗h6 or ♗e7 mate.

**36.♗xd4 ♖e8 37.♗f5 d4**

If 37...♖xe5 38.♗h6+ ♗h7 39.g8♞+ etc.

**38.e6! 1-0**

If 38...fxc6 39.♗h6+ ♗h7 40.f7 wins the game.

Eric RUCH

Answer to the quiz :

First rank, sited from left to right : A. Kotov, V. Smyslov, M. Botvinnik, V. Ragozine et S. Flohr.

Second rank : A. Lilienthal, I. Boleslavsky, V. Makaganov, I. Bondarevsky et D. Bronstein.

# Ivar Bern in World Championship XVII

## by Atle Grønn

**You check the mail-box, put the coffee on, plug in Fritz, and away you go....**

Ivar Bern (37) from Bergen, Norway has been away from the chess-board for a while, but spends numerous hours analysing chess positions on his PC. A CC career spanning nearly 20 years is close to being crowned with the World Championship title, in World Championship XVII, possibly the last Championship being played by ordinary mail. Bern is in the lead as the smoke is beginning to clear, even though the incomplete cross table shows that in theory someone can still catch up with him. However, the tiebreak will in all probability favour the Norwegian, and the possibility that anyone beats Bern's own 10½ point prognosis, is remote (see table). Whatever the final result, Bern is in the process of obtaining a world class result, and the games in this final demonstrate a depth seldom being served to the readers of a Norwegian chess journal.

### Extreme sport

The Norwegian hope believed the tournament would end during 2005, but the Russian Khlusevitsj (2569) – the only one in the field Bern suspects is without a PC – suffers from slow mail and a worst-case scenario is that it may take several years before the winner is decided. With such time perspectives we found it best to ask our anonymous world star to tell us about this strange form of competition, which seems rather hopelessly out of date in these days of speed chess, but at the same time being characterized by modern technology. Before reflecting on the effect of computers on (correspondence) chess, we let Bern sum up the road to success in this branch of chess that he describes as extreme sport: – The World Championship title was my motivation for starting with CC in 1986. Through my results in the semi- and ¾-final, I qualified for the final starting in March 2002. If this results in a World Championship title, a 20-year project will be complete. Things take time! One of my advantages in the final was being an out-of-work part-time dad, with lots of time and energy on my hands. One of my opponents got his fourth child during the final, besides working full-time. Obviously we had completely different working conditions!

### What is the level of play in this final?

None of the top ranks are participating. But CC ratings can be misleading, because the strength of play is dependent on how much energy you put into the tournament.

In a World Championship final I assume that at the outset everyone is top motivated and consequently plays better than their rating. Personally I play much better in this final, having only 16 games to concentrate on, compared to my play in the semi-final when I also took part in several other tournaments. At most, I had 63 games running simultaneously! Such factors also influence the play of my opponents. Besides, I have a stronger PC now, even though it is a rather poor PIII 1000Mhz.

**The level of the games is extremely high.**

Bern's «life-time project» is definitely rather original. But if you have a talent for chess, some free time and an unusually developed interest in chess analysis, you just go ahead. As it says on the website of the Norwegian Correspondence Chess Federation ( [www.postsjakkforbundet.no](http://www.postsjakkforbundet.no) -in Norwegian only): «If your playing strength is good enough and you are patient enough, you can start in the Open Class and end up in the World Championship final.» In addition a computer and selected software are prerequisites. The first time a Norwegian reached the top of the CC world, was when Frank Hovde of Steinkjer in the 1980s chose to live alone with chess analysis, returning to the civilisation several years later with the title “European CC Champion” to his name. Bern says he saw daylight again at the end of 2003, when 10 of the 16 games were finished. – With only 6 games remaining the workload was so reduced that Fritz had a couple of good nights’ sleep, and the time had come to crawl out of the cave and get an honest job.

## Perfectionism

Very few of us can fully understand what lies behind such an achievement. Many OTB players, and some former CC players as well, have problems understanding how CC can survive the “computer death”. Some are worried about chess in itself, and then CC is hanging in a very thin thread. Bern's games in the on-going final are good news in that regard – CC at the top level today is also a demonstration of the computer programs’ limitations. Bern himself is not at all worried by the future of (correspondence) chess, so what should ordinary OTB fear in the foreseeable future? But if you want to make a career in CC, you should be aware of the conditions:

CC is getting closer to perfectionism. I have always had a small scientist inside of me, and for me the use of computers is what appeals to me. I can understand that some strong OTB players do not share this fascination and therefore leave CC. Personally, I like to think of CC as «Advanced chess» – computer-assisted chess. Kasparov and his companions were involved in this some years ago, but they only played rapidgames. We have all the time in the world, so the games are on a really high level.

**What do you believe the result of a CC match (computer-assisted, of course) between you and Kasparov would be? Are you and your PC an**

## unbeatable team?

We would probably play about even against Kasparov and his computers, because I would have invested more time and energy than he would. It is extremely hard to beat the team of Bern & Fritz. Possibly, I made 5 inaccuracies in the final, but I was never in the danger of losing a game, although obviously I had to play very exact in several positions. I was close to losing when I made an erroneous evaluation as Black in one of my Sveshnikovs, but after a week of hard work I finally found a variation that was sufficient to draw.

## How strong have the computer programs become, and what is left for the humans?

My program isn't even close to playing perfect chess. The same goes for the other programs that some of my opponents use. There is a lot of work left for humans. Therefore, I have no fear of the computer death. But it is important to leave some of the work to the computer. Fritz never rests. At night he (Bern uses "he" and not "it" about his god friend Fritz) mostly does «Deep Position analysis» or «Blunder Check». Occasionally he works on the same position all night through ("Infinite Analysis"). And I always check his suggestions. "Blunder Check" is incredibly helpful in the openings, where Fritz unveiled many poor analyses in Informator and ECO. In some types of positions Fritz is relatively helpless, as in the King's Indian where he believes Black must play h5-h4 (and not g5-g4). On the other hand, Fritz played surprisingly well in the Stonewall. The best CC player is he who manages to supplement the computer programs most effectively. I am never satisfied with the conclusion "unclear" but keep on going until the computer gives preference to my position.

## A bit further than the computer

Bern, himself a strong OTB player, is the only FIDE-IM in the field. Deeper understanding of chess and OTB playing strength lead to a more critical attitude towards the computers. Several of the games demonstrated that you couldn't blindly trust the computer programs. I discovered that an opponent who consistently followed the computer's first choice. That gave me a belief in victory, because in reality I only had to see a bit further than the computer. Fritz alone doesn't stand a chance against Bern & Fritz!

Our man was counting on a decisive advantage in the endgame against Khlusevitsch, which was in progress while this interview was done. Balder (7) constructed a table-top version of Fritz which could be used to pick up the opponent's weak pawns. Just before going to print, an email arrived: "Received 'Resign' from Khlusevitsch today! His last post-card was postmarked 1 Aug as well as 1 Sep, so it had probably spent a month in a Russian post office [somewhere](#), before someone bothered to send it on..."

Among many exciting games we have selected the following, featuring an opening novelty that shows the vast richness of chess compared to the computer's dull number crunching:

**Ivar Bern** NOR (2611)

**Michel Lecroq** FRA (2602)

King's Indian

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4** Playing White I often choose main variations where I try to squeeze as much as possible out of the initiative resulting from having the first move. **2...g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.Nf3 0-0 6.Be2 e5 7.0-0 Nc6 8.d5 Ne7 9.Ne1** Previously I preferred 9.Sd2, but Black probably equalises after 9...a5 10.a3 c6 11.Rb1 b5. After 12.dxc6 b4 13.axb4 axb4 14.Nd5 Nxc6, Nd2 is only standing in the way. 9.b4 Nh5 10.Re1 is quite popular these days, but I think Black is OK after 10...f5 11.Ng5 Nf6 12.Bf3 c6. **9...Nd7 10.Be3 f5 11.f3 f4 12.Bf2 g5** In a book by Marovic there is an interesting chapter on the historical development of this variation. With a closed centre and domination on respective flanks, we're definitely in for a race! White has constantly been forced to find faster ways of attacking on the Queen-side. **13.Rc1!?** A relatively recent attempt to get things going on the Queen-side. The move was first played by GM Kozul. The idea is to open the c-file with the pawn sacrifice c4-c5. **13...Ng6** 13...Rf6! is a radical alternative. The plan is Rh6 and Qd8-e8-h5. White should counter Qe8 with Kh1 and Bg1. **14.c5 Nxc5 15.b4 Na6** An important tempo-winning point in this variation is that this Knight ends up far from its usual square f6, making it harder for Black to carry out g5-g4. **16.Nd3** Piket's move. More common is 16.Nb5 Bd7 17.Nxa7, but after 17...Rf7 18.a4 Black can probably capture the pawn with 18...Nxb4! **16...h5 17.Nb5 Bd7 18.a4 Bh6 19.Rc3** The Rook covers the King-side if Black plays g5-g4. The point behind 18...Bh6 is seen in the variation 19.Nxa7?! g4! 20.fxg4 f3! **19...Rf7** In my other King's Indian, the German Stern drew by 19...b6 20.Be1 Rf7 21.Nf2 Bc8 (Piket - Kasparov, Linares 1997 continued 21...Nh4 22.Nxd6 cxd6 23.Bxa6) 22.Ra3 Nxb4! 23.Bxb4 a6 24.Nxd6 cxd6 etc. **20.Nxa7 Rg7**



**21.b5!!N** This is probably the most important novelty I found in this tournament. The move involves a positional piece sacrifice and definitely lives up to Marovic' thesis: to play as fast as possible. In previous games White has backed off with 21.Nb5.

**21...Nc5** After the admission 21...Nb8 22.a5 White will have achieved a lot on the Queen-side. **22.Nxc5 dxc5 23.Bxc5!± g4!?** The point behind 21.b5 is the endgame ensuing after 23...b6 24.Nc6 Bxc6 25.dxc6 Qxd1 26.Rxd1 bxc5 27.Ra3! Black is a piece up, but the King-side pieces do very little to stop White's pawns. White can brag about his d-file and a Bishop turning into a white-squared God. I believe White has a decisive advantage. My main variation was 27...Ra5 28.Bc4+ Kh7 29.Rd7 Nf8 30.Rad3!! (threatening b5-b6.) 30...Ra8 (30...Rxa4 31.Rxg7+ Bxg7 32.b6! cxb6 33.c7 Rxc4 34.c8Q) 31.Rxg7+ Bxg7 32.a5! Rc8 (32...Rxa5 33.b6) 33.a6 Bf6 34.a7 Bd8 35.Ra3 Ra8 36.Bd5 after which b5-b6 decides. **24.fxg4** Opening the 3<sup>rd</sup> row for Rc3 is vital. Fritz suggests 24.d6??, but White doesn't persevere 24...g3! 25.dxc7 Qh4 26.h3 Bxh3 27.gxh3 Qxh3. **24...Qg5!?** Black can still win a piece through 24...hxg4 25.Bxg4 b6 26.Nc6 Bxc6 27.dxc6 Qxd1 28.Bxd1 bxc5 29.Bb3+ Kh7 30.Kh1±; or 24...b6 25.Nc6 Bxc6 26.dxc6 bxc5 27.Qxd8+ Rxd8 28.gxh5 Nh4 29.g3±. **25.b6** The quickest – and most natural. The c-file is opened, the d5-pawn becomes passed and Be2/Na7 gets access to the b5 square. Besides, White doesn't have to worry about b7-b6. **25...cxb6 26.Bxb6 hxg4 27.Bb5** It is natural to eliminate Bd7 which blocks the d-pawn and the 7<sup>th</sup> row, covers c8 and is attacking h3. Besides, Be2 risked to be faced with f4-f3. **27...f3** Black has other moves, but I found none that looked threatening. For example, 27...g3 28.Bxd7 gxh2+ 29.Kxh2 Rxd7 30.Rh3± **28.Bxd7 Rxd7 29.g3±** The smoke has cleared, and the game enters into a manoeuvring phase. Black's fun on the King-side has come to an end, while White enjoys an extra passed d-pawn. Qg5-h5 can now be met by h2-h4. Crazy Fritz suggests 29.Qc2, but White's King looks very lonely after 29...fxg2 30.Kxg2 Rf8 31.Rxf8+ Bxf8. **29...Nf8 30.h4!?** With a blocked King-side White can fully concentrate on the Queen-side. However, I didn't quite like the idea of totally giving up the possibility to undermine the King-side by h2-h3. **30...Qg6** Black plans Nf8-h7-f6 with pressure on e4. White now has two protected passed pawns (d5 + h4), Black has f3. In an endgame Black

will have trouble stopping both pawns. White wins after 30...gxf3 31.Qxf3 or 30...Qd2 31.Qxd2 Bxd2 32.Rc2 Ba5 33.Be3. **31.Qb1** Protecting e4 and Bb6. **31...Nh7 32.Nc8 Nf6** 32...Rxa4?? loses after 33.Qb5. **33.Rc4** Here the Rook covers e4, a4, and Nc8. **33...Qe8** After 33...Bf8 I had planned 34.Bf2 Rg7 35.Qc2 followed by Rf1–b1–b5 to attack b7 and e5. 33...Nxe4?? loses after 34.Re1. **34.Qc2 Bf8** 34...Nxe4?? loses after 35.Qxe4 Rxc8 36.Qxg4+. **35.Bf2 Rg7** Covering g4, threatening Nxe4-tricks. **36.Rc1** Extra protection of Nc8 so that Black can forever forget about Nxe4. Black can do very little, except waiting for me to improve my position. **36...Qg6** 36...b5? loses to 37.Rc6. **37.d6!?** The plan is to give up the d-pawn for e5, whereafter Bf2 becomes God on d4. In addition White gets an annoying Rook on the 5<sup>th</sup> row. Black's King becomes very vulnerable when heavy artillery is rolling up behind the pawn chain. **37...Qe8 38.Qb2** From here the Queen points in the direction of Black's weaknesses on b7 and e5. **38...Ra6** I expected 38...Qe6 39.Rc5 Bxd6 40.Nxd6 Qxd6 41.Rxe5. I cannot for the life of me see how Black can survive this. He has weaknesses on b7 and g4, and Kg8 cannot feel safe at all. White is a pawn up, has passed pawns on e4 and h4, Re5 is sweeping the 5<sup>th</sup> row, and Bf2 is on its way to d4. 38...Rxa4 loses to 39.Rxa4 Qxa4 40.Qxe5 with the point 40...Nxe4? 41.Ne7+ Bxe7 42.dxe7; 38...Nxe4 is hopeless after 39.Rxe4 Rxc8 40.Rxc8 Qxc8 41.Qxe5. For example: 41...Qc1+ 42.Re1 Qc4 43.Rd1 Rd7 44.Rd4 Qc1+ 45.Kh2 Qc2 46.Rxg4+ Kh7 47.Kh3.



**39.Rc7! Rxc7** Or 39...Qe6 40.Rxg7+ Bxg7 41.Qxb7 Rxa4 42.Ne7+ Kh7 43.Nf5 and White wins. **40.dxc7!!** Yet another positional piece sacrifice, and this time Black has no option but to accept. **40...Qxc8 41.Qxe5** White has but 2 pawns for the Knight, but the c7 pawn paralyzes Black. The Queen is useless as a blocking piece. **41...Bg7** Everything loses: 41...Kf7 42.Bd4 Ba3 43.Qf5; or 41...Re6 42.Qxe6+ Qxe6 43.c8Q. **42.Qe7!** Threatens Qd8, alternatively Rc1–c5–g5. **42...Ne8 43.Qd8 Ra8 44.Qd5+**



**Kh8 45.Rc5** There is no defence. Some variations: 45...Bf8 (45...Nf6 46.Qf7 Kh7 47.Rf5 Qf8 48.Rxf6 Qxf7 49.Rxf7 Kh6 50.Rd7 Bf6 51.e5; 45...Nxc7 46.Qf7) 46.Qd4+ Kh7 (46...Ng7 47.Rh5+ Kg8 48.Rh6 Qxc7 49.Qd5+ Qf7 50.Rh8+ Kxh8 51.Qxf7) 47.Rh5+ Bh6 48.Qb6 Ra6 49.Rxh6+ Kg7 50.Qd4+! Kxh6 51.Qh8+ Kg6 52.Qg8+ Kf6 53.Qf8+ Kg6 54.Qf5+. **1-0**

## Did you have any particular strategy for the World Championship final?

Before the final started, I made a principal decision to go for the initiative both with White and Black. Even though my opening repertoire was completely obsolete, I went for very sharp openings. This approach proved to require a lot of resources. It helped that John Kvamme lent me a big bag full of Informators and Eirik Gullaksen contributed with books on the Sveshnikov and the King's Indian. In addition, it was very valuable to have Kjetil Stokke as a second, since he is updated on most new ideas in the opening theory. Only a couple of Stonewall games were relatively easy, particularly the following miniature:

**Asko Linna** FIN (2577)

**Ivar Bern** NOR (2611)

Dutch, Stonewall

**1.d4 f5 2.g3 Nf6 3.Bg2 e6 4.c4 d5 5.Nh3 c6 6.0-0 Bd6 7.Bf4 Be7 8.Nd2 Qb6!** I found this move while preparing against GM Leif Erlend Johannessen some years ago. The text threatens two pawns and is any computer program's first choice. Everyone else plays 8...0-0 **9.Qc2** GM Jakovitsch played 9.Nb3!? against me in Bergen 2002, after thinking for one hour. The result was time trouble and a well-deserved punishment. **9...Qxd4** Linna felt a bit deceived: «I analysed all variations but was not satisfied» was his comment on his next move. **10.Be3** ½-½

Against 1.e4 I chose the Sveshnikov variation of the Sicilian, which forced me to use much time in the opening stage. The choice was taken after an email to club president Gullaksen inquiring if the Sveshnikov really was sound. The answer came promptly: «Kasparov is playing the Sveshnikov against Shirov - NOW». I immediately logged on to ICC, witnessed Gary's crushing victory and went for it. Four of the games turned into Sveshnikovs, completely different variations, so I got nothing for free. I had to expose lots of bad opening theory to survive the openings. Two of these sharp Sveshnikovs were played by email, which can be extra stressful, because you often get the reply immediately - no time in the post!

## Are you tempted to repeat the success?

The plan is to make up status and write a book on the final. Later I may possibly go for another final (by email) There is also a commercial server where you play for high money prizes, with many OTB GMs participating. Obviously, this is tempting.

## And what about OTB?

For the last 8 years I have mainly played league games and Bergen Chess International. I usually lose about 50 Elo points in the league games, winning most of it back during the national final (In Norway, regional leagues are played as qualifications to a final with 8 teams. Translator's note). Probably, motivation plays a certain role... By the way, there should be a warning sign on Fritz: «Excessive use may harm your ability to compute variations». In OTB I have gone for a practical/untheoretical approach, trying to avoid the worst tactical complications. It is more important to lead the games into positions I feel comfortable with, rather than finding the best move at any cost. Even though CC is my main interest, it doesn't give the same adrenalin kick as an OTB time trouble duel. That way, CC is a rather peculiar extremesport. You get the biggest excitement when you pick up your mail, plug in Fritz, and away you go.... And the greatest pleasure is when the opponent reveals deep chess understanding and resigns before I had expected.

NSb (Norsk Sjakkblad – Norwegian Chess Magazine) crosses its fingers hoping the opponents will show their deep understanding during the finishing stage. Ivar has done his part of the job (only one drawish game remains). The holes in the tournament table will hopefully soon be filled through resigned and drawn games. In what other forms of competition do you have to wait several years before uncorking the champagne?

### **Ivar Bern (37)**

Member of Bergens Schakklub (Bergen Chess Club)

Columnist Bergens Tidene (1987-99 + 2004 - ?)

Working as psychologist within the school administration

### **OTB merits:**

IM 1992.

Playing for Norway in the chess olympiads 1988, 1992 and 1994.

Appr. 25 Norwegian Championship titles, the last being the Team Championship 2003.

### **CC merits:**

Norwegian Champion 1988

IM 1995

GM 1997

VM-finalist 2002 - ? .....

# ICCF Congress Report 2005

## by George Pyrich

ICCF Congresses are often quite eventful – this year, the journey to the Congress was very eventful! In my case, Iberia Airlines messed up and I had unscheduled overnight stops in both Madrid and Buenos Aires, arriving at Bariloche airport some 53 hours after leaving Edinburgh and a full 24 hours behind schedule, thoroughly exhausted and quite dispirited. However, I was very pleased to meet up with two old friends, Antonio Moura from Portugal and Armando Perez Perez from Cuba. Antonio had been immensely helpful to my wife and I when we'd first met at the Congress held in Portugal in 2002 – again, he was to be immensely helpful, negotiating (in Spanish) the arrangements for the car transport for the 50 miles or so journey to our hotel in Villa La Angostura. On arrival, I soon realised that I had been less unfortunate than first thought – my friend and fellow Scottish CCA representative, ICCF Honorary President Alan Borwell didn't make it all having been badly let down in Paris by Air France. ICCF Presidential candidate Med Samraoui was similarly unfortunate and also didn't make it to the Congress.

Villa La Angostura is a small town of some 10,000 inhabitants situated, about 800 miles south from Buenos Aires, in the south-west corner of Neuquén, a province of Patagonia, one of Argentina's largest regions. Situated in the foothills of the Andes Mountains, Villa La Angostura is a ski resort with many excellent facilities for visitors. The area's truly spectacular scenery of snow-capped mountains, numerous lakes and woodlands attracts huge numbers of visitors all year round. A total of 35 officials, delegates and delegation members, unfortunately considerably lower than in previous years, along with some 15 family members attended the Congress and everyone greatly appreciated the warm and friendly hospitality of the Argentinean hosts. The Congress was arranged and hosted by the Liga Argentina de Ajedrez por Correspondencia (LADAC) and its President Carlos Cranbourne, and the hotel facilities and hospitality offered by LADAC were acclaimed by everyone.

The Congress commenced on schedule on the Sunday morning and after the now customary musical introduction, provided on this occasion by a local Argentine musical duo, playing self-made Argentine musical instruments, we had opening speeches by Max Zavanelli (on behalf of ICCF) and Carlos Cranbourne and Claudio Goncalves (LADAC Argentina). Former ICCF President Josef Mrkvicka also addressed the Congress, outlining progress made since our last meeting in Mumbai, India prior to his unfortunate and untimely resignation in January 2005. Max paid tribute to the memories of all CC friends who had passed away since the Mumbai 2004, including the CC Grandmaster Simon Webb (ENG), long-serving ICCF Tournament Director Harro Otte (GER), Vaclav Rut (CZE), Alvaro Rosa (POR), Giancarlo de Lorenzo (ITA), Alberto Laurencena (ARG) and delegate and Senior

International Master Ilya Hristov (BUL). Delegates stood in two minutes silence to the memory of all departed CC friends.

Thereafter, it was down to business with membership matters with Congress approving a 65th member of the ICCF family - Burkino Faso. Next, Max presided over the award of Bertl von Massow Medals - Gold & Silver were awarded to Santiago Cardoso (MEX), Joachim Walther (GER), Jorge Deforel (ARG) and Silver Medals to Dimitry Lybin (BLR), Egbert Boesenberg (GER), Daniel Finkelstein (ARG), Guido Bresadola (ITA), Thed Klauner and Francois Riva (both LUX).

Thereafter, North American and Pacific Zonal Director, Ruth Ann Fay, assisted by Max, presented a report on ICCF's finances. Following the resignation in September of the Finance Director, Grayling Hill, Ruth Ann had had the unenviable task of taking over control of ICCF's finances and had put in much hard work in order to be able to present a Report to the Congress. Audited accounts to 31-12-03 showed Net Assets of SF 189,032 with surplus for year of just over SF 8,000 whilst unaudited accounts for year to 31-12-04 not showed net assets reduced to SF 140,196 following server expenditure of SF 101,162 and sale of some of ICCF's stocks investments. General expenditure for 2004 was SF 30,482 with income of SF 54,490 The remaining ICCF investments had performed excellently and made up the overall deficit after including server expenditure. Additionally, estimate figures for period to 30-09-05 showed net assets of SF 122,166 - note that accounts for 2004 and 2005 are still subject to audit.

The next task for the Congress was to fill the numerous vacancies on the Executive board and in other areas. Firstly Congress was delighted to approve the nominations of Frank Geider (FRA) and Michael Millstone (USA) to the posts of World Tournaments Director and Direct Entry Coordinator respectively. Next, Congress approved the nomination of George Pyrich (SCO) to the position of ICCF Archivist, taking over from Wes Green (USA) who had announced his wish to retire. George is to work in partnership with postal game score archivist Laurent Tinture (FRA). We then held the vote for the vacant position of ICCF President with, to wide acclaim, Med Samraoui emerging victorious over Claudio Goncalves by 37 votes to 18. However, we weren't yet finished, then approving the appointments of Michael Millstone and Claudio Goncalves to the positions of Finance Director and Marketing Commissioner respectively.

Next, Membership and Services Director (also acting World Tournament Director, amongst several other roles!) Pedro Hegoburu (ARG) gave a really excellent and well-informed and researched report from the Tournaments Commission with recommendations (approved later by the Congress) of the introduction of new 4th stage to the ICCF World Championship cycle (Preliminary sections, a new 1st stage for those without pre-qualifications to Semi-finals and further stages), approval of minimum categories for semi-finals and Candidates (7 & 10 respectively), revised qualifications for the award of the International Arbiter title and also changes to rules in team events whereby substitute players may have games rated and qualify for title norms (under certain conditions). Obviously, there was a good deal of discussion on all of this!

The day ended with another excellent presentation - this time, in the absence of Alan Borwell, by Nol van 't Riet (NED) on the work of the Server Group over the year and its plans for the coming year (Phase 3). Nol offered detailed technical information and requested approval for expenditure of SF 10,000, sum estimated by server group as requirement for Phase 3 - of course, the Congress was happy to agree to this! Nol said that we could expect to be asked to approve additions and refinements each year from now on as we continually sought to further develop the server.

Day two witnessed discussions on the work of the President's Commission and ICCF Statutes, ICCF Archives, Webmaster and Internet matters, Marketing and Publications and, finally, Title Qualifications. We began with a rather lively discussion on proposals submitted by the Presidents Commission regarding changes to the ICCF Statutes with regard to the arrangements for possible Emergency Congresses and contingencies in case of an unexpected resignation of the ICCF President (as had occurred, of course, during the year) which were eventually approved.

The Congress was pleased to note that Webmaster Evelin Radosztics planned an almost complete revamp of the ICCF web site and that possibly we'll have cross-tables which link directly to the server. We were also provided with confirmation that Michele Rinesi (ITA) had taken over responsibility for web tables from Luz Marina Tinjaca' (ITA) and that Raymond Boger (NOR) had succeeded Alex Dunne (USA) as editor of the "ICCF Amici" web magazine. Next, Nol van 't Riet (NED) presented a very interesting Marketing & Publications Report on behalf of the absent Med Samraoui. Amongst many interesting developments are plans by Fritz Baumbach and Vytas Palciauskas to produce a book on the World Champions Jubilee event with biographical details and games by all the deceased world champions as well as the annotated games of the event and another new section on the new world champions crowned since the event started. We also heard from Pedro Hegoburu of plans (since implemented!) to offer promotional unrated 2 game matches free of charge to any player in order for them to try out play on the new ICCF server.

Thereafter, Qualifications Commissioner Eric Ruch (FRA) presented his now customary excellent Report, confirming the qualifications of 17 new Grandmasters, 57 new Senior International Masters, 43 new International Masters, 8 new Lady Grandmasters, 1 new Lady International Master and 6 new International Arbiters. Eric's Report also listed title norms for the numerous new individual, team, zonal and invitation tournaments which had started during the year, together with changes to norms which had been established previously.

The next main item of business was the Report of the Acting World Tournament Director Pedro Hegoburu (ARG). Pedro's Report focussed on numerous important issues including changes to Tournament Rules, withdrawals, adjudication of unfinished games, lists of suspended players, unused member federation nominations to the World Championship, and the calendar of ICCF events. Title Tournaments Commissioner Daniel Finkelstein (ARG) then reported on the numbers of new title events during the previous year and outlined plans for the new Olympiad 17 Preliminaries and the Olympiad 15 Final. Pedro then reported to the Congress on behalf of the absent Non-Title Tournaments Commissioner, Eugen Demian (ROM), confirming the increasing popularity of the server in non-titled events and the starts of World Cup 14 under the control of the Australian Federation as well as the Web Server Open Tournament and the first regular season of the Champions League.

Congress also noted that the 2004 Congress had already assigned the organisation of World Cup 15 to the Slovak Federation. This year, we received the news that our Slovak friends proposed dropping postal sections and organising the event exclusively for e-mail and web server players. Whilst these proposals were approved following discussion, the Congress was very pleased to approve an offer provided by Fritz Baumbach on behalf of the German Federation that they organise World Cup 16 (sometime during 2006) to be played exclusively by post. Next, Pedro delivered Reports on behalf of the absent Postal Tournaments Organiser, Gian-Maria Tani (ITA) and the Thematic Tournament Organiser, Leonardo Madonia (ITA). The Congress was encouraged to receive news that it was expected that 2005 would see much the same number of new postal events as in 2004 but slightly discouraged to be asked to grant approval to the ending of the Fischer Random events which had had a very low take up.

Congress then granted approval to proposals for numerous proposed new invitational events including some interesting promotional events to be played on the server.

Tuesday started with the presentation of awards and titles. Awards were presented to the delegates of Netherlands and Italy in respect of new World Champions Joop van Oosterom and Alessandra Riegler. Angel Acevedo (PER) and Marcio Barbosa Oliviera (BRS) were on hand to pick their Grandmaster awards and Fritz Baumbach picked up the Gold Medals for Germany in the 14th Olympiad. Lithuania took 2nd place here but Gold in the 6th Ladies Olympiad. Argentina I and II took Gold and Silver in the 7th PANAM team's event with Mexico getting Bronze. Reports were presented by or on behalf of the various Zonal Presidents and happily each were able to report on satisfactory progress during the previous year.

The new delegate for the Czech Republic, Petr Buchnec was on hand to announce an over the board tournament for correspondence chess players to be held at the Silesian University, Karvina, Czech Republic in July 2006. It will be an authentic FIDE rated event with a substantial prize fund.

The big news of the day was that an email was received from our new President, Med Samraoui, confirming the participation of an ICCF team in the Torino Olympiad! - Med had attended the FIDE Congress in Dresden earlier in the year and it seems that his lobbying on our behalf brought forth a suitable reward!

The day ended with a lengthy discussion of the Playing Rules or more specifically items such as "dead man's defence" and the 40 day clause - the end result was the passing of a resolution (by 25 votes to 19 with 3 abstentions) to have a revised time limit of 10 moves in 50 days by 1 January 2006. Congress also approved revised Rules and Guidelines with regard to adjudications.

The last day started with discussion of the ICCF events calendar and saw Congress approve Pedro's plan that (by and large) ICCF events should start during even-numbered years whilst Zonal events would be given priority during odd-numbered years. Thereafter, we gave formal approval to changes to the Tournament Rules with regard to International Arbiter Qualification, qualification to the World Ch. Cycle from events such World Cups and Zonal events, Substitutions in Team events. Unfortunately the Ratings Commissioner Gerhard Binder (GER) was unable to attend - nevertheless we all congratulated him (again!) on his really excellent work and approved his plans to have ratings for all events transferred (in stages) to the server by

2007. Thereafter the Congress approved Ruth Ann Fay's presentation of an "Arbiter's Manual" and also the formation of an "Arbiters Committee" (to be chaired by former Deputy President Ragnar Wikman (FIN)).

More details of the Torino Olympiad emerged - ICCF will pay for players' bed and board at the Olympic Village but players will have to fund their own travel there. Each member federation will be invited to submit 2 nominations for consideration for selection and the Executive Board will then select the team of 6 with 2 reserves. Possibly not all the selection criteria will be entirely objective as the Executive Board will likely seek to select those who will prove to be "good ambassadors" for ICCF. Torino resident, Gian-Maria Tani (ITA) will be invited to serve as Team Captain.

Finally, Congress approved Dresden, Germany as the venue for the 2006 Congress whilst an application from the Spanish Federation for the 2007 event was also approved. Congress also approved that our friends from Finland should host the 2011 event as they celebrate their 50th anniversary that year.

All in all, I consider that this was satisfactory Congress with a number of worthwhile accomplishments, particularly with regard to the reorganisation of the World Championship cycle and the introduction of new rules with regard to adjudications and time controls. However, it wasn't hard work all the time and the Congress participants enjoyed a number of more leisurely activities. The traditional blitz tournament was won by the oldest participant, former ICCF World Champion Fritz Baumbach (GER) and everyone greatly enjoyed a day's excursion to Bariloche following the end of the Congress.

## Interview of IM Michael Millstone (USA) ICCF Financial Director & Direct Entry Coordinator

by J. Franklin Campbell  
**(posted 6 November 2005)**

1. *What is your background with ICCF? What volunteer work have you done for ICCF in the past? What are your goals as a player? I understand you will be playing in an upcoming Olympiad on the USA team.*

Even as a child I was always interested in chess, but never really considered it more than a passing hobby until I graduated from high school. I joined the United States Chess Federation (USCF), and played a few OTB tournaments but quickly discovered that I don't have the patience to sit across a table for hours on end. Correspondence chess seemed a natural fit for me. I tried a section or two through USCF but soon desired the international experience and flavor that ICCF provides. I'm not exactly sure when I joined ICCF, but the 8+ shoeboxes of postal cards attest to my consistent play over the years. When I started playing correspondence chess some 25 years ago, my goals were to achieve an IM title. I received that in 2003. At this year's Congress,

when I was introduced to George Pyrich, it was explained to me that he was instrumental in the creation of the SIM Title. I jokingly cursed him for that. Let me explain - having achieved my lifetime goal of IM, I figured I could sit back, relax, and truly enjoy my chess games without worrying about achieving norms and titles. There is no chance I would ever get close to a GM title, so I was in a comfort zone. Now the SIM title was created and there may be a possibility .... ever so small, but now it is back to the grindstone. I do have one SIM norm and am struggling to get the last point I need in Chessfriends Rochade 5171 - 15th Year Anniversary

<http://www.rochade5171.org/jubi/turnier.htm>. Unfortunately, my last two opponents are incredibly strong. One of them, Angel Acevedo was awarded the Grandmaster Title at this year's Congress and has a slightly superior position. I was pleased to be on hand for his award and congratulate him warmly. I considered the DMD, but he appears very fit and I feel I would fall first.

Perhaps it is just me, but I am still humbled to be in the company of Grandmasters - their accomplishments are quite inspiring. Maybe it takes another 25 years to get a SIM Title, maybe with all my new duties, I'll never achieve it - but the journey is worthwhile.

I was honored to play in my first Olympiad (OLYMPIAD XV - Preliminaries - Section 2) for the U.S. and am looking forward to joining with fellow teammates in this year's 17th. I love the notion of team competition and welcome the opportunity to joust with fellow chess players.

2. *What is your personal situation, i.e. what is your job, age, marital status, where do you live, anything special you can tell us to give us a better understanding of just who Michael Millstone is and what kind of a guy is he?*

I was born and raised in Miami, Florida. My parents loved to travel and frequently took me and my two brothers on many trips around the world. I believe that contributed to my global perspective.

All I ever wanted to do was fly airplanes. All the money I earned from odd jobs while growing up went towards flying lessons. On my 18th birthday, I took the examinations for Commercial Pilot with single, multi-engine, instrument, and instructor endorsements. My intentions were to fly for the airlines. Unfortunately, a small medical setback prevented me from being granted the top medical certificate needed and I was forced to redirect my career.

Still wanting to be around airplanes, I enlisted in the United States Air Force, where for my entire career (until retirement), I was involved in Space and Satellite Systems (think of satellites as airplanes flying really high and fast).

The Air Force was wonderful, taking me all over the world on business and pleasure. I have had the opportunity to live and work on 6 of the world's seven continents and if Dinand starts to do some real work, perhaps I'll get my 7th. Personal note: I met Dinand Knol at this year's congress and am grateful for all his patience and education he provided me. In turn, he got to call home (al la ET) and chat with his family using my satellite phone.

Anyhow, after I retired from the Air Force I continued with various positions also in the Space and Satellite career field with one brief stint outside the norm - I like to call it a "Career Sabbatical."



After the dot com crash in the late 1990s, my wife and I moved to Las Vegas where I took up several positions in the casino industry - finally ending up as a casino supervisor. I was always fascinated with the industry and wanted to learn it firsthand - from the inside. A truly invigorating experience, but also with its downfalls, so after three years I returned to my original career field and a position in Virginia.

While at Congress, I found out my wife had just purchased a house for us in Leesburg, Virginia (about 50 km northwest of Washington D.C.). So, for as long as we are here, if you are traveling through the Washington D.C. area, please look us up. I am a BBQ fanatic and have an oversized BBQ that is usually on at least 6 days a week, rain, snow, or shine.

My wife Debbie and I have been married for 15 wonderful years next June. We both enjoy reading, and traveling, listening to music, and many sports. In the past, we were both addicted to Volksmarching and while living in Germany we really took advantage of the many events and walked lots. Most weekends, I would usually walk one or two marathons (52km) and was really getting into shape. Sadly, there are not as many events in the U.S. and I have a list of excuses that prevent me from enjoying this sport more.

3. *What is your background and experience that qualifies you for the work of a Financial Director? Do you have educational and/or work experience in this area?*

Well, educational wise - I believe I'm qualified. I have a Master's Degree in Business with majors in both Finance and Accounting, and am currently pursuing (about 68% complete) a PhD in Business with a specialty in organizational management. I have also taught business and investment courses at the college level.

Experience wise - perhaps less since my chosen career field isn't necessarily aligned with accounting and finance. However, as a manager for more than 15 years, I have supervised many sections and work groups including financial planning and budget responsibilities. In two different companies, I have had sole responsibility and authority for annual working budgets of over \$1 million (USD).

4. *You have taken the additional position as Direct Entry coordinator. John Knudsen has described this as a full-time job. Do you anticipate being able to perform both jobs, or will you be recruiting additional people to help you? I believe John is already acting as a consultant, based on his work as the former DE director, but perhaps you have other people also lined up to help.*

Notwithstanding all politics and opinions surrounding the Direct Entry (DE) program, I note two things: 1) it was approved by Congress, and 2) I think it is critical to recruit new chess players to ICCF.

I view the DE program as one of the major responsibilities of the Finance Director (FD) and how it is ultimately setup and managed will certainly be my responsibility. John has done an incredible amount of work and has provided me excellent opinions and recommendations. John and I have spoken several times and it will be his decision how and to what extent (if any) he wants to continue in the future. John is an example of one of the many

tireless volunteers who has given more than expected to make ICCF function as great as it does.

I have already had some excellent qualified people volunteer to help and shortly I'll be forming a DE working group to implement the DE program. My thinking is that some (many) of the things that John was having to do manually could be integrated into the web pages and performed automatically. Along with that, I've been actively searching for reasonable payment systems and am meeting with several bank managers to look into merchant accounts and explore payment methods in multiple currencies.

Another idea I'm toying with (and will be running this by the Marketing and Public Relations Commissioner) is possibly tying some elements of the DE program into both offices. Since we are targeting new members, perhaps we can do more than facilitate their entry into a couple of tournaments. We want them involved in more tournaments and to get affiliated with their National Federations. Perhaps a periodic automatically generated e-mail from the President or National federation thanking them for participating and offering suggestions and directions for joining or future participation. Just some random thoughts on the long flight home.

5. *How did you get involved with Ruth Ann and the financial work you did for ICCF before Congress?*

About three years ago, I was inclined to start giving back to this wonderful organization. I had contacted Ruth Ann and chatted with her about different ways I could help either my federation and/or ICCF. She suggested a start in directing tournaments and referred me to several organizers. Since then, I have been directing some Thematic Tournaments for Leonardo Madonia (who runs the excellent Thematic Tournaments office) and Master Norm tournaments for Daniel Finkelstein as the Title Tournaments Commissioner. I added some Team Captain duties as well and was looking for a bit more.

When John announced his resignation from the DE position, I thought this might be an excellent opportunity to step up even more. I expressed my desire at first as a Direct Entry Assistant with the caveat that if anyone else was interested in the position, I would gladly assist him or her. Ruth Ann accepted my offer and told me she would relay that to the EB. In the meantime, she began sending me some general and background information so I could be more prepared for the duties.

6. *Apparently you were not nominated for office, but given the lack of candidates you stepped forward and volunteered during Congress. Can you give us the real story of what happened? Why did you decide to commit yourself to such an important and time-consuming job? I've heard conflicting reports about whether or not you had already volunteered for the job before Congress started.*

Continuing from the previous question, although early in 2005 I was ready to start working on some DE issues, I invariably ran into situations where the FD needed to make a decision. Of course, you all know what happened there. So, until Congress, I continued to read, correspond, and formulate some initial plans of how to successfully revitalize the DE program.

In late summer, I guess Ruth Ann realized that the finances weren't going to get finalized for Congress so she started to delve into the matters of collecting, preparing, and transitioning all the books to the new FD. By the time nominations were due and nobody had volunteered, panic started to slowly set in. That was when Ruth Ann suggested I should consider attending Congress.

So I started to do the research and as many of you realized, this was no easy trip to plan. Although I must say that the organizers did a great job of attending to many of the transportation and logistics details - making the journey much smoother.

My initial intentions were to attend, meet and interface with as many people as possible. By attending, this would allow me to evaluate the DE position better and understand the expectations of the Member Federations. Never did I think for one moment that no one would step up to assume the responsibility of such an important position of Finance Director.

Little did I know that if nobody volunteers, the EB can nominate anybody. I had toyed with the idea and briefly discussed the possibility with several delegates including Ruth Ann and Max, I never considered the remaining sequence of events possible. Thomas Edison was once quoted, "Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work." And here it was staring me in the face.

Max submitted my nomination, I was asked to provide a verbal CV which I did, then the delegates voted and I was chosen. From my perspective, the entire process was over in about 3 nanoseconds. And while there was some consternation later from some people, my view is twofold: 1) Ruth Ann has (and still is) performing a tremendous and time-consuming service of retrieving and recreating the books to have financial reports in time for Congress. No one asked her to do this and her acknowledgement of the problem and selfless devotion to ICCF to fix the situation is even more admirable. Add to this that her duties as NAPZ Zonal Director and it becomes almost overwhelming. 2) I didn't notice anybody stepping up to the plate (an old American baseball saying) to assist Ruth Ann and I didn't see any nominations for FD. Since I couldn't do the DE job effectively without direction and input from the FD, and no one wanted the position ... and here we are today.

7. *I was excited to see that you actually attended Congress this year. This indicates a high level of interest and commitment to the future of ICCF, given the time and money you spent to be there. Why did you go all the way to Argentina to attend this Congress? Was this your first Congress?*

This was my first Congress in person. I felt it was necessary to demonstrate a commitment to the Member Federation that I was serious about accepting responsibility. Plus, I was completely selfish. Here was an opportunity to visit a fabulous country, represent my country, and meet two world champions and the honorary ICCF president. Well, I got two out of the three and I'm sure I'll meet up with Alan at some opportunity. I was saddened at Med not being able to attend, but we have communicated already and we may even get together at some time before next congress. Even better was to meet some of the sharpest minds and tireless people who do so much for ICCF, often

behind the scenes. I don't want to name names for fear of excluding anyone, but just being around these people would give anybody the inspiration to do more for this organization.

8. *Though I'm sure there is still much work to do, what are your preliminary conclusions about the financial status of ICCF?*

I'm going to hold off on offering an opinion of the financial status other than what was offered at Congress. Ruth Ann is going to continue to work the books and try to get an accurate end of 2004 audited report. Then we will be working the 2005 end-of-year invoices and hopefully achieve a smooth transition towards the end of this year or early in 2006.

This might be a good place to provide my business sense and rough plans of conducting business. I am going to run this office very much like a business, mindful of costs and efficiencies with two basic premises: 1) I am very process oriented - meaning that I don't like a lot of ad hoc process and procedures. I (and the various groups I form) will define and implement processes for most (if not all) things we do. This allows for consistency in execution, accurate measurements, and visibility into activities. As I'm a big proponent of continuous improvement, having sound processes in place allows improvements to happen. Plus, it also allows for a smoother or seamless transition when officials change. 2) Customer focused - from my position I recognize three customers - a) first is my boss, Med. Med needs to have the vision and provide the direction. My responsibility is to follow his lead, provide him with all the necessary information for him to do his job successfully, and basically, make him look good, b) The Executive Board. The EB provides focus and oversight. From my perspective, nothing I do should be invisible to the EB, and c) The Member Federations (through their appointed delegates) - my real customers.

To me, communications is one of the most vital elements of success in this type of organization. To that effect, I'm working on a comprehensive communication plan that will address the following four parts:

- What information should be disclosed?
- Who receives this information?
- How often?
- Via what method?

I was reminded that some financial information needs to remain somewhat confidential; however, I think this will need to be defined and published in the overall communications plan.

9. *I'm not clear on the purpose of auditing the annual financial reports. Could you clarify what this process is and how it affects your work?*

Proper oversight is essential to me. I don't want to work in a vacuum and my customers should expect (they should demand) that proper auditing and safeguards are documented and in place. Everyone should feel secure about our financial state at any time. My goal in 2006 is to put such measures in place to successfully quash any financial crisis rumors (unless they really exist).

I will be reviewing the current audit procedures and will provide any recommendations for improvement to the EB. I'm also considering the establishment of a financial investment committee under the FD office to separately evaluate, recommend, and measure investment performance of ICCF funds.

10. *Do you have any final words for the readers who are anxious to learn something about you?*

Although I have an overall perspective of the role and responsibilities I'm faced with, I will continue to learn and educate myself on the nuances of the job. I'm thankful for all those who have expressed confidence in me and will work hard to meet your expectations of the FD.

One last thing - in regards to the **TCCMB**. Although I think it is a wonderful forum for the exchange of thoughts, opinions, and ideas, I will probably excuse myself from getting embroiled in discussions through that format. I will periodically read interesting threads as it will probably present itself many excellent ideas and possibilities for improvements. Please don't be offended if I don't respond to the board. If you want to offer any suggestions, ideas, or questions specifically related to the FD office (preferably of the constructive nature), please e-mail me directly. Many of you have my personal e-mail address and I should get an ICCF one shortly.

If you have gotten this far, my many thanks for all the support I have received and I look forward to serving all of you in terms of excellent service.

**Warmest Regards and Amici Sumus,**

**Michael Millstone**

**ICCF Finance Director**

**Direct Entry Administrator**

**International Correspondence Chess Master**

**Overall Good Guy (or so says my wife)**

## **The Liechtenstein Museum Match By IM Corky Schakel**

Roland Stratmann is an artist affiliated with the Kunstmuseum in Liechtenstein. He has developed several projects celebrating games in art, and proposed a chess match with an Israeli and Arab team playing an American and a Cuban team, sponsored by ICCF. Since I had played in the tournament honoring 30 years of the Cuban Correspondence Chess organization, I was selected to play with SIM Pablo Salcedo Mederos as my teammate. Our opponents were GM Yoav Dothan (Israel) and SIM Khalid Chorfi (Morocco). The format was for one move to be made per day,

Tuesday through Saturday, with the players alternating turns making moves. This is a fast time control for correspondence chess, but the quality of the moves was still good.

The game was displayed in the lobby of the Kunstmuseum, on a board on the ceiling (each square about one meter on a side), with banners hanging down for the pieces. The lobby also serves as a restaurant, so there was chess on display with lunch and dinner. By coincidence my wife and I were invited to the wedding of our 1990 foreign exchange student in Paris in late May, shortly before the match was to begin. So we flew to Zurich and took a one hour train ride to Sargans, Switzerland. The museum staff was very welcoming, including a brief car ride to the Kunstmuseum. It is a new museum of modern art, and we were given a tour of the museum by Roland Stratmann and curator Nike Baetzner. Our hosts made the visit delightful, a good start on our trip to Paris for the wedding.

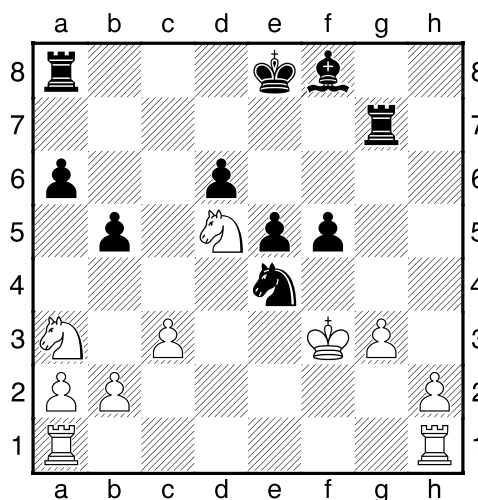
Pablo played odd numbered moves, and selected the Sicilian Defense, 1.e4 c5... I have met this with white pieces, but never played it as black. And I always play Bb5 lines, so this was an adventure for me!

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 e5 6.Ndb5 d6 7.Bg5 a6 8.Na3 b5 9.Bxf6 gxf6 10.Nd5 f5 11.Bd3 Be6 12.Qh5 Rg8 13.g3 ... White had numerous choices here, but they played what is considered the sharpest move.

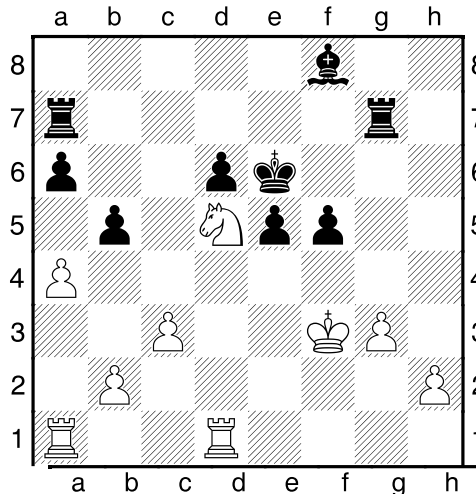
13. ...Nd4 ... This is the best of several options for black.

14.c3 fxe4 15.Bxe4 Bg4 16.Qxh7 Rg7 17.Qh6 Nf3+ 18.Ke2 ... Here 18.Kf1 Rg5 19.Nf6+ Ke7 20.Qh8 Nd2+ 21.Kg2 Nxe4 22.Nxg4 Rxg4 23.f3 Nxg3 does not give white much, if any, advantage.

18. ... Ng5+ 19.f3 Nxe4 20.fxg4 Qc8 21.Qe3 Qxg4+ 22.Qf3 Qxf3+ 23.Kxf3 f5 ..., and this is the end of ECO (B33) analysis, with the position "unclear." But it looks to me like a draw should be reached, although white is now defending a somewhat weaker position (black controls the center, as noted below).



24.Nc2 Kf7 25.Nce3 Nf6 26.a4 Nxd5 27.Nxd5 Ke6 28.Rhd1 Raa7 ..., a position also reached in Tommasi-Panicali (Sicilian Lasker theme tournament, 1999) and Kahl-Sakai (Board 1 in the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tournament of the Rochade, Germany Chess Club, 2004). Both games ended in a draw shortly thereafter. Black has a space advantage, and control of the center, but not enough advantage to counter the threat of white's h-pawn.



29.b3 Rh7 30.axb5 axb5 31.Rxa7 Rxa7 32.g4 fxg4+ 33.Kxg4 Ra3 ... The possibility of 33. ... Be7 is met by 34.Nxe7 ..., and pushing the h-pawn.

34.Nc7+ Kd7 35.Nxb5 Rxb3 36.Rf1 Be7 37.c4 Rb4 ½–½. Despite white's isolated pawns, the advancing h-pawn forces a draw.

It was a pleasure and an honor to play this match on the ICCF server, and to play with Pablo as a teammate. I enjoyed the communications with Pablo, as well as Yoav Dothan, Khalid Chorfi, and our TD, Med Samraoui. This was a truly memorable summer for me! Corky Schakel, Lakeland, Minnesota

## SCCA 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Match v. ICCF Select By George Pyrich

This event was devised as part of our celebrations of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our founding in 2002. Basically the idea was to play a match with as many boards as possible (by either email or post) against an ICCF select team. Organising the event soon proved to be a considerable task and I am grateful to Richard Beecham who recruited the Scots players. As we hoped for at least 125 boards, it was clear that the Scots players would have to play more than 1 board and “volunteers” were asked to specify the number of boards they could take – Jim Anderson and Derek Coope both

agreed to take 6! As each board involved 2 games (1 White, the other Black), Jim and Derek both took on 12 games! Obviously it was desirable to try to pair everyone against opponents of roughly equal strength and so it was necessary to carefully outline “rating requirements” when extending invitations to other Federations – also, care had to be taken in offering postal boards only to those countries with good postal connections! Due to the aforementioned “rating requirements”, the ICCF team (average rating 2020), drawn from 19 countries, was in no way representative of ICCF’s true strength but rather tailored towards our strength (average rating 1984).

Eventually, pairings were produced for players from 20 countries over 129 boards (47 postal & 82 email) and play finally commenced on 1 December 2002. I captained the Scots team whilst Duncan Chambers (ENG) kindly agreed to fulfil this role on behalf of the ICCF team. Unfortunately, for various reasons, play had to be abandoned during the first year on 5 boards. However, everything seemed to go smoothly on the remaining 124 boards and presently, almost 3 years after the start, only 3 games remain unfinished. As in all such friendly matches, the overall score is relatively unimportant. For the record, the ICCF select, currently ahead by 147 points to 98, won comfortably.

<b>PNUM</b>	<b>First Name/s</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>Result</b>	<b>PNUM</b>	<b>First Name/s</b>	<b>Surname</b>	<b>C</b>
	Douglas S.	Finnie	0						
210802	Douglas S.	Finnie	1/2	1	1/2	460889	Taisto	Koskela	
210802	Douglas S.	Finnie	1/2	2	0	160061	Carlos	Flores Gutiérrez	
210802	Douglas S.	Finnie	0	3	1/2	450451	Lars Sture	Olsson	
620211	Philip M	Giulian	0	4	1/2	80408	Gerhard	Binder	
620211	Philip M	Giulian	0	5	1/2	241018	Eros	Riccio	
620334	Colin A	McNab	1/2	6	1/2	510999	Dr. Anatole	Parnas	
620184	C Richard	Beecham	0	7	1	150768	Klaus Høeck	Johnsen	
620204	George	Pyrich	1/2	8	0	130863	Josef	Mrkvicka	
620204	George	Pyrich	1/2	9	1/2	420269	Witold	Bielecki	
620204	George	Pyrich	0	10	1/2	513931	Grayling	Hill	
620204	George	Pyrich	1/2	11	1/2	150234	Søren	Peschardt	
620237	Thomas J	Craig	0	12	1/2	20584	Pedro	Hegoburu	
620237	Thomas J	Craig	0	13	1	460268	Perti	Raivio	
620237	Thomas J	Craig	0	14	1	510683	Richard	Aiken	
620498	Dr. Alan C.	Brown	0	15	1/2	150525	Svend Kronborg	Kristensen	
620498	Dr. Alan C.	Brown	1	16	0	510624	Anthony	Albano	
620482	C. Jonathan	Lennox	1	17	0	460614	Birger	Wikman	
620482	C. Jonathan	Lennox	0	18	1/2	150039	Aage	Justesen	
210426	Christopher	Fordham-Hall	1/2	19	1/2	450751	Jan	Bennborn	
620238	George W.G.	Livie	1/2	20	1/2	100125	Georg	Walker	
620238	George W.G.	Livie	0	21	0	150602	Tomas Guldberg	Hansen	
620212	Raymond W.M.	Baxter	1	22	0	510289	Eric	Osbus	
620212	Raymond W.M.	Baxter	0	23	1/2	260153	Dave	Salter	
620098	A.P.	Borwell	0	24	1/2	210849	Duncan	Chambers	
620098	A.P.	Borwell	0	25	1/2	130429	Jaromir	Canibal	



620529	Robert S.	Montgomery	0	0	26	1	1	511675	Ed	Limayo
620529	Robert S.	Montgomery	1	1/2	27		1/2	159049	Karsten	Fyhn
620529	Robert S.	Montgomery	1/2	1/2	28	1/2	1/2	70104	Warner Bruce	Kover
620529	Robert S.	Montgomery	1/2	1/2	29	1/2	1/2	90161	Serge	Maurer
620529	Robert S.	Montgomery	1/2	0	30		1	550040	Dinand	Knol
620342	Kenneth W.C.	Stewart	0	0	31	1	1	10465	Heinz	Lejsek
620342	Kenneth W.C.	Stewart	0	0	32	1	1	450599	Börje	Ivegård
620345	Iain	Mackintosh	1	1/2	33		1/2	460237	Heikki	Arppi
620345	Iain	Mackintosh	1/2	1/2	34	1/2	1/2	451126	Eric	Nylander
620500	Gordon M.	Anderson	1/2	1	35	1/2	0	90464	Joe	Deidun
629036	David	Edney	1/2	1	36	1/2	0	450845	Kurt	Hjortstam
629036	David	Edney	1/2	0	37	1/2	1	210745	Alan J.C.	Rawlings
620303	Ian	Reeman	1	1/2	38		0	189135	Lionel	Laffranchise
620288	Mick	Swystun	0	0	39	1	1	510691	Barry E.	Endsley
620375	Alan	Hind	1	1	40	0	0	460755	Jari	Heino
620426	David R.	Cumming	0	0	41	1	1	510617	James L.	Chessing
620426	David R.	Cumming	1	1	42	0	0	180416	Jean-Pierre	Guillaume
620426	David R.	Cumming	0	0	43	1	1	90128	Ralph	Marconi
629031	Geoff	Lloyd	1	1	44	0	0	511706	Ed	Addis
629031	Geoff	Lloyd	1	0	45	0	1	150036	Svend Aage	Jensen
-	A.G.E.	Bird	1	1/2	46		0	150372	Karsten Chr.	Spangenberg
620591	Derek	Ross	1/2	1/2	47	1/2	1/2	150231	Kristian Rohde	Jensen
620544	Bill	Cook	1/2	0	48	1/2	1	240751	Cosimo	Parisi
620326	Graham	Bird	1	1	49	0	0	460018	Antero	Harju
620487	Bernard	Milligan	0	0	50	1	1	451137	Josip	Vrabec
620367	Alistair	Maxwell	1	1/2	51		1/2	360067	Roald	Berthelsen
620236	Simon R.	Gillam	-	-	52	-	-	150481	Knud Verner	Hansen
620236	Simon R.	Gillam	1	1	53	0	0	460685	Risto	Ruuhila
620358	D.J.	Savage	1/2	1	54	1/2	0	460527	Kari	Muhonen
620424	James	Anderson	0	0	55	1	1	-	Emilio	Ricciardi
620424	James	Anderson	0	0	56	1	1	70263	José Roberto	Morau
620424	James	Anderson	0	0	57	1	1	460877	Riku	Virtanen
620424	James	Anderson	-	-	58	-	-	510790	Charles	Carrigan
620424	James	Anderson	0	0	59	1	1	100325	Mrs. Aline	Potterat
620424	James	Anderson	0	0	60	1	1	550075	H A	Kronje
620278	Elaine	Hartford	0	1/2	61	1	1/2	260036	Joe	Keenan
620346	Alistair W.I.	Campbell	0	1/2	62	1	1/2	450579	Alfred	Thomassen
-	Patrick	Moir	-	-	63	-	-	260097	Fred	Armstrong
-	Joseph	Morrow	1/2	0	64	1/2	1	90360	Michael	Dufour
620465	Rev. A.C.	Norris	1/2	1/2	65	1/2	1/2	460729	Jukka	Piironen
620465	Rev. A.C.	Norris	0	0	66	1	1	150872	Lars Kirstein	Andersen
620465	Rev. A.C.	Norris	0	1/2	67	1	1/2	90151	Michel	Fortin
-	Douglas	McKerracher	1/2	1/2	68	1/2	1/2	70641	Uilde Enico	Monteiro
-	Douglas	McKerracher	1	1	69	0	0	460689	Osmo	Särkilähti
219097	Chris	Dowell	0	0	70	1	1	510806	Wesley	Underwood
219097	Chris	Dowell	0	0	71	1	1	150780	Ole Christian	Hansen
620346	Alistair W.I.	Campbell	1/2	1	72	1/2	0	510806	Wesley	Underwood
620355	Ian W.S.	Mitchell	1	1	73	0	0	210950	Dennis E.	March
629020	Arthur	Knox		0	74	1/2	1	150532	Jess	Nykjær

				1/2							
629020	Arthur	Knox	0	0	75	1	1	210369	Garry	Windebank	
620009	Iain S.	Campbell	1	1	76	0	0	512604	Dennis	Sheehan	
	Iain S.	Campbell	1	1		0	0		Gerson de		
620009					77			70385	Souza	Baptista	
	Iain S.	Campbell		0			1/2				
620009			1/2		78		1	514013	Merrill	Lyew	
629038	Chris	McIntee	0	0	79	1	1	514013	Merrill	Lyew	
210476	Graham	McDonald	0	1	80	1	0	150807	Paul	Simon	
	Paul	MacDonald					1/2		José Venâncio		
620558			1/2	1/2	81		1/2	70746	da	Silva Junior	
620353	Ian H.	Marshall	0	0	82	1	1	100319	Dr. Dirk	Abeln	
620353	Ian H.	Marshall	0	0	83	1	1	460843	Pekka	Kinnari	
210323	Jim	Copley	0	0	84	1	1	510806	Wesley	Underwood	
211091	Colin	Hammersley	0	0	85	1	1	90208	Murray	Marchant	
211091	Colin	Hammersley	0	0	86	1	1	240420	Giancarlo	Marcotulli	
210854	Brian	Thompson	0	0	87	1	1	-	Juha	Manninen	
210854	Brian	Thompson	1	1	88	0	0	159130	Alan	Krag-Jacobsen	
	Michael	Ford	0								
629013				1/2	89	1	1/2	460714	Keijo	Saarikoski	
	Robert	Loughran		0			1/2				
620574			1/2		90		1	460552	Henry	Lagergren	
	Robert	Loughran		0			1/2				
620574			1/2		91		1	150862	Kim	Hansen	
	Robert	Loughran				0					
620574			1	1/2	92		1/2	550101	Hans	Dewald	
620574	Robert	Loughran	0	0	93	1	1	511844	Chris	Cendrowski	
	Robert	Loughran	0								
620574				1/2	94	1	1/2	100340	Tim	Rosebrock	
210854	Brian	Thompson	1	1	95	0	0	460426	Mikko	Väisänen	
620353	Ian H.	Marshall	1	1	96	0	0	450840	Rune	Lindberg	
620357	John	Grant	1	0	97	0	1	10520	Paul	Zapfel	
620454	Andrew N.	Macmillen	0	0	98	1	1	511844	Chris	Cendrowski	
-	John M.	Armstrong	0	0	99	1	1	180969	Jean-Claude	Aurignac	
-	Tom	Taylor	0	0	100	1	1	-	Frédéric	Delacourt	
620406	Peter	Jack	1	1	101	0	0	159025	Heine	Nielsen	
620549	Rory	Malcolmson	0	0	102	1	1	241085	Luigi	Mingione	
620549	Rory	Malcolmson	0	0	103	1	1	-	Torben Elleby	Hansen	
-	Brian	Henderson	0	1	104	1	0	511782	John	Prochera	
-	Brian	Henderson	1	1	105	0	0	460424	Kari	Karpoff	
620333	Rosie A.	Giulian	-	-	106	-	-	-	Mirko	Radicevic	
620350	David L.	Gillespie	0	0	107	1	1	-	Kurt	Hora	
-	Thomas F.	McAinsh	1	1	108	0	0	90245	Robin	Selby	
-	Thomas F.	McAinsh	0	0	109	1	1	512134	William G.	Michael	
-	William	Cormack	0	/2							
					110	1	1/2	460300	Merja-Hannele	Arppi	
620346	Alistair W.I.	Campbell	0	0	111	1	1	512134	William G.	Michael	
620350	David L.	Gillespie	1	1	112	0	0	241053	Nicolo	Caridi	
210729	Derek	Coope	0	0	113	1	1	451178	Ari	Oinonen	
210729	Derek	Coope	1	0	114	0	1	150439	Leif	Nyward	
210729	Derek	Coope	0	0	115	1	1	90389	Ed	Thompson	
210729	Derek	Coope	0	0	116	1	1	241040	Andrea	Agomeri	
210729	Derek	Coope	1	1	117	0	0	460249	Raimo	Ekmark	
210729	Derek	Coope	1	1	118	0	0	511348	Nathaniel	Hobson	
-	Adrian William	Ruston	1	1	119	0	0	159141	Steffen Michael	Kristensen	
-	Scott	Miller	1	1	120	0	0	-	Michael	Engstrøm	
-	Martin	Keen	-	-	121	-	-	511370	Edward	Lupinski	
-	Jan	Spiljard	1	1	122	0	0	-	Gary	Cruwe	
-	Jan	Spiljard	0	/2							
					123	1	1/2	-	P E	van der Walt	
-	Jan	Spiljard	1	1	124	0	0	510840	Dr. G. S.	Benner	
-	Alex	Kerr	0	0	125	1	1	513956	William	Glassmire	
-	Alex	Kerr	0	0	126	1	1	150558	Jens Peter	Hansen	
-	Alex	Kerr	0	0	127	1	1	150492	Jørgen Cort	Jensen	
-	P	Dare	0	0	128	1	1	513996	Ronald	Hill	
-	John	McKinstry	0	0	129	1	1	550102	Scott	Rueon	

## **JAPAN THE NEW CC DOMINATOR IN AFRICA / ASIA ZONE.** by Med Samraoui

The 5<sup>th</sup> Zonal championship was concluded in Spring 2005 with K. Sakai's consecration . Two month later his countryman S. Hayakawa imitated him , winning the 6<sup>th</sup> edition. This competition is not finished (12 games are still in progress) but nobody can contest the Japanese triumph.

**Back to the 5<sup>th</sup> Afro-Asian championship.**

It was a man-o-man between both strong players of Japan namely K. Sakai and S. Ohtake . The decision was made when K. Sakai won his game against Dinand Knol the new Zonal Director.

The SIM N. Ernazarov was too peaceful drawing almost all his games and finished unbeaten at place 4<sup>th</sup>, overstepped by S. Kim .

All 4 top players did not lose any game , but this final was an horror for D. Dempster from Australia who only saved a half point . It the same for Dinand Knol who was representative of Africa after K. Hichem's withdrawal.

Dinand did not repeat his performance like the ICCF Jubilee tournament when he won impressively his section and achieving the SIM title.

The winner of the 5<sup>th</sup> Afro-Asian championship confirmed his excellent results with his team Chess Mail in the ICCF Champions League and with NAPZ in the interzonal 2004. I am sure K. Sakai will be soon a future ICCF GM , he is always well prepared theoretically and plays the endgames with accuracy .

Japan has the potential with him , S. Ohtake, S. Hayakawa , H. Onoda,... to play an interesting role in the XVII ICCF Olympiad , and why not to hope for a qualification in the Final stage as it was realized some years ago by Qatar.

5<sup>th</sup> email Afro-Asian championship Final  
Final table.

Nr	Players	Nat.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	P
1	S. Ohtake	JPN		+	=	=	1	=	1	=	1	5
2	K. Hichem	ALG	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	D. Knol	RSA	=	+		0	=	=	0	0	0	1,5
4	S. Kim	KAZ	=	+	1		1	=	=	=	=	4,5
5	D. Dempster	AUS	0	+	=	0		0	0	0	0	0,5
6	N. Ernazarov	KAZ	=	+	=	=	1		=	=	=	4
7	V. Annaev	TKM	0	+	1	=	1	=		0	=	3,5
8	K. Sakai	JPN	=	+	1	=	1	=	1		1	5,5
9	P. Sunao	JPN	0	+	1	=	1	=	=	0		3,5

## 6<sup>th</sup> Afro-Asian Championship Final

This Final was surely one of the strongest Final ever played in the Africa/Asia championship. A special mention to Arif Kucukali, who was excellent in his function as Tournament Director. Again only one player from Africa in this final, this time I. Smuts of RSA tried unsuccessfully to do better than his countryman Dinand Knol.

With only 12 games remaining , the winner is already known . S. Hayakawa will succeed to K. Sakai. The zonal crown will stay in Japan !

With an impressive score of 10 points/12 , the winner has written his glorious page in this competition, because the opposition was strong and there are many candidates for the title at the start.

Tolga Goze from Turkey with 8 points/11 will accede to the podium . The fight is still open for the places of honour between Paulo Sunao (Japan), the family Odeev (father and son)of Turkmenistan , the winner of the 4<sup>th</sup> Afro-Asian championship Ali Dikmen of Turkey , Aydin Satici (TUR)

It is good to mention that a young lady from Kazakhstan reached the final and made a respectable score of 6 points/12 . It is a good sign for ladies CC in the Africa/Asia .

We will report more in the future when this final will finish.

## 6<sup>th</sup> email Afro-Asian championship Final

Table at 24.12.2005

Nr	Player	Nat.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	P
1	ODEEV, Ahmet	TKM		=	.	.	=	.	.	=	=	=	.	0	.	2,5

2	SUNAO, Paulo	JAP	=	=	=	=	1	=	1	=	=	0	=	1	=	7
3	TIMKIN, Nikolay	KAZ	.	=	=	=	0	0	.	0	=	=	0	.	0	2
4	ODEEV, Hanjar	TKM	.	=	=	=	.	=	1	0	=	=	.	=	=	4,5
5	DEMPSTER, Dave	AUS	=	0	1	.	=	0	=	0	=	0	0	0	.	2,5
6	GOZE, Tolga	TUR	.	=	1	=	1	=	=	1	=	1	=	1	=	8
7	ALTANOCH, Gendengin	MGL	.	0	.	0	=	=	=	0	0	=	=	1	=	3,5
8	HAYAKAWA, Satoru	JAP	=	=	1	1	1	=	1	=	=	1	1	1	1	10
9	LITVINENKO, Natalia	KAZ	=	=	=	=	=	0	1	=	=	=	=	1	0	6
10	DIKMEN, Ali	TUR	=	1	=	=	1	=	=	0	=	=	.	=	=	6
11	PASCUAL, Orlando	PHI	.	=	1	.	1	0	=	.	=	.	=	1	0	4,5
12	SMUTS, Iain	RSA	1	0	.	=	1	0	0	0	0	=	0	=	0	3
13	SATICI, Aydin	TUR	.	=	1	=	.	=	=	0	1	=	1	1	=	6,5

## **INTERVIEW BY BESSEL KOK, CANDIDATE FOR FIDE PRESIDENT**

**FOR WORLD CHESS NETWORK Tuesday, 13<sup>th</sup> December 2005**

**1. Greetings Mr. Kok. As a start, please tell us what were your motives to join the race for Presidency of FIDE.**

For the following reasons:

- ✓ The decreasing lack of success that FIDE has had to attract public interest and corporate sponsors to the Chess World.
- ✓ To basically work again on a golden opportunity to reunify the Chess World after my efforts in Prague.
- ✓ The growing frustration of several hard working FIDE delegates with the slow pace in the changes that FIDE needs to become a modern sports Federation.
- ✓ The fact that I am semi-retired and have more time.

**2. What will be your first step if you get elected?**

To create a structure, based on meritocracy, which allows professional experienced people to work on worldwide corporate sponsorship programs.

**3. Why are you the best candidate?**

Because I have more than 20 years experience in the World of Chess, an excellent relationship with the leading Grandmasters, I have organized major tournaments and can combine all of this with vast business experience.

**4. You already have the support of famous Grandmasters like Yasser Seirawan, Jan Timman and Judith Polgar. Do you expect more of them to take your side? What can you "offer" to the World's top players?**

Yes, You will see over the next few months through our website and press releases, our full campaign support unfolding.

**5. Can you tell us something about your relations with ACP (Association of Chess Professionals)?**

The ACP was a courageous initiative. It is different from the GMA which had built its own professional chess cycle to justify its role at the time. (The GMA World Cup had GM Lubos Kavalek as its' Director). Obviously the ACP was lacking funds to do the same and whilst it has successfully organised a number of events, its role has been different and aimed at trying to get the FIDE administration to communicate with top players. I respect what they achieved.

**6. Now a few questions which are of the biggest interest for WorldChessNetwork members. One of your key objectives is *"To achieve consistent, long-term success in the game through player development at every level, with particular focus on chess in schools"*. What is the best way to support and promote scholastic chess? How can you help National Federations to enlarge their players base?**

The best way to promote scholastic chess is to combine two unique tools we have available today in the world of chess :

- Grandmasters and Professional trainers
- The Internet and chess training programs

I strongly believe that a commercially sponsored Chess in School program with Grandmasters or professional trainers as tutors, and managed by a competent Project Director, is a serious opportunity. It allows professional grandmasters to have a post-career activity, gives schools a new educational tool, and allows the national sponsor to have his brand name linked to a brain game without violence. One can see the massive success that my associate, Ali Nihat Yazici has achieved in such a short time in Turkey through hard work and perseverance.

**7. *"To actively support the continued development of chess through the internet as a broadcast medium and instructional platform".* We already have the situation that thousands of people are following live internet broadcasts of the major events. Recent the US Chess League was played over the online server. Do you think it would be possible to play real tournaments with long time controls over the internet? What would be the reaction of sponsors?**

I tried to launch a Worldwide Internet competition several years ago and was not successful. Although I had found sponsors, the critical mass was not big enough to fully satisfy them. Further more, the cheating problem had not yet been totally resolved. However we were probably a bit early and with the new technology today in place on several chess servers, I do believe this type of Chess could rapidly develop.

As bandwidth capacity continues to increase and become more affordable all over the world, we will have a mega revolution in the opportunities that internet will offer us. The team has a large number of ideas and the enthusiasm is certainly not lacking!

I think that sponsors would still be very interested in long time controls since there are so much value adding ideas one could have through the internet. What have we gained with a faster time control which brings an average game down to around four hours ? Has this made the game more attractive to sponsors ? The level of the game has declined; we have more errors and players making draws in the World Cup simply to play a rapid tie-break.

**8. What do you think about the current World Championship Cycle? Should the format be changed?**

To be honest, after the Prague agreement was not implemented, I feared the worst would happen in the chess world. However, taking this into account, the formula in San Luis was not bad. This tournament formula for a World Title is not new. John Nunn, who I respect a lot already, suggested something similar earlier this year, and even Botvinnik once recommended it to me, since he always fondly remembered his World Championship title in 1948.

Still my proposal would be to encourage the creation of a WCC Advisory Council, made up of GMs and other professional organisers, who would work out proposals for an acceptable format to be approved by a future FIDE General Assembly.

This working method was adopted also in the GMA and resulted in successful cycle and tournament rules being implemented. This is much in line also with the practices of professional associations such as the ATP.

**9. Chess fans are arguing who is the current World Chess Champion. Can you unify the Title?**

Let me make one thing clear. FIDE, and especially the FIDE president, has a clear responsibility to act as a facilitator to unify, once and for all, the world chess title and to give it back its undisputed credibility. In Prague I took the initiative together with members of my present team to facilitate the unification process. The Prague agreement, if really supported by the present FIDE presidency and bureau, could have easily led to the unification of the World title, which is so essential for the good of chess.

However matches between Kasparov and two different FIDE champions, which could have lead to a unification match with Kramnik, have consistently been undermined or cancelled. Even a match between Topalov and Kramnik is clearly, to say the least, not a priority for the present FIDE administration.

I will do everything I can within my power and capabilities to get us back on track. I am very confident that I will succeed to give the chess world one championship title and thus one sole champion thus reinstating its unique position, its credibility and thereby also the media attention and respect it fully deserves. In order to do that, I will listen again to all parties concerned and act taking into account the present situation, but keeping in mind in the broad positive spirit of the agreement reached in Prague 4 years ago.

So, in summary I believe that FIDE should act as a body that serves the sport not dominates it. We should listen, decide and implement. Not decide, implement and then listen afterwards to the complaints!