

ICCF AMICI – Issue 03

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PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

by Josef Mrkvička, ICCF President



That's me in India!

Dear readers, dear ICCF friends,

Welcome to my next column in ICCF AMICI!

In this column, I inform you regularly about the work which has been done in the ICCF Executive Board in the period since the last ICCF AMICI issue. Obviously, this column will be dedicated to the most important results of the **ICCF Congress 2004 in Mumbai, India.**

This Congress, in conjunction with meetings of the ICCF Executive Board and the Management Committee, took place in the Retreat Hotel, Mumbai, India from **31st October to 6th November 2004.**

The Congress was arranged and hosted by the All India Correspondence Chess Federation (AICCF) and the hotel facilities and hospitality offered by AICCF, were excellent.

Participants of the Congress, and accompanying families and friends, were offered an extensive programme of events, including an excursion to the fascinating City of Mumbai and a visit to the ancient sculptured rock caves on Elephanta Island. There was also a programme for ladies and families provided by the hosts.

There was the traditional ICCF Blitz Tournament, a Simultaneous exhibition by GM Pravin Thipsay (IND) and an OTB chess match against players from the Mumbai Chess Club and AICCF.

An optional post Congress excursion was also arranged by AICCF to the “golden triangle” cities of Delhi, Agra and Jaipur, which was greatly appreciated.

President's Opening Speech

In my opening speech, I emphasised that for the first time in the ICCF history, the ICCF Congress was hosted in India and in the Asian continent, and expressed heartiest thanks to the AICCF for inviting ICCF to their country, also in the Hindi language.

I remembered the late Mr. Haresh J. Samtani, the past President of AICCF, who attended to the ICCF Congress at Rimini 2001, Italy and was the spiritual father of the idea to organise the ICCF Congress in India, and expressed sadness that, because of his unexpected death two years ago, he could not see how his ideas had been realised.

I paid tribute to the memories of all CC friends who had died since the Ostrava 2003 Congress, including the CC Grandmasters Csaba Melegyeghi (HUN) and Alexey Tsvetkov (RUS), long-year ICCF Tournament Director Poul Rasmussen (DEN), CC International Masters Dr. Simon Fitzpatrick (AUS) and Michael Valvo (USA), ICCF International Arbiter and Captain of the winning Czechoslovak Olympiad team, Stanislav Foglar (CZE), national TD and chess publisher Gerd Giebel (BRA), chess journalist and Honorary Member of LADAC Luciano Camara (ARG), Jose Fumero Sánchez (ESP). He also remembered the hundreds of people who had died in Spain and Russia as a result of merciless and cold-blooded terrorist attacks.

I recalled the big changes which had come to pass in the overall correspondence chess environment in the past five years. Most of Nol van't Riet's visions as presented to the 1999 Congress in Switzerland about the future of correspondence chess in 2010, had already come true. The implementation of email and webserver transmission of moves had greatly speeded up CC games and tournaments. What had taken many years in the past, was nowadays completed in months or even weeks. Internet connection was no longer a privilege of those in highly developed countries, but was now available literally in all countries. I emphasised that the ICCF Statutes should reflect such developments.

ICCF was facing strong competition from dozens of various email and Webserver chess clubs which cannot offer international CC titles but they do facilitate free chess games and tournaments worldwide. I stressed that, although ICCF is the only international correspondence chess organisation whose titles are universally recognised, and also are acknowledged by FIDE, it must not underestimate this competition and it needed to be ready to accept this challenge. ICCF must permanently monitor overall developments, be flexible and react quickly. ICCF and National Federations must provide good service to all CC players, otherwise they would lose them to competitors.

I declared that in the year 2004, ICCF had entered a new era of its history – the era of Webserver chess. Since the ICCF 2003 Congress in Ostrava, it had taken only 8 months of a very hard work until the first test tournament was started on the ICCF webserver in July, 2004. At present, ICCF was introducing all ICCF class tournaments to the server, including Grand Master and Master Norm tournaments and ICCF was able to host individual and team tournaments organised either by ICCF or National Federations, and some federations had already begun to use this possibility.

I cordially thanked all ICCF volunteers who had contributed to this excellent achievement, especially the first Project Manager Iain Mackintosh, and reminded all National Delegates that they should feel committed to support “their” webserver system and to promote it enthusiastically within their federations and to their players.

I pointed out that ICCF finances was another hot topic of the Congress, and emphasised that current revenue and expense methodology was acceptable only when the majority of ICCF games were played by post. With the changeover to email play and the coming changeover to Webserver play, the timing of transactions is no longer logical or acceptable. ICCF incurs and must pay many of its expenses on a quarterly or monthly basis. Therefore, like for any other business, the timing of ICCF revenue inflow must be adjusted to match its expense outflow.

Finally, I proposed that Congress should focus on the overall ICCF “volunteer culture”. So far, all ICCF Officials had been volunteers, including the President and all other Executive Board members, but they all had only a limited number of hours available for ICCF work. Consequently, it was not correct to “shout” at active volunteers to work harder, if they have not enough time to dedicate to all ICCF tasks. With the ICCF Webserver system implemented, it had become obvious that the present ICCF volunteer culture and web chess could be in conflict.

In particular, the administration and support of the Webserver needed to work “around the clock”. ICCF had recruited many new volunteers for this work but, despite all efforts, it had not succeeded to cover key roles like Webserver Commissioner or Marketing Commissioner. Even if ICCF could recruit volunteers into these roles, ICCF could not insist that they work fixed hours or contracted periods, and there will always be times where other parts of their lives would take priority. Therefore, I recommended Congress to consider whether some key jobs in the marketing and webserver area, might require some degree of professional and remunerated day-to-day work.

New ICCF members

Indonesia and Tunisia were accepted as new ICCF member federations.

Bertl von Massow Medals and other awards

The 16th World Champion, Mr **Tunc Hamarat** (AUT), received his World Champion Trophy – the traditional engraved metal plate with the final crosstable of the tournament.



Tunc Hamarat (right) receives his Word Champion trophy from the ICCF President
(photo by Per Söderberg)

The trophy for the winner of the World Cup X, **Frank Schröder** (GER) was given to the German delegate.

Gerhard Radosztics (AUT) was unanimously appointed as a new ICCF Honorary Member.



Gerhard Radosztics
(photo by Per Söderberg)

The Bertl von Massow medals are awarded for 15 years meritorious service (in gold) and 10 years (in silver) to international correspondence chess and ICCF. They are based on criteria proposed by Hans-Werner von Massow in 1983, in memory of his wife Bertl, who herself was a great ICCF worker and supporter.

The Gold Medals for 15 years meritorious service were awarded to:

Manfred Gluth (GER)
Tim Harding (IRL)
Ulrich Wagner (GER)

The Silver Medal Awards for 10 years meritorious service were awarded to:

Jaromir Canibal (CZE)
Ilja Christov (BUL)
Carlos Flores Gutiérrez (ESP)
Thórhallur Olafsson (ISD)
Per Söderberg (SWE)
Achim Soltau (GER)
Uldis Strautins (LAT)

ICCF Financial plan and other financial matters

It was emphasised that an increase in tournament and rating fees would be necessary to secure ICCF's financial well being in the years 2005-2007 and, in particular, to cover the operating expenses incurred for the ICCF Webserver.

The current revenue and expense methodology was acceptable when the majority of ICCF games were played by post. With the changeover to email play and the emergence of Webserver play, the timing of transactions was no longer logical or acceptable. ICCF now incurred and must pay many of its expenses on a quarterly and a monthly basis, and therefore, the timing of ICCF revenue inflow must begin to match its expense outflow.

After discussions, Congress approved by a substantial majority vote that, effective from 1.1.2005:

- all invoices from the ICCF to member federations must be payable within 30 days,
- ICCF would start billing member federations half-yearly (at 30th June and 31st December, respectively), with invoices payable within 30 days,
- the current year's membership fee should be paid with the first invoice issued for that year (i.e. at 30th June of the current year) and should be remitted, with all necessary details required by the ICCF Finance Director, not later than 31st July of the current year.

I emphasised that National Federations would be expected to comply with this new schedule of payments. Any fees which were not paid within 30 days from the date of invoice would be considered to be "overdue" and a levy would be charged (in lieu of lost revenue), becoming payable immediately.

Congress delegated authority to deal with ICCF investments to the Finance Director and the Executive Board. Congress did not accept the proposal to establish a business relationship with Access Bankcards to handle its international credit card

transactions and asked the Finance Director / Executive Board to consider other options and to choose a credit card broker whose conditions would fully meet ICCF requirements. It was stressed that a new contract would be absolutely necessary for a successful implementation of an enhanced Direct Entry Scheme.

After a short discussion, Congress decided not to accept the Finance Director's proposals of new ICCF tournament fees, which were considered to be too high. It established a special working group, which was entrusted to elaborate a new proposal and present it to Congress.

After considering the reasoning and recommendation for each fee level, Congress approved the new structure of ICCF tournament and rating fees, valid from 1.1.2005:

Event Type	CHF
Olympiad Team Preliminaries (per player)	25
Champions League (per team and cycle)	60
World Individual Candidates (as first stage entry)	25
World Individual Semi-final	50
World Individual Ladies Semi-final	25
World Individual Tournaments 7-player	8
World Individual Tournaments 11-player	13
World Cup	20
Thematic Tournaments	13
Master Norm Tournaments	40
Grand Master Norm Tournaments	60
Direct Entries (Champions League) – credit	(30)
Direct Entries (Individuals) 7-player – credit	(3)
Direct Entries (Individuals) 11-player – credit	(4)
Invitation Tournaments Category I-III (per game)	2
Invitation Tournaments Category IV-VI (per game)	4
Invitation Tournaments Category VII-XIII (per game)	5
Invitation Tournaments Category XIV+ (per game)	6
Invitation Team Tournaments (per player)	4

Invitational and open tournaments which had been applied for and authorised before or at the ICCF Congress in Mumbai would be subject to fees at current rates valid until 31.12.2004, providing that the tournament start date was before 30.9.2005.

This authorisation would lapse if the authorised tournament was not started within 6 months of the declared intended start date or by 30.9.2005, whichever was the sooner.

All other invitational / open tournaments organised by National Federations, and submitted for ICCF approval, with start dates after 1.1.2005, would be subject to the new fees.

Finally, Congress took into consideration the Financial Plan for the years 2004-2007, but asked the Executive Board to revise the budgeted amounts for the years 2005-2007, in line with the new level of the ICCF tournament and rating fees valid from 1.1.2005, and taking into account the scheduled ICCF tournaments and the operating costs which would be needed for maintenance of the ICCF Webserver.

ICCF Webserver Project

ICCF now has a fully functional webserver, which is at the very least was equal to any correspondence chess webserver and superior to most of those which were available. This had been achieved in only 8 months since the approval of the Webserver Project by the ICCF Congress 2003 in Ostrava, within the planned timescale for Phase 1 of the Project and within the budgeted amount approved by the Ostrava Congress.

Congress highly appreciated the results achieved by the Webserver Steering Group and in particular, the excellent work of Project Manager Iain Mackintosh (SCO) who resigned at 31.8.2004 from his position, for work reasons.

The Webserver Steering Group recommended Congress to move forward with Phase 2 of the Project and it envisaged that the ICCF Webserver system would eventually provide for:

1. Every conceivable type of correspondence chess event
2. Comprehensive direct entry process and player database with national delegate interface
3. Rating list, norm qualifications, Eloquery, and calculations
4. Switching modes of play
5. Administration of non-Webserver events on server
6. Games Archives
7. Globalisation – multiple languages
8. Message Board
9. Player details
10. Advertising
11. Security improvements
12. Other (miscellaneous)

These additional functions in the Webserver would create a fully integrated tournament management and reporting system for ICCF, thus reducing the current amount of manual work, automate most of the tournament management functions,

speed up the response time between results and their reporting to players, and increase the potential for growth within ICCF and for its member federations.

The Webserver Steering Group presented proposals and recommendations on the necessary organisational measures and financial resources it envisaged for Phase 2 of the Project.

Congress decided that:

- Further development of the ICCF Webserver should be continued, after ongoing priorities had been established, with the work spread over several years, depending on development funding available for system enhancement.
- Phase 1 progress should be reviewed and priorities agreed and specified for Phase 2 and thereafter.
- The Development Fund allocation for Phase 2 would be CHF 15'000 for year 2005 and resourcing would be discussed again at the Congress in 2005, for the year 2006 etc..

Congress asked the existing Webserver Steering Group to complete Phase 1 of the Project and to settle all ICCF financial commitments relating to existing contracts, with the external suppliers. The administration and maintenance of the existing Webserver will be delegated to the Executive Board.

The existing Webserver Steering Group should elaborate a final report on the Phase 1, including an updated project specification which shows what has been done, what remains unfinished and contains all updates. It was envisaged that this "transition" period would finish by 31.12.2004. Thereafter the existing Webserver Group would be dissolved, with a new Webserver Development Steering Committee to be appointed to begin development work for Phase 2 and beyond.

Congress empowered the Executive Board to hire professional assistance (individual or a company) to perform system administration of the Webserver, should this be necessary and appropriate. Operating costs for the system administration should be covered by increased tournament and rating fees.

Congress unanimously appointed Clive Murden (AUS) as the new Webserver Project Manager.

Congress delegated the development work for Phase 2 to a new Webserver Development Steering Committee (WDSC) and unanimously appointed Alan Borwell (SCO) as Chairman of the Committee. The first members of the Committee to include Gerhard Binder (GER), Ambar Chatterjee (IND), Clive Murden (AUS) and Nol van't Riet (NED). Members of the Committee should work on a voluntary basis.

Regarding proposals for a National Federation Patron scheme, the Congress did not accept the suggestion from the Webserver Steering Group, to implement one-off Member Federation financial contributions, as was presented in its written report. The concept of a National Federation Patron Scheme was referred back to the Finance Director for further consideration and recommendation.

Furthermore, Congress decided that:

- national tournaments being played on the ICCF Webserver, approved by the World Tournament Director in the period prior to Congress, and started before 1.2.2005 will be free of charge.
- for national tournaments approved after Congress and played on the ICCF Webserver, starting after 1.2.2005, a fee CHF 1 per game played, will be charged. For approved international invitational/open tournaments organised by national federations and played using the ICCF webserver, the normal scale fee will be deemed to be inclusive of this special webserver fee.
- each National Federation would be entitled to use the ICCF Webserver for a national tournament of their own choice of not more than 15 players, with a start date in 2005, without charge.

Congress heard and approved a proposal from Alan Borwell (SCO) to initiate inter country schools tournaments on the ICCF Webserver, for nominated teams from a maximum number of schools per country, perhaps at both primary and secondary (senior) schools and perhaps universities/colleges.

ICCF Statutes

Congress unanimously approved the new ICCF Statutes and decided that they would come into effect from 1.1.2005. The full text of the Statutes was published on www.iccf.com on 27.11.2004.

According to these new Statutes, ICCF will be able to discuss partnership agreements with other international CC organizations, subject to Congress approval.

The seat of ICCF remained the residence of the ICCF President, but further investigations will be made regarding the possibility of establishing a permanent seat/office in one particular country.

Enhanced Direct Entry facilities did not become a part of the Statutes and mandatory for all National Federations, but they were offered to National Federations on a voluntary basis, from 1.4.2005. All National Federations were encouraged to join the enhanced Direct Entry Scheme for tournaments. The full text of the Congress Document was published on www.iccf.com on 17.11.2004. Short after Congress, England and Ireland declared their accession to the scheme.

Players' eligibility provisions were added to the ICCF Tournament Rules, as a separate chapter.

In future, every National Federation will have only one vote in the Congress, regardless of the number of their members.

Disputes on matters which do not fall within the jurisdiction of any of the ICCF Appeals Commissions will be decided by an Arbitration Tribunal, comprised of the Chairmen of the three ICCF Appeals Commissions.

It was decided that the decisions of all ICCF Appeals Commission will be final.

Future Congress arrangements

The recent experiences show that every year, it becomes more and more difficult to find a member country to host an ICCF Congress.

It has already become obvious that ICCF could no longer keep to the established ICCF "3 to 1" schedule i.e. one Congress outside Europe after 3 successive European Congresses. ICCF could soon also face a unique situation where no hosting country would be available for a future year(s).

The main reasons for the above problem are:

- the decreasing numbers of CC players in almost all countries, with national federations suffering from lack of financial resources,
- it is difficult to find sufficient volunteers to participate in organisational tasks,
- potential Congress hosts see/hear what has been provided by other federations and think that they need to provide similar facilities and programmes. If they realise that their organisational or financial resources are not sufficient, then they abandon the idea.

It was felt that it would be appropriate to reduce the organisational and in particular, financial commitments of the hosting federation to the "essential" requirements, leaving all of the other arrangements as "optional". Congress approved a new document which acknowledged the above aspects.

Congress accepted unanimously the invitation of LADAC to organise the **ICCF Congress 2005 in Villa La Angostura, Argentina** (in October/November 2005).

Negotiations were being held with Spain regarding the ICCF Congress 2006. Sweden had withdrawn its option for 2006, because of a lack of support by the Swedish CC Federation SSKK for the project. Spain was studying very carefully the possibility of organising the 2006 ICCF Congress, if no offer was received from any other Federation before the 2005 Congress in Argentina.

The ICCF President asked all National Federations to present their bids for the ICCF Congress 2006, as a final decision probably could not be made until the Congress next year. He reminded delegates that ICCF would have two successive congresses in non-European countries, and therefore, it would be essential to have at least two, or still better three, subsequent congresses in Europe.

The Congress location for 2007 is still unclear as the AJEC Board has not yet made any decision with regard to the possibility of it being in France. There are no bids yet for the year 2008.

The ICCF Delegate for England, Alan Rawlings, asked Congress for a first option for England to host the ICCF Congress in 2012, which would coincide with the 50th anniversary of its federation and he informed that Oxford was a possible venue. Moreover, he did not exclude the alternative possibility of arranging the ICCF Congress for 2007 to be in England, if this was to become necessary and deemed appropriate.

Tournaments area

A substantial review of the ICCF tournaments structure was postponed to the 2005 Congress in Argentina. It was recommended to consider extension of the existing

cycle of World Championship stages by the fourth stage as: Preliminaries – Semifinals – Candidates – Final.

The organisation of the World Championship Semifinal and Candidates stages implies the accomplishment of two requirements: to have a 13 players groups and that the group's average rating be above a given value, so the tournaments have the required minimum category. Consequently, sometimes these requirements can generate certain delays in the beginning of the tournaments, which causes a negative effect on players' anxiety.

As an improvement on this status quo, it was decided to establish fixed dates throughout the calendar year. This will facilitate the submissions of entries, allow the players a better planning of their tournaments and a more functional organisation. These dates are: **15th February, 15th May, 15th August and 15th November** of every year.

The proposal to introduce a new type of tournaments – Senior International Master Tournaments – was not approved by Congress.

For the invitational tournaments organised by the National Federations, it was decided that the number of invitations sent out by an organising National Federation would always have to be in line with the number of offered free places in a tournament. A deadline with a minimum of 1 month shall be given to any contacted federation until which any given invitation must be uphold and remains valid.

The Riga 1998 Congress decided to have 13-player World Championship Finals. Back then, we hardly knew the number of email games a player could reasonably well play, and the reflection time was 10 moves in 40 days. In the pre-Congress discussions, many top players supported a higher number of players in a World Championship Final. The Congress decided that **the future Finals only would be played with 15 players.**

Given the results of the pre-Congress investigations, it was decided to start the 16th Olympiad as a postal tournament, with 4-player teams. The start date will be 1st May, 2005.

Live coverage of games

Congress delegates were of the opinion that ICCF must have a valid ruling covering the live coverage of running games, immediately. However, it was stressed that the ruling should be part of Tournament Rules, as it contained penalties/sanctions, and not Code of Conduct Guidelines.

By a substantial majority voting, Congress approved the wording which had been decided and promulgated by the Executive Board earlier this year. Simultaneously, Congress decided to remove the guideline from the Article 2 of the Code of Conduct Guidelines, and to move it to the ICCF Tournament Rules, as a new chapter therein.

Tournament Rules

An important change was made to the withdrawal rule: games will be adjudicated when an accepted withdrawal is approved, and when at least one game has been finished or on average all games have reached 25 moves.

Players' eligibility and live coverage of games were added to Tournament Rules, as new chapters.

Playing Rules

Congress approved a new, complete set of ICCF Playing Rules, including the Playing Rules for a Webserver play.

Individual and team rules were merged into one document.

For email play, the "phoney day" was eliminated. If a player receives a move after 8pm his local time, he can consider having arrived the next day.

For Webserver play, the conditional moves were eliminated.

POINT OF VIEW

Welcome to the third edition of ICCF Amici. I would like to thank those of you who have taken the time to contribute something to this issue. Without your thoughts and writings, correspondence chess would miss out. I would like to see considerably more submissions of the quality contained herein. Help us! Send us information on correspondence chess, whether it be email (alex.dunne@cqservices.com), airmail, or sea mail – we have a big game with many windows. I am looking forward to hearing from a lot more of you!

Pax, Alex Dunne

ICCF CONGRESS 2004

REPORT OF THE ZONAL DIRECTOR FOR EUROPE

The European Zone had -as you certainly know- a lot of problems in year 2003.

Therefore my primary task was to re-organize the Zone and to assemble a staff of capable helpers.

After 9 months, I can say that many things have been done; now many volunteers are working in the European Zone, the tournaments are going on, we've a web site and so on. The only problem (a big problem, indeed!) is the European Individual Championship.

Let me check with you, now, the single items.

Deputy President

I appointed S. Ja. Grodzensky (RUS) and I've a good collaboration from him.

Treasurer

My friend Carlos Flores Gutiérrez (ESP) accepted to act as European Treasurer: everybody knows him and therefore we're sure that Zone 1's money is in the best hands.

Web site

It has been one of my first tasks, because it's impossible to keep the contacts with the players without an "always updated" Internet page.

The European web site, www.iccf-europa.com, has been built by Maurizio Sampieri (ITA) and Giorgio Ruggeri Laderchi (ITA) and it's now organized by Giorgio, who's doing a very good work.

Jurai Václav (SVK) is helping him for the tournament tables.

Archive

The ICCF Archivist, Laurent Tinture (FRA), agreed to act as European archivist, too. A lot of games are now on our web pages.

European Team Championships

The 5.th European Team Championship ended on 6.06.2004 with the victory of Germany. The runner-up was Lithuania; third place to Czech Republic.

The Final of the 6.th E.T.C. is now starting with 13 teams (Austria, Czech Rep., England, Finland, France, Germany, Iceland, Israel, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Spain and Slovakia; T.D. Joachim Walther -GER-). It will be, probably, the last E.T.C. played by post.

The Preliminary of 7.th E.T.C. will start in early 2005 and it will be played by e-mail, unless the most of European Federation disagree with my proposal.

European Individual Championships

The "black hole" of my first year as European Zonal Director...

The Preliminaries of 63.rd E.I.C. were played by post and ended a lot of time ago. I tried to organize the Final by post, but many players refused to play.

Many groups (but not all groups!) of the Preliminaries of 64.th E.I.C. have already ended and also a few groups of the Preliminaries of 65.th E.I.C. have already its winner.

I propose to the European Delegates to start the (postal) Final of 63.rd E.T.C. as soon as possible, inserting all the qualified players from 63.rd, 64.th and 65.th preliminaries who accept to play by post. I'll discuss with the Delegates "how" to organize the 64.th and 65.th Finals and, finally, I'll propose new rules for the 66.th E.I.C. (Preliminaries to start on spring 2005 -?-; by e-mail, by post or both?).

Many thanks to T.D. Jørgen Axel Nielsen (DEN) who is conducting the E.I.C.s and who informed me of his willingness to stop his work as T.D. when these Preliminaries will be closed.

Promotional tournaments

One of my hardest problems, indeed! A lot of players were waiting for their start-list and many National Associations didn't send any more their entries. I appointed two Tournament Commissioners: Leonardo Madonia (ITA), who collects the entries and arranges the new groups and Rubens Battistini (ITA), who collects the results and keeps the contacts with the web-master. Thanks to Leonardo and Rubens for their excellent work: now the European Promotional Tournaments are going on without problems!

In the first 9 months of this year 26 postal groups (8 M, 9 H and 9 O; 214 players) and 17 e-mail groups (6 M, 5 H and 6 O; 143 players) have been started and the waiting lists are now quite empty.

Tournament Directors

I had a few problems, because many T.D.s resigned from their office for personal reasons. I want to thank especially Harro Otte (GER) for his valuable work for many and many years; he was compelled to resign from his office for very important health problems. Thanks to Frank Riva (LUX), too, who left his office for professional reasons. The new European T.D.s are Laurent Tinture (FRA), Tomas Silfver (SWE) and Enzo Neri (ITA), while Klaus Metelmann (GER) and Marco Caressa (ITA) are still working on their "old" groups.

Invitational Tournaments

A European team is playing in the "15.th Anniversary Rochade Club" tournament (Team Captain: Frank Geider -FRA-), with 10 players from 10 different countries.

A European team will of course play in the Interzonal 2004.

European Zone Statutes

My mind was to propose a draft for the Zone 1 Statutes to the European Delegates, to discuss at Mumbai Congress. Both me and the Chairman of the Statutes Commission, Eric Ruch (FRA), have been too much involved in other works and therefore I decided to postpone this (not urgent) matter to next year.

Once again, many thanks to all the friends, the volunteers, the officials and the delegates who have helped me in the first year of my "reign". It has been a hard year for me and I'm sorry I couldn't do better; anyway I'm quite satisfied of the results I obtained and I do hope the European Delegates are too.

Amici sumus.
Mumbai, 3.11.2004

Report of European Zone's Delegates Meeting.

The meeting of the European Delegates during the 2004 ICCF Congress was held on Wednesday, November 4.th, at Retreat Hotel, Mumbai, after the ICCF Congress's official closing.

The following Delegates attended the meeting: G. Radosztics (AUT), M. Michálek (CZE), S. Peschardt (DEN), A. Rawlings (ENG), C. Flores Gutiérrez (ESP), E. Liebert (EST), H. Brusila (FIN), E. Ruch (FRA), F. Baumbach (GER), G. Mastrojeni (ITA), A.

Gaujens (LAT), M. Rocius (LTU), A.A. van 't Riet (NED), W. Bielecki (POL), S. Ja. Grodzensky (RUS), G. Pyrich (SCO), P. Sørderberg (SWE).

The Zonal Director, G-M Tani, took the chair; the Deputy Z.D., S. Ja. Grodzensky, and the Treasurer, C. Flores Gutiérrez, set near him.

The Zonal Director's report was distributed to the Delegates before the Congress and explained to the Congress on Nov. 2nd; G-M Tani asked the Delegates if they had any comment about it, but no one had objection and/or requests.

The most important item to be discussed was the organization of the European Championships, both individual and by team.

7th European Team Championship, Preliminaries. The Z.D. emphasised that it was very difficult for him to organize the Final of the 6.th European Championship by post, because a lot of players refused to play by post and many Federations had difficulties to find enough postal players to arrange a strong team. Therefore he proposed to play the 7.th E.T.C. by e-mail. The Delegates agreed. After a short discussion, it was proposed to have 8 players for each team; this proposal was approved by substantial majority. The Preliminaries of the 7.th E.T.C. will start on 15.10.2005.

Individual Championships, Finals. The Preliminaries of the 63.rd E.I.C. ended a lot of time ago, but the previous Z.D. didn't organize the Final. G-M Tani told that he tried to arrange the Final, but a large part of the qualified players refused to play by post. Many preliminary groups of the 64.th E.I.C. have already ended and some player has already got a qualification in the Preliminaries of the 65.th E.I.C. The Zonal Director therefore proposed to arrange as soon as possible two Finals, one by post and the second one by e-mail, both of them with 15 players. The finalists will be the qualified players in the 63.rd, 64.th and 65.th E.I.C. Preliminaries, with priority to the ones who qualified in the 63.rd, then in the 64.th, finally in the 65.th E.I.C.. The Delegates agreed with this proposal. The Final of the 63.rd E.I.C. will be played by e-mail and will start on 15.04.2005; the Final of the 64.th E.I.C. will be played by post and will also start on 15.04.2005. A. Rawlings (ENG) offered to organise both Finals, working with the ZD, and his offer was accepted.

66.th European Individual Championships, Preliminaries. A lot of players has already got the right to enter the Preliminaries of E.I.C.; unfortunately, the previous Z.D. didn't provide any list of qualified players and it's very difficult to arrange a complete list. The National Delegates will be asked to help the Z.D., providing him with information about the qualified players from their own country. The Z.D. proposed to have, in the future, only e-mail E.I.C., but P. Sørderberg (SWE) strongly opposed, because many players would no longer have any possibility to run for the title of European C.C. Champion. It was agreed to ask the qualified players for which way of move transmission they like better and to organize both e-mail and postal championships. To avoid having too many players in the Preliminaries (and to arrange two stages of preliminaries), the Z.D. proposed to allow each National Association to nominate only one player (and no more two players); the Delegates approved unanimously. Each preliminary group will have 13 players, with a maximum of 6 groups, i.e. 78 players. The Preliminaries of the 66.th and 67.th E.I.C. will start as soon as possible, i.e. when a complete list of the qualified players will be arranged. The aim is to start them on 15.03.2005.

Entry fees. The Treasurer proposed to equate the entry fees for European Promotional Tournaments to the fees for the similar World Promotional Tournaments from 1.01.2005. It was unanimously accepted. After a short discussion, it was unanimously voted that the entry fee for the 7.th E.T.C. will be 100 Swiss Francs for each team.

Interzonal 2004. The Z.D. informed the Delegates that European Zone will have two teams (16 players) in the Interzonal 2004 Tournament. He will send an urgent e-mail circular to the National Associations as soon as he returns home from the Congress.
ICCF Webserver. It was agreed that the next e-mail European Championships (Preliminaries and Finals, both individual and by team) will be played on the ICCF Webserver if possible.

Mumbai, 4.11.2004.

Gian-Maria Tani
ICCF Zonal Director for Europe

Going, going, gone! by ICCF-IM Valer Eugen Demian

The end of the qualifying season in ICCF-CL came in with a few surprises Despite our efforts to run things smoothly. It had to be a combination of preparing the registration for the new season, together with adjudicating unfinished games necessary to determine unclear qualifications. Let's examine briefly both issues, since they were clearly interconnected.

Preparing the registration for the new season: one thing I came up with was the idea to ask teams to confirm their intent of participation in the new upcoming season. It was obvious some teams would not participate Anymore and others will come on-board for the first time, so we needed to do a projection of how the league would really look like compared with the original plans prepared in 2002. Originally this proved to be a very successful idea. Lots of teams confirmed their participation with a simple "Yes" or "No". There was no need for additional information such as team line-ups, changes, etc. However I got a fair share of those as well; funny how people have trouble following simple requests because of being over-zealous. Simply put, I had no use for that information at the time!

Now since confirmations were running smoothly, it was time to prepare the adjudication process. This is one of the most frustrating tasks in chess since everyone has an opinion on how adjudications have to be performed; rest assure you will hear it as soon as the adjudication will not be favorable... Luckily the revised FAQ provided some protection with no less than 7 rules (16 to 22) explaining the process. Everything was ready to take the bull by the horns except we needed "some" adjudicators of at least SIM title and a fixed rating of 2500. We

pledged for help and luckily we got two great players committed. Honestly this was way beyond my wildest dreams; now I was only crossing my fingers those 25 decisive games won't scare them off!
We had some private discussions between ourselves (the ICCF-CL Support team) about how much time we should allow players to prepare their analysis. In the end the majority voted for a full month as written in

the ICCF Playing Rules. The point was the time frame: with those decisive games called for adjudication Jun 1st, 2004, one full month of preparation meant we got those analysis no later than July 1st, we added the time required by adjudicators to give their verdicts (approximately second half of August) in all games, plus any possible appeals. An optimist would say there was no problem with this time frame; however things looking nice on paper have a tendency of blowing in your face when you expect it the least...

Players were very cooperative to begin with: 15 out of the 25 games called for adjudication ended in a draw by mutual agreement. This was a huge relief to me in particular; things did not look so bad after all and we even followed to Playing Rules! Now if only they would continue being cooperative and send in their analysis in a decent time frame...

Unfortunately here the problems started: players chose to wait until the last official minute of the last day to send in their analysis and claims in all but 1 game. The adjudicators did nothing for a month and then all of a sudden had to solve those games. Now remember that we are talking about active top players, playing meantime in very high level competitions. In parallel think about all teams already qualified, confirmed and very much ready to play. There was a lot of pressure and excitement in the air and not everyone was on the "excited" side...

There were some minor email connection glitches between me and both adjudicators. Definitely email has become lately a nerve wrecking medium for correspondence chess. All in all I was very impressed with the work done by both adjudicators. They did not need any "special" instructions on how to adjudicate; we had only a couple of email exchanges explaining how things would be done and then they simply did their job. That was some job! These adjudications would always have a place in a reference database on how to perform them. Only one game was appealed and personally I was a bit upset. I knew who the adjudicator was and how long it took him (around 3 weeks) to come up with his final decision. On the other hand that game meant division C or D for one team, so their appeal was kind of normal. It is not easy to top the original requirements for adjudicators since it was obvious I needed a GM or even World Champion to perform the appeal. Now if you can find one with time in hand to accommodate you right on the spot, please give me a call in two years when the first season will be over! I would need your help again... Anyhow, a top GM helped me out and confirmed the original

decision.

Registrations could be an easy process if you have lots of experience and people cooperate with you. Unfortunately for me I had little experience organizing a correspondence chess event of this magnitude, plus players and officials were not cooperative at all. I will summarise some of the problems I had to deal with during registration. This way we will always have it written down to remind ourselves, or educate any new guys coming on-board about what to be aware of:

a) The registration form was incomplete. The ICCF current rating field was missing and I wasted lots of time to identify the right players. Now try this as an exercise: write down 4 random names of German players forcing you to browse Eloquary for their rating from letter A to W; calculate how much time you need to perform this task, then multiply it

by 54 (the number of German teams entered)

b) Players and officials knew almost nothing about the ICCF-ID they were supposed to put in. I got a big number of registration forms without any IDs, with wrong IDs, or simply with national or FIDE-IDs I did not need.

Personally I would consider it a must for every player to know his ICCF-ID, the same he/she knows his current rating. Providing the proper information is the minimum one can do to ease the work for an organizer and have the event start on time. Eloquetry is such a great database and it is a shame not to be familiarised with it. I strongly doubt it takes more than 30 minutes to become an expert in finding all sort of needed data in it. If a team captain has to do it for 4 players, the organizer has to look for 884 players!...

c) We offered the registration form in text format because it is the simplest to prepare by anyone. However I got quite some selection of different formats and fonts giving me lots of trouble to copy and paste the information. Have you ever had the task to write down Polish, or Czech names?

d) Team captains and officials showed very little knowledge of what they were supposed to do. Now Franklin Campbell - the ICCF-CL webmaster - has done a tremendous job in putting lots of useful information together.

However you can have the best information available; if they don't read it, it creates a lot of frustration and delays

e) Lots of teams misunderstood the original request for confirmation as a registration. We posted clarifications at least 3 times to basically say "confirmation" DOES NOT mean "registration". Some still did not register (even after we extended the registration deadline) and remained out of the competition; quite a few got in because I was flexible for as much as I could and accepted their excuse

f) The decision taken by the ICCF Executive Board to offer some server

groups was very good! Too bad there was just partial cooperation on behalf of the teams involved to help us out setup full server groups.

The majority of teams specifically requested "No server play" and left us with very little room to maneuver. It was frustrating for a while, but in the end they are the ones regretting this choice

g) Thanks to Frank Goebert we managed to have an advanced webtables system in place for the beginning of this season, transforming the job of posting results into a simple exercise of 1 and 0. If you might think this is not important, then do not forget the other webmaster for the

qualifying season had to be replaced!...

Now the league has started. It happened after a needed 1 month delay, but this does not matter anymore. Players will enjoy their games, officials will take a breather and life will go on to a better future on the server! Next time I will share with you the joys and pains of the first weeks in the league. Do not forget meantime to express your pleasure by helping out your fellow TDs, organizers or officials. How can you do that? It is very simple: read our webpages weekly, respond to inquiries in a decent time frame, help us correct mistakes, do your best to solve disputes in the spirit of "Amici Sumus" and try our server!

Dec 15, 2004
Vancouver, BC, Canada

Correspondence Chess Reminiscence (3) By Eric RUCH

The Astonishing Mrs. Gilbert

There are only few ladies in the correspondence Chess world today, but they were probably even fewer during the 19th century where most of the games were played by the cities Chess clubs.

It is rather surprising to find a lady playing in the match between England and America in 1877 and her games with Mr Gossip, a well known mysogyne, were one of the main attraction of this tournament and their progress were reported almost every month in "La Stratégie" or "The Chess Monthly".



The readers of these magazines may have been astonished when the Mrs. Gilbert won all her 4 games against Mr. Gossip. But the most amazing was the announce by the lady of a mate in 35 moves to secure her first win



G.H.D. Gossip

G.H.D Gossip was a famous british chessplayer in the second part of the 19th century and he published several famous chess books like "Theory of the Chess Openings" (1891), "The Chess Player Manual" (1902) and "The Complete Chess Guide" (1903) amongst others. He has also worked on the game at odds that used to be very popular during the 19th century and published one of the very few books solely devoted to that very special kind of chess "The Chess players' Pocket Guide to Games at Odds" (1893).

M. G.H.D Gossip – Mrs J.W. Gilbert [C80] 1877

Annotations by Wilhelm Steinitz "The Field"

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♘xe4 6.d4 b5 7.♘xe5

Several theoreticians prefer 7.♙b3 followed by 8.dxe5 after Black's best reply 7...d5.

7...♘xe5

It is not advised to take the bishop, because White take the queen Knight and another piece by ♙e1 followed by f3.

8.dxe5 ♘c5

If 8...bxa4 9.♙d5 attacks the Rook and the Knight.

9.♙b3 ♘xb3 10.axb3 d6

We prefer 10...d5.

11.♙e2 dxe5 12.♙xe5+ ♙e7 13.♙f4

They should not let the exchange of the Queens, while the black queen is in a bad position. With 13.♖g3 or 13.♗d5 they would have had good chances to attack Blacks position: 13.♖g3 ♕b7 14.♕f4 0–0–0 15.c4 b4 16.♗d2 followed by either 17.c5 or 17.♕c3 with a good game. 13.♗d5 ♖b8 14.♕f4 ♕b7 15.♗d2 ♗d8 16.♖a5 with the threat 17.♗e1 with a good game.

13...♗xe5 14.♕xe5 ♕b7

M. Gossip has surely not foreseen this very good move when letting the exchanges of the Queens. He thought he could have won a pawn, but if he takes it now, Miss Gilbert answers with ♖c8 gaining back the pawn with advantage.

15.c4 0–0–0 16.♗c3

A mistake that costs a pawn. M. should have taken the pawn with a good game. His isolated pawns are more than compensated by the strength of his rooks on the c and d files. 16.cxb5 axb5 17.♗c3 b4 18.♗a4 ♕d6 19.♕xd6 ♖xd6 20.♗ followed by either ♖a4, ♖a5 or ♖a7 with an excellent game.

16...b4 17.♗a4 ♗d3 18.♖fe1 ♖xb3 19.♗e3 ♖xe3 20.fxe3 ♕e7 21.♕d4 ♗d8 22.♖f1 f6 23.♗c5

White has made a lot of efforts to exchange his Knight with the opponent's King Bishop, to remain with the opposite colours Bishops with good drawing chances. His last moves are clever.

23...♕xc5 24.♕xc5 ♗d2 25.♖f2 ♗d1+ 26.♖f1 ♖xf1+ 27.♔xf1 a5 28.g3

If M. Gossip was hoping more than a draw, he was wrong and has forgotten, that when playing against a majority of pawns with opposite colours Bishops, the opponent's pawns have to be forced to play on square that have an opposite colour to his own Bishop. For example : 28.♕f8 g6 29.♕g7 f5 30.g3 ♕a6 (seems to be the best) 31.b3 a4 32.bxa4 ♕xc4+ 33.♔e1 ♔d7 34.♕f8 b3 35.♕g7 and the white King will stop the black pawns on c3.

28...♔d7 29.♔e2 ♔e6 30.♔d3 ♔f5 31.♕f8 g6 32.♕e7 ♕g2 33.♔d4 b3 34.♔c5 a4 35.♔b4 ♕f1 36.c5

It was certainly better to take the a4 pawn.

36...♕b5

Nice move. If the Bishop is captured, the a pawn will advance to queen.

37.h4

The decisive mistake. We think that by playing 37.h3, preventing the Black King to advance, they would still have good chances to draw the game.

37...♕c6

Miss Gilbert plays this game with great skill. The text move is much better than 37...c6 that would have allowed White to draw with 38.e4+.

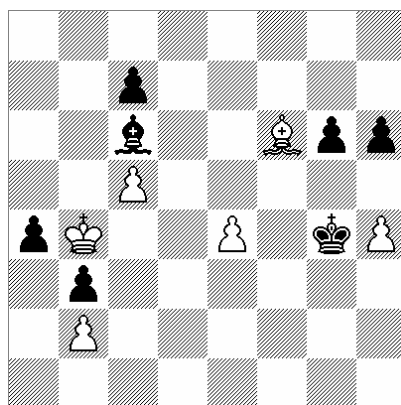
38.♕d8 ♔g4

This is also very clever. Black has immobilised the white King on the queen side and with his king side pawns he will capture the opposite Bishop and obtain a passed pawn.

39.♕xf6

If White takes the pawn on c7, Black will also get a passed pawn by playing g5.

39...♔xg3 40.♔c3 h6 41.♔b4 ♔g4 42.e4



Mrs. Gilbert announces a mate in 35 moves !! In the Chess Monthly issue of November 1879, one can read:

“ Dame Europe is by the time accustomed to see all her great works dwindle to dwarfs in comparison with the gigantic undertakings of her younger sister on the other side of the Atlantic. Our players are proud when they succeed in announcing a correct mate in half-a dozen moves, whereas Mrs. Gilbert, the well known lady champion, increases the number to three dozen. The diagrams illustrates the position after the 42nd move of White in a game played between Mr. Gossip (White) and Mrs. Gilbert (Black) in the pending correspondence match, England v. America. Mrs. Gilbert, in order to save her unfortunate opponent all further trouble, presented him courteously with the following short mate in 35 moves”

42...g5 43.hxg5 hxg5 44.♙d8 ♖f4 45.e5 g4 46.♙xc7 g3 47.e6+ ♖f3 48.♙e5 g2 49.♙d4 ♖e2 50.e7 ♖f1 51.♖c3 g1♙ 52.♙xg1 ♖xg1 53.♖d3 ♖f2 54.♖d2 ♖f3 55.♖d3 ♖f4 56.♖c4 ♖e5 57.♖b4 ♖e6 58.♖c4 ♖xe7 59.♖b4 ♖e6 60.♖c4 ♖e5 61.♖c3 ♖e4 62.♖c4 ♖e3 63.♖c3 ♖e2 64.♖b4 ♖d2 65.♖a3 ♖c2 66.♖b4 ♖xb2 67.♖a5 a3 68.♖b6 a2 69.♖xc6 a1♙ 70.♖d7 ♖a3

The best move for the shortest mate

71.c6 b2 72.c7 b1♙ 73.c8♙ ♙d4+ 74.♖e7

All the moves are correct and the best one for the shortest mate.

74...♙h7+ 75.♖e6 ♙g6+ 76.♖e7 ♙dd6# 0-1

Mrs. J.W. Gilbert – Mr. G.H.D. Gossip [C80]

1877

Notes from Wilhelm Steinitz in the "The Field"

1.e4 e5 2.♘f3 ♘c6 3.♙b5 a6 4.♙a4 ♘f6 5.0-0 ♘xe4 6.♙e1 ♘c5 7.♙xc6 dxc6 8.♘xe5 ♙e7 9.d4 ♘e6 10.♙e3 0-0 11.♘c3 f6

This move weakens the King file. The f7 pawn should not move in order to support the queen bishop or the knight on e6 and White would not be able to get a better profit than Black from the e file.

It seems to us that the best plan in this position would be ...g6, ♘g7, ♙e6 or f5 followed by ♘f5 or e6.

12.♘d3 f5 13.♘e2 ♙d6 14.f4 b5

A bad move. The doubled pawn on c6 is blocked and becomes a permanent weakness that will force Black to a defensive position. If the b pawn had to be played, it should have been moved only a single step.

15.♖c1

Miss Gilbert has immediately spotted the weak point in her opponent's position et moves her forces towards this side of the board.

15...♙b7 16.c4 bxc4 17.♗c5

Better would have been the immediate capture of the pawn, obtaining a strong attack after ♖b3.

17...♙c8

Black misses a good opportunity to release the pressure. They should have captured the knight with the bishop, eg: 17...♙xc5 18.dxc5 ♖d3 19.♗c3 ♖fe8 20.♖a4 ♗xf4 21.♖cd1 ♖xe3 22.♖xd3 ♖xc1+ 23.♗f2 ♗xd3+ wins, with two rooks and a bishop for the queen.

18.♖xc4 ♖b8 19.b3 ♖f6 20.♖d3

20.♗xc6 was useless, Black capturing with the queen and threatening the bishop.

20...♖g6 21.♖a4

Black sets a trap in which "Dame Champion" does not fall. . Had White played ♗xc6, aiming for the capture of the c6 pawn with the rook, Black would have captured with the bishop threatening ...♙d5.

21...♗xc5 22.dxc5 ♙e7 23.♗d4

An excellent move that cause a lot of problem to Black. Their bishop can only move to b7 where he is useless.

23...♗h8 24.♖c2 ♙h4 25.♙f2

An excellent way to maintain the initiative. Black has nothing better than to swap the bishops leaving White with a knight in an excellent position compared to their own bishop that has no perspective.

White could also play the g2 pawn, because Black can take no advantage of the piece sacrifice: 25.g3 ♙xg3 26.hxg3 ♖xg3+ 27.♗f1 h5 28.♗e2 ♖e8 29.♗d2 and win.

25...♙xf2+ 26.♖xf2 ♖e8 27.♗f3 ♙b7 28.♗e5 ♖e6 29.♖c4 ♖bd8 30.♖c3 ♖f6 31.♖ce3 ♖f8

Black has no resources.

32.♖e2 ♖d4 33.♖h5 g6 34.♖h6 ♖dd8

This loses quickly, but Black has a very limited choice of moves:

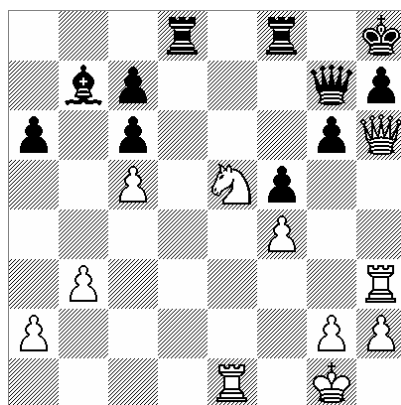
34...♖fd8 White answers with 35.♗xg6+ followed by ♖e8+;

If 34...♗g8 35.♗xg6 ♖xg6 (35...hxg6 36.♖e6) 36.♖g3 wins in both cases;

If 34...♖g8 the answer would be 35.♗f7+ followed by ♖e7.

All this proves the skill with which Miss Gilbert leads the fight!

35.♖h3 ♖g7



In the Chess Monthly of December 1879, one can read :

“ Mrs. Gilbert has achieved another surprising feat in announcing at her 36th move a mate in 21 to Mr. Gossip. Our readers are aware that in the International Post Card Tourney Mr. Gossip had the honour to be Mrs. Gilbert’s opponent. The lady champion won three games and the fourth resulted in a draw(*). The mate in 35 moves we gave last month, was the astonishing ending of one of the four games. Last year on our journey to Paris we had a young American as travelling companion, and after different subject of conversation had been exhausted, the new boat Castalia came on the *tapis*. Not speaking from our own experience we expressed an opinion that crossing the Channel in her will be quite a pleasure. “I guess she is a wonderful vessel” – replied our Yankee – “ I saw her *practising* on the Calais pier, and shave off half of it in less than no time.” We guess Mrs. Gilbert has been *practising* on Mr. Gossip and shave off a good part of the pier on which his Chess reputation was based. It is a severe blow to Mr. Gossip’s *claim* to pre-eminence and we hope he will in the future take the wise adage to heart that: Discretion is the better part of a Chess player.”

(*) In fact the final result was 4-0 and was rectified some months later (E. Ruch)

36. ♖xg6+ ♔g8 37. ♜xg7+ ♔xg7 38. ♖xf8 ♜xf8 39. ♞e7+ ♞f7

Had Black played ... ♔f6, we doubt that the mate could have been given in the indicated number of moves

40. ♞xh7+ ♔xh7 41. ♞xf7+ ♔g6 42. ♞xc7 ♙a8 43. ♞a7 ♙b7 44. ♞xb7 ♔f6 45. h4 ♔g6 46. ♞c7 ♔f6 47. ♞xc6+ ♔e7 48. h5 ♔d7 49. ♞g6 ♔e7 50. c6 a5 51. c7 ♔d7 52. h6 ♔xc7 53. h7 a4 54. h8 ♞ axb3 55. ♞h7+ ♔c8 56. ♞g8# 1-0

**M. G.H.D. Gossip – Mrs. J.W. Gilbert [C42]
1877**

Notes from "La Stratégie" 1879
Game published in the "Cleveland Voice".

1.e4 e5 2. ♖f3 ♖f6 3. ♖xe5 d6 4. ♖f3 ♖xe4 5. d4 d5 6. ♙d3 ♖c6 7. 0-0 ♙e7 8. c4 ♙e6 9. ♞b3
All this is played according to the generally recognized theory of this opening.

9...0-0

The best. Black threatens ...dxc4 followed by ...♖a5.

10. ♙xe4

Had he played ♖xb7 Black would answer ... ♗a5 with the better development. M. Gossip had the hope to get an advantage by opening the queen file.

10...dxe4 11.d5 exf3 12.dxc6 b6 13.♖d1 ♗c8 14.♗c3

A mistake. The only move was ♗f4.

14...♗d6

From this point on "Dame Champion" initiates with great skill, a victorious counter-attack

15.gxf3 ♗e8 16.♗a4 f6 17.♗b3 ♗g6+ 18.♗h1 ♗h5 19.♗g1 ♗xh2+ 20.♗f1 ♗xf3 21.♗d5 ♗h1+ 22.♗e2

White could have given up here.

22...♗g4+ 23.♗d2 ♗g2 24.♗c3 ♗e5+ 25.♗c2 ♗xd1+ 26.♗xd1 ♗xf2 27.♗d2 ♗ad8 28.♗c2 ♗f5+ 29.♗d3 ♗xd3+ 30.♗xd3 ♗xb2 31.♗g1 ♗e5 32.♗h6 ♗f7 33.♗e3 ♗d6 34.♗b1 ♗xc6 0-1

Mrs. J.W. Gilbert – M. G.H.D. Gossip [C42]

1877

1.e4 e5 2.Cf3 Cf6 3.Cxe5 d6 4.Cf3 Cxe4 5.d4 d5 6.Fd3 Cc6 7.0-0 Fe7 8.c4 Cf6 9.h3 Fe6 10.c5 a5 11.a3 0-0 12.Cc3 Dd7 13.b4 Ce8 14.Ce2 Ff6 15.Fe3 g6 16.Ta2 Ce7 17.Cf4 Ff5 18.Fxf5 Cxf5 19.g4 Ce7 20.Cd3 c6 21.Te2 Cc7 22.Cfe5 Dc8 23.f4 Cb5 24.Dc1 Fg7 25.Tg2 f6 26.Cf3 Rh8 27.h4 a4 28.f5 gxf5 29.h5 Tg8 30.h6 Ff8 31.g5 Cg6 32.gxf6 De6 33.Cg5 1-0

ICCF TITLES AWARDED AT MUMBAI

By Eric RUCH

At the recent convention at Mumbai, India, titles were awarded to those who had earned them over the last year. The following list presents those who have earned the titles of LGM, Lady Grand Master; GM, Grand Master; SIM, Senior International Master; LIM, Lady International Master; IM, International Master; and IA, International Arbiter.

Congratulations to all!

ICCFnr	Name	Country	Title
130507	Bazantova, Marie	CZE	LGM
210282	Jones, Mary E.	ENG	LGM
84950	Siewert, Myrna	GER	LGM

140768	Aleshnya, Valery Valentinovich	RUS	GM
100229	Berclaz, Philippe	SUI	GM
081259	Branding, Gerd	GER	GM
83979	Brenke, Andreas	GER	GM
130853	Chytilek, Roman	CZE	GM
211303	Coleman, Peter	ENG	GM
279003	Dothan, Yoav	ISR	GM
340077	Frey, Kenneth	MEX	GM
910161	Gaujens, Artis	LAT	GM
100095	Issler, Christian	SUI	GM
141211	Mikeshin, Sergey Alekseevich	RUS	GM
451006	Persson, Conny	SWE	GM
511492	Smith, Robin	USA	GM
100232	Thaler, Anton	SUI	GM
510591	Timm, John C.	USA	GM
130787	Tocháček, Michal	CZE	GM
240026	Toth, Bela	SUI	GM
130446	Vaindl, Jaroslav	CZE	GM
370921	van der Hoeven, David A.	NED	GM
950194	Veselý, Pavol	SVK	GM
80696	von Weizsäcker, Robert K. Frhr.	GER	GM
570045	Weber, Jean-Marie	LUX	GM
88667	Winckelmann, Thomas	GER	GM
450306	Åkesson, Ralf	SWE	SIM
390148	Almeida, Manuel Camejo de	POR	SIM
211327	Anderson, John	ENG	SIM
149214	Antonenko, Vladimir G.	RUS	SIM
180936	Banet, Jean	FRA	SIM
88463	Blank, Wolfgang	GER	SIM
180599	Bouverot, Olivier	FRA	SIM
210354	Bowyer, Ken J.	ENG	SIM
80714	Buse, Detlef	GER	SIM
20294	Chacon, Paulo Edison Terres	ARG	SIM
86140	Czukur, Josef	GER	SIM
100293	Freydl, René	SUI	SIM
480064	Gerzina, Mitja	SLO	SIM
260150	Gibney, Dr. Eugene J.	IRL	SIM
070712	Grosso, Raúl O.	BRA	SIM
20584	Hegoburu, Pedro Federico	ARG	SIM
230358	Jakobetz, Laszlo	HUN	SIM
86189	Karkuth, Siegfried	GER	SIM
550072	Kemp, Pieter	RSA	SIM
210569	Kitson, Keith	ENG	SIM
81027	Kribben, Matthias	GER	SIM
420832	Krzyzanowski, Wojciech	POL	SIM
490090	Kucukali, Arif	TUR	SIM
480072	Loc, Andrej	SLO	SIM
449013	Moise, Octavian	ROM	SIM
130432	Moučka, Jiří	CZE	SIM

80774	Müller, Gerhard	GER	SIM
511491	Murray, Timothy J.	USA	SIM
140720	Muzyka, Nikolai A.	RUS	SIM
240544	Olivotto, Livio	ITA	SIM
83919	Pechwitz, Günter	GER	SIM
150462	Pedersen, Henrik B.	DEN	SIM
220049	Pilalis, Christos	GRE	SIM
82151	Poulheim, Dr. Karl-Friedrich	GER	SIM
70368	Rain, Ricardo Ernesto	BRA	SIM
480073	Roblek, Edo	SLO	SIM
20839	Rocca, Horacio Daniel	ARG	SIM
83364	Rosin, Ralf	GER	SIM
690023	Salcedo Mederos, Ing. Pablo	CUB	SIM
130796	Sedláček, Oldřich	CZE	SIM
400146	Sosa Patino, Carlos	PER	SIM
370719	Tazelaar, Louk	NED	SIM
148667	Vayser, Abramovich	RUS	SIM
210953	Vivante-Sowter, John	ENG	SIM
84813	Wunderlich, Hans-Dieter	GER	SIM
81224	Zajontz, Rainer	GER	SIM
140558	Rufitskaya, Elena Vsevolodovna	RUS	LIM
130010	Alexa, Jaroslav	CZE	IM
85148	Baumgardt, Uwe	GER	IM
240985	Bellegotti, Mario	ITA	IM
88463	Blank, Wolfgang	GER	IM
83592	Blauhut, Holger	GER	IM
440418	Breahna, Radu	ROM	IM
40149	Broucke, Fernand	BEL	IM
82651	Bunk, Wolfgang	GER	IM
390358	Calhau, Eduardo	POR	IM
130429	Canibal, Jaromir	CZE	IM
950225	Čepela, Vladimir	SVK	IM
81610	Dieckmann, Egon	GER	IM
81431	Fischer, Detlev	GER	IM
84312	Hartung, Dr. Thomas	GER	IM
10261	Hofer, Rudolf	AUT	IM
370325	Jansen, Joop H. E. P.	NED	IM
81379	Karkuth, Siegfried	GER	IM
30428	Kerr, Stephen	AUS	IM
84838	Keuter, Klaus	GER	IM
210569	Kitson, Keith	ENG	IM
80433	Koch, Hans-Georg	GER	IM
460482	Kolehmainen, Kari	FIN	IM
460889	Koskela, Taisto	FIN	IM
30135	Lambert, Grant R.	AUS	IM
85214	Ludwig, Christoph	GER	IM
150640	Lykke, Hans Chr.	DEN	IM
131049	Makovský, Petr	CZE	IM
20372	Martello, Juan Alberto	ARG	IM

70430	Mesquita Jr., Fausto Monteiro	BRA	IM
449013	Moise, Octavian	ROM	IM
440421	Nacu, Miron	ROM	IM
70303	Oliveira, João Carlos de	BRA	IM
210300	Pegg, Russell M.	ENG	IM
150234	Peschardt, Søren	DEN	IM
82151	Poulheim, Dr. Karl-Friedrich	GER	IM
83939	Richter, Mirco	GER	IM
511649	Rizzo, Robert	USA	IM
80795	Schartner, Andreas	GER	IM
85084	Serafim, Jannis	GER	IM
211154	Shaw, Sidney	ENG	IM
82340	Standke, Wolfgang	GER	IM
82548	Stiefel, Roland	GER	IM
189069	Tinture, Laurent	FRA	IM
240881	Tucci, Aniello	ITA	IM
490124	Turgut, Tansel	TUR	IM
82485	Zimmermann, Bert	GER	IM
70760	Zuchowski Filho, Edmundo	BRA	IM
510509	Campbell, Franklin J.	USA	IA
140429	Lyukmanov, Vyacheslav Borisovich	RUS	IA
70447	Noronha, Luiz Ângelo Marques	BRA	IA

Game annotations by Simon Hradecky.

The following game is interesting, not only because of the combinations played to win the game, but especially from the conclusions drawn about the opening, which contradict Nunn's Chess Openings.
Annotations are by Simon Hradecky.

**(1) Karasalo,J (2436) - Hradecky,S (2200) [B90]
WC27SF10 ICCF Email, 2003**

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.Be3 e5 7.Nb3 Be6 8.f3 Be7 9.Qd2 Nbd7

Note my different evaluation to existing opening theory at this position! Opening theory rates the opening strongly in favor of White, probably because of the looming 19...Nxb2

**10.g4 h6 11.0-0-0 b5 12.Kb1 Nb6 13.Qf2 Rb8 14.h4 b4 15.Ne2 Nc4 16.Bc1 a5 17.Ng3 a4
18.g5**

proves no better or worse than main line in opening theory [18.Nf5 Bxf5 19.exf5 Qc7
Opening Theory move (19...Nxb2 fails badly and loses the game)]

18...Nd7

[18...axb3 19.cxb3 hxg5 (19...Nxb2 20.Bxb2) 20.Bxc4]

19.Nh5 Bf8 20.gxh6 gxh6 21.Nd2 Qb6

[21...Nxd2+ 22.Qxd2]

22.Qxb6 Ncxb6

If the black pawn at d6 can safely advance, it will create at least two combined passed black pawns in the center, which will decide the game in favor of Black. Hence White must prevent d5 under all circumstances

23.Rg1

suggested move by Fritz 8 [23.Bh3 Loses to 23...Rg8 24.Nf1 d5 25.exd5 Nxd5 26.Rxd5 Bxd5 27.Bxd7+ Kxd7 28.Nf6+ Ke6 29.Nxg8 Bxf3 30.Rg1 Be4 31.Ng3 Bh7 32.Nxh6 b3 33.axb3 axb3 34.Nhf5 Bxf5 35.Nxf5 Kxf5 36.Rg8 Bd6]

23...Kd8

[23...Nc5 24.f4; 23...d5 24.Bb5 Kd8 25.f4]

24.Bb5

[24.f4 f6 25.Be2 d5]

24...Kc7

[24...d5 25.f4 f6 26.fxe5 fxe5 27.Ng7 Bf7 28.Rdf1]

25.f4 Nc5 26.f5

[26.Rdf1 d5 27.fxe5 dxe4]

26...Bc8 27.Rde1

[27.f6 d5]

27...Be7 28.f6 Bd8 29.Be2 Kc6 30.Rg3

[30.b3 Be6 31.Rg7 Rb7]

30...Be6

[30...d5 31.exd5+ Nxd5 32.Nf3 Bc7 33.Bc4]

31.Rd1

[31.Rf1 Nbd7 32.b3 d5 33.exd5+ Bxd5]

31...Nbd7 32.Rf1 a3

now clears the field for the decisive attack [32...d5 33.exd5+ Bxd5 34.Bc4]

33.b3 Bb6 34.c3 Ba5 35.cxb4 Bxb4 36.Re3 Rhg8 37.Ng7 Bxd2

In the debriefing White mentioned, that he wanted to resign at this point, but then discovered some holes in his analysis and decided to give Black some chances to go wrong

38.Bxd2 Nxf6

the combination, offering two pieces for a rook, prepares the attack d5

39.Nxe6

[39.Rxf6 doesn't save anything 39...Rxc7]

39...Ncxe4 40.Bf3 d5

finally!!

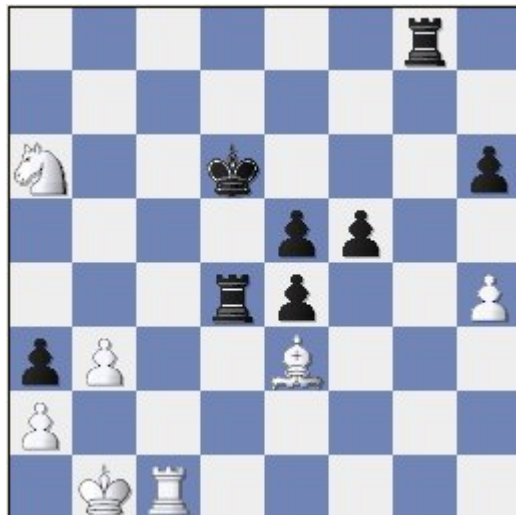
41.Bxe4 Nxe4 42.Rxe4 dxe4

the three passed pawns in the middle now decide the game

43.Rc1+ Kd6 44.Nc5 f5 45.Be3

[45.Bxh6 Rg2 46.Bg5 Rb2+ 47.Ka1 Rh2]

45...Rb4 46.Na6 Rd4



The combination continues - now offering the exchange in order to allow the king avoid separation from his passed pawns

47.Nb4 Ke6

The final straw! Now the king can not be separated from his pawns anymore [47...f4 48.Rc6+ Kd7 with the king separated from the pawns White can force Remis]

48.Bxd4 exd4 49.Rc6+ Ke5 50.Rc5+ Kf4 51.Rc4 Rg1+

It is important to move the rook onto the second line (eyeing the pawn at a2) with tempo.

52.Kc2 Rg2+ 53.Kc1

[53.Kd1 fails to 53...Kf3 54.Rxd4 e3 and White can't hold the e-pawn anymore]

53...Ke3

Black needs the white knight off b3 to capture the crucial pawn at a2) and can do so safely as Nd5+ is the only reasonable move of White anyway in this position

54.Nd5+ Kf3 55.Rxd4 Rxa2 56.Kb1

a last tactical attempt to throw Black out of prepared analysis and provoke a mistake, however the move can not save the game anymore} ({perhaps slightly better is [56.Nc3 Rb2 57.b4 e3 58.b5 e2 59.Rd3+ Kf2 60.Nxe2 Kxe2 61.Rxa3 Rxb5 and White collapses quickly not being able to defend the h-pawn or grab any of the black pawns]

56...Rb2+ 57.Ka1 e3

Black just pushes through knowing, that queening the e-pawn definitely decides the game by forcing White to give up his rook. Thereafter Black will be able to queen the h-pawn unless White sacrifices his knight for the pawn), whereas the white b-pawn will not reach the conversion field anymore. Black's pawn a3 has reached the end of its useful life.

58.Rf4+ Kg3 59.Rxf5 e2 60.Re5 Rd2 61.h5 Rd1+ 62.Ka2 e1Q 63.Rxe1 Rxe1 64.Nf6

A bit more resistance was promised by [64.b4 but even though, White can no longer avoid being mated. 64...Re5 65.Nf6 Rf5 66.Ne4+ Kf4 67.Nc5 Rxh5 68.Ne6+ Ke5 69.Nc7 Rh2+ 70.Kxa3 h5 71.Na8 h4 72.Nb6 Rc2 73.Ka4 Kd4 74.Kb3 Rc3+ 75.Kb2 h3 76.Nd5 Rf3 77.Ne7 h2 78.Nc6+ Kd5 79.Ne7+ Ke4 80.Nc8 h1Q 81.Nd6+ Kd5 82.Ne4 Kxe4 83.Kc2 Qg2+ 84.Kd1 Rf1#]

64...Re5 65.Kxa3

[65.b4 Rf5]

65...Rf5 66.Ng8

[66.Ne4+ Kf4 67.Nc5 Rxh5 68.Ne6+ Ke5 69.Nc7 Kd6 70.Ne8+ Ke7 71.Ka4 Kxe8 72.b4 Rh4 73.Ka5 Rxb4 74.Kxb4 h5 75.Kc4 h4 76.Kd3 h3 77.Ke3 h2 78.Kf2 h1Q]

66...Rxh5 67.Nxh6 Rxh6

As White needs to move both Pawn and King (otherwise the rook would simply grab the pawn), Black's King can reach the pawn, so that the Rook can safely grab the Pawn. Then a standard endgame King vs. King and Rook results in a quick mate

0-1

ABOUT BOOKS

by Alex Dunne

THE VERESOV

by Nigel Davis

I was looking for a different opening to reinvigorate my White repertoire when I hit upon the 160 page volume by Nigel Davis on the Veresov (1. d4 Nf6 2. Nc3 d5 3. Bg5) and thought I would try it out and read the book at the same time. It was a pleasant marriage as I had good results and the ideas in the book guided me along the way. Playing blitz chess on ICC I managed to face seven of the eight main variations. In every game (or nearly so) I felt better prepared than my opponent, even if for the most part this was just a move or two deeper into the opening. Davis made me feel comfortable in this opening. I think I will keep this in my opening preparation, at least for a while.

Everyman Chess, Everyman Publishers plc, distributed in North America by the Globe Pequot Press, PO Box 480, 246 Goose Lane, Guilford, CT 06437-0480, has published The Veresov by Nigel Davis, ISBN 1 85744 335 7 at \$19.95 for the soft cover.

So the opening was friendly to me – but what of the book. I rather liked this book, but I that may be in spite of the book itself. First, the acknowledged champion of the Veresov, Lev Alburt, had only two of his games quoted in the book. I should also have been concerned that many of the examples were woefully dated – the first ten main entries were games from 1974, 1993, 1989, 1976, 1987, 1980, 1971, 1977, 1972, and 1947. Though other variations had more up-to-date examples, this seemed to be the general pattern: older examples without too much concern for the most recent theory. That set all right with me, as I wasn't much familiar with any of the theory before, though I had faced the Veresov six or seven times before. Still, I thought Davies did an adequate (B-) job of presenting the material; it was fun trying an opening that opened up new (for me) ideas and modes of play, and I was never snowed under by reams of analysis. I think if you are rated under 1900, this could add a valuable fillip to your chess strength.

Starting Chess

by A. J. Gillam

If you want a no-frills book that will teach a student how to play chess – the rules, the basic checkmates, tactics, and good, practical advice with a minimum of words and a maximum of chess, this book is for that student. There are 175 pages of instruction, most of it visual in this book. There are quizzes, with answers, that demonstrate the lesson just presented. The diagrams vary from the usual one per page to ten per page. Pins, discovered check, double checks, castling, en passant -- it's all here, explained simply and completely.

B. T. Batsford Ltd., 64 Brewery Road, London, England, has published Starting Chess by A. J. Gillam. Lawton, ISBN 0 7134 8821 2 at \$16.95 for the soft cover.

This must have been one of the last chess books that Batsford published in their chess selections. Its simplicity and conciseness has much to recommend it.

Chess Psychology by Angus Dunnington

The psychology of chess is a relatively unexplored territory. There are so many different kinds of minds deeply exploring our game and yet we know so little about what goes on between those synapses. I am reminded of the cartoon, “What goes on inside of the mind of the Grandmaster” where the great Master thinks, “I go there, he goes there, and bing, bang bop, it’s checkmate.”

Dunnington has the most difficult task – exploring verbally a non-verbal game through the darkness of psychological language.

Everyman Chess, Everyman Publishers plc, distributed in North America by the Globe Pequot Press, PO Box 480, 246 Goose Lane, Guilford, CT 06437-0480, has published Chess Psychology by Angus Dunnington, ISBN 1 85744 326 8 at \$19.95 for the soft cover.

Despite the difficulties, this is an interesting book. Dunnington doesn’t supply us with answers as to how to cure psychological chess problems. Instead what Dunnington does is identify these psychological factors. Some of the most common include noise, time trouble, gamesmanship, lack of sleep, blitzing moves, style, familiarity with kinds of positions, “natural” moves, superficiality, impatience, originality, space, and other topics any serious chess player has wrestled with. His examples are clear for the most part, leading the reader to see the chess that fits in with the mental state. This is a good book that may be of value to you as long as you don’t need to be helped across the street.

MY GREAT PREDECESSORS, PART III by Garry Kasparov

I was tempted to review this book in four words – Outstanding! Buy this book! – but that would not do justice to Volume III in this outstanding series. I have read many chess books of chess history, but Kasparov’s series ranks at the top of the list for many reasons. Volume III covers Petrosian and Spassky, and their main competitors, Gligoric, Polugaevsky, Portisch, and Stein. Their titanic struggles are well documented here, warts and beauty marks alike. These are great conflicts, and it is interesting to see how computers have affected the way we view these games. Kasparov’s painstaking analysis shows us just how difficult chess can be even for the very top of the ladder.

Some stereotypes of both Petrosian and Spassky are neatly exploded by Kasparov. We learn that Petrosian was an outstanding tactician and attacker and that the universal style of Spassky was slanted toward the romantic, attacking school of the distant chess past. Kasparov presents the games (and what games they are!) to sustain his argument.

It struck me how much chess has changed since the games of Volumes I and II in the series (up to Tal) – of the first five games of Petrosian’s given in the book, four are

draws! But these are not bloodless draws either; they are full fledged gladiator fights with every weapon at their disposal.

Of course Petrosian's famous exchange sacrifices are well-covered here. And Spassky's gambits -- in a period of over thirty years, he did not lose a single King's Gambit, and he played it often and well against the world's best.

Everyman Chess, Everyman Publishers plc, distributed in North America by the Globe Pequot Press, PO Box 480, 246 Goose Lane, Guilford, CT 06437-0480, has published Garry Kasparov on My Great Predecessors, Part III by Garry Kasparov, ISBN 1 85744 371 3 at \$30.00 for the hard cover.

So are there any drawbacks to Volume III compared to Volumes I and II? As the subject matter is not the same: Petrosian and Spassky are different from Steinitz, Alekhine, Tal, Capablanca, Lasker -- you know the list -- it is not fair to compare them. Volume III is a little slimmer, but the analysis is just as detailed and interesting. The commentary and insight is strong. There will always be the nit-pickers. Those who can only see the flaws will miss the 99% of this book that is outstanding. This is an great series about Great Masters. Outstanding! Buy this book!

HOW TO PLAY DYNAMIC CHESS by Valeri Beim

I don't believe a book reviewer should read other book reviewers' book reviews before he reviews the book he is going to review. (I also believe writers shouldn't repeat themselves). But, by accident I read a review of Valeri Beim's How To Play Dynamic Chess that appeared in Chess Today (and if you aren't already subscribing, tell your wife or girlfriend to get you a subscription as a gift). The review was full of praise for Beim's work, and now I faced the problem of reviewing the book, too. Should I react and look for flaws? Should I parrot the earlier review? I decided to just jump in and see what Beim had to say.

Gambit Publications Ltd., distributed in the US by BHB International, Inc., 302 West North 2nd Street, Seneca, SC 29678, has published How To Play Dynamic Chess by Valeri Beim, ISBN 1 904600 15 8 at \$27.50 for the soft cover edition.

All right, at the risk of sounding like my brother wrote this book, I will say that this is a diamond. If you are looking to seriously improve and you are rated above 2000, this book may well be worth a bundle of Elos. If you are rated below 2000, it may also be of value, but much of the book is designed for the Master level. It is so easy to read and understand, however, that a 1300 player may be fooled into thinking he completely understands what Beim writes. Then again, he might just actually understand. I will give just three quotes (out of many I could have used) from the book:

"It is very hard for the ordinary chess amateur to determine the quality of annotations by prominent players. Quite often they are miles away from accuracy." Heresy! And yet, anyone who reads My Great Predecessors, Volume III, will understand immediately what Beim says.

"...a more promising position ...doesn't guarantee that he will emerge with advantage from the tactical crossfire. The most important factor here is skill in calculating variations....It follows that you shouldn't grudge the time spent on training your powers of calculation if you want to improve as a player." At last, a reasonable explanation of Teichmann's "Chess is 99% tactics" !

“I will take the risk of stating that coordination constitutes *the* overriding principle in chess, to which all other principles are subordinate.” Beim has the games, a mixture of classic games and recent examples that demonstrate his ideas. This is a rich and valuable contribution to chess strategy. Buy this book!