

ICCA Newsletter



Issue 18 - Spring/Summer 2000

Irish Correspondence Chess Association
4 Wainsfort Avenue, Terenure, Dublin 6W

Games, other CC information and suggestions for future issues are welcome and should be sent to the above address.

<http://www.esatclear.ie/~bhenrick>

EDITOR'S CONFESSION

Straight away, I'd like to thank all those who wrote such nice compliments about the last issue. Some of you actually liked my idiosyncratic style. Ex-President, Oisín O'Siochrú implored me not to drop any of the news, and so this issue has 4 pages of news as well as plenty of games.

I'd like to thank Tim Harding for news and ratings; Alasdair Alexander for his final report on the Irish Email Championship; David Salter for his letter on Claude Bloodgood; Steve Burns for his autobiography; Basil Henrick for his website; and all those who contributed games and annotations.

This issue would have been out a month early only for a combination of ill-health, travel and redecorating! I hope it was worth the wait.

Since the Christmas issue, your editor is working again after a post-contract lacuna. Sadly, now I have to drive to work. Gone are those pleasant train journeys, shunting my pieces from square to square, planning my next move, investigating its consequences and checking the tactics. On top of this, the added problem of a new child in the house leaves me with very little time to concentrate on my games.

Actually, the last sentence is a lie. The truth is I watch too much TV. Sucked into the opium of the mind, I crave to know what's on the other channel! So, for lent, I'll be cutting out my indiscriminate channel hopping. "Back to the board" is my new battle cry!

BURNS IS HOT IN 1ST IRISH EMAIL CC

Alasdair Alexander writes "Steve Burns has won the first (unofficial) Irish Email Chess Championship, outdistancing many better-know names with a fine score of 6/8. Congratulations also to Basil Henrick for registering the best performance by an under 1500 player.

"Michael Sheehan, Ciaran O'Hare and Flemming Storgaard negotiated the event unbeaten and they share 2nd place along with Jonathan O'Connor, who was the only other player (apart from Steve) to record 3 wins.

"Twenty players played in 4 preliminary groups with the top two in each reaching the final. Steve qualified by the skin of his teeth in a group won with 4/4 by David Salter, but after David declined his invitation to the final, Steve and Trevor Hunter qualified in joint second place. Steve wins a year's subscription to Chess Mail, courtesy of the event's sponsors.

Many thanks for making this event a sporting one and good luck to all of you in the future."

1 st Irish Email Ch.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Pts
1 D. Blair		=	=	=	0	=	1	=	0	3½
2 T. Hunter	=		=	0	=	=	1	=	=	4
3 M. Sheehan	=	=		1	=	=	1	=	=	5
4 B. Henrick	=	1	0		0	0	1	0	0	2½
5 J. O'Connor	1	=	=	1	=	=	1	=	0	5
6 C. O'Hare	=	=	=	1	=		1	=	=	5
7 C. Underwood	0	0	0		0	0		0	0	0
8 F. Storgaard	=	=	=	1	=	=	1		=	5
9 S. Burns	1	=	=	1	1	=	1	=		6

Your editor has thrown away his crystal ball. He predicted Michael Sheehan would win the tournament. Instead he finished in equal second place. At the bottom end, Basil Henrick fought his way to 2½ points, and selected a copy of Tim Harding's "Better Chess for Average Players" – you have been warned! The irrepressible Chris Underwood received the wooden spoon. Always playing to win, he lost some games he could have otherwise drawn.

On behalf of all the players, your editor would like to thank Alasdair for all his hard work. Even when the odd dispute arose, Alasdair's rulings meant that the players continued to abide by *Amici Sumus*.

And now a few words from the champ:

"I played my first game of chess at the age of eleven, shortly after starting secondary school, against my dad whom I beat from about the third game onwards. We quickly moved to draughts in which he had the edge. Making it on to the school team was a different proposition and took me about two months. I had a bit of a reputation for being the slowest player, still one of my weaknesses OTB although less so now, by a long long margin. I may have bored my opponent into submission during my challenge game in school to make it on to the bottom rung of the ladder on board 6! Still it was Benildus who were one of the top schools at the time (1981?). I think we reached the Leinster final that year, where we were runners up to arch-rivals Gonzaga. Much of my early chess style and enthusiasm can be credited to Frank Scott our school chess mentor who reminded us regularly of the benefit of rooks on the seventh rank.

"I lost interest in chess after two years, only to have it re-kindled six years later during a five month student visit to Toronto, where I lost some money (but not too much) to street chess hustlers. Armed with my Canadian copy of Chernev's "Logical Chess" I proceeded to devastate board 2s in the O'Hanlon Cup - Leinster's fourth division, playing for UCD during my final year of a Computer Science degree. Once more I gave up on chess, some three months short of my finals, after which I moved to London for five years (an ideal spot for chess but one I failed to take advantage of). I returned to Ireland and chess once again and probably permanently in 1998. I suspect Irish chess improved a good deal in the intervening eight years

Apart from the five Irish players, you may recognise David Anderton as the perennial non-playing captain of the English OTB squad and Thomas Winckelmann who is famous for his Winckelmann-Reimer Gambit 1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 a3 Bxc3+ 5 bxc3 dxe4 6 f3

Funding for the organisation and the prizes remains the problem. However, a problem shared is a problem halved. If each member donates a fiver, we'll have the £787.56 in no time (your editor would have liked to type 1000 euros, but couldn't find the key). Also, ask your OTB chess friends to contribute as well. To start the ball rolling, I've asked Heidenfeld's old club, Dublin CC, for a three figure donation. Ask and ye shall receive! Please send donations to Jack Killane (Irish pounds) or Tom Clarke (sterling).

INTERVIEW WITH MARK HEIDENFELD

In an attempt at journalism, your editor tracked down Mark Heidenfeld on one of his brief visits to Dublin. Here is what he had to say:

JOC: Have you played much CC?

MH: I've played none.

JOC: And you are of course playing in the your father's memorial?

MH: No. CC takes even more time than OTB chess, and I have a very busy schedule.

JOC (abandoning the next 15 questions, clutching for straws):

Do you remember your father playing CC?

MH: No. But (JOC: please God, let him say something interesting for our readers) my mother didn't like him playing CC. It took up too much time.

JOC: Thank you Mark for your time.

Well, there you have it, the world exclusive! **Mrs. H. didn't like CC!**

Postscript: Mark has just won the Irish OTB Championship in Limerick, with a score of 7/9

GIBNEY'S GRIPE

Dr. Eugene Gibney sent an email raising the following issue: *"One small gripe - the subscription fees for ICCA comes up yearly, but since there is no provision to pay by credit card, the cost of subscription increases by about 50% by the time us emigrants pay the fee for an international money order. Two suggestions to remedy this:*

1. *Make it possible to pay by credit card (TDH might help here).*
2. *Offer a three or five year subscription rate as well as a yearly one.*

Eugene got a bit worried when your editor suggested the headline "Gibney won't pay sub!" and stated that:

"I have absolutely no objection to the fee itself, but merely to the fact that as it is set up at present, its payment is not only a nuisance but involves unnecessary additional expenses."

Maybe the donation to the Heidenfeld Memorial can be added to the annual subscription. Eugene then wanted to know if there was another Irish Email Championship being planned. Not only did he want to play in it, he also offered to donate a trophy/plaque to the winner. Eugene's obviously trying to emulate Eamon Keogh, who came equal first in the 1981 Irish OTB Chess Championship, to win the trophy he donated.

BLOODGOOD ASSAULTED!

Apologies to one and all over the headline. It was going to be "Matricidal Maniac beaten to a pulp in friendly games".

David Salter sent me the following email about his games against Claude Bloodgood, who was convicted of killing his mother. In his time, he published a book on the Grob (1.g4), he taught his fellow convicts chess and organised many tournaments, most of which he won, got the games rated by the USCF, and wound up with a rating of well over 2500. As if that wasn't enough he escaped when he was allowed attend a chess tournament! David had the following to say:

"As to our friend Claude - I'm attaching the four games we played (two are in the Bogart-Maltese Falcon gambit which he is writing a book on). The games are no great shakes and I think you'll see that he is in declining health. He has been diagnosed with terminal cancer - and I won all four. I'm playing two more BMF games also at present. He is quite a character and over time he has sent me various bits and pieces including a photo-copy of his picture (scary - queue Silence of the Lambs...Hannibal...get the picture ??), an autographed copy of his book and some of his games against various people like Humphrey Bogart, Richard Widmark and Gary Cooper !!!! He also sent me analysis of various gambits that interest him.

"Some things are obviously taboo (like why did he murder his mother !!!) but its been quite an experience and one my kids cannot fathom!"

FRIENDLY MATCHES

Ireland-Finland: We've been catching up. We were trailing 9-17 in the last newsletter, but we are only seven points behind at 13½ -20½. There's plenty to play for with 20 games left.

Ireland-ASPCC: This one is a tough struggle. We are trailing two points at 10-12, with ten games to finish. The American team included Stefan Gerzadowicz, the well known author and Walter Muir, doyen of American CC, who passed away recently.

Ireland-USA: This match began in December 1999, and there are no results yet. However, My opponent, Chuck Pickett, just sacrificed a piece. Sadly, it seems to be sound, and I'll be doing well if I win the other game.

Ireland-NCCA: Current scores against the English are 5½-10½. However, it's early days yet, with 44 games still to finish.

Ireland-Czech Republic: No results yet in this friendly match over 22 boards.

Ireland-Luxemburg: Regardless of the two unfinished games, we've lost this 9 board match 5½-10½. Hopefully, David Robb and Ciaran O'Hare can win their remaining games to end the match on a positive note.

Ireland-Denmark: This match started recently over 25 boards.

MORE NEWS

David Robb won a EU/M section as mentioned in Chess Mail (issue 1 or 2) Check the ICCF web site for the current table.

Tim Harding has just qualified for a final of the BCCF Open by scoring 6/7 in S93. He only needs a draw in his one remaining game for outright first but as he's a pawn up in the ending he's playing for a win.

Tim also tells me he's doing rather badly in Wch 22 sf5. Don't give up the fight!

BOOKS AND WEB SITES

Your editor succumbed to the pleasure of reading some non-chess works since Christmas. "The Code Book" by Singh was an enjoyable romp through the history of cryptography. Too little maths for my liking, but there were some interesting stories about Bletchley Park, where some avid chess players, Golombek, Alexander and Turing amongst others worked.

But the book of the quarter has to be "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone". Particularly amusing was the description of Wizard Chess. In this game, the pieces offer the player advice as to where they should be placed, and, obviously an old set of pieces, battle hardened, play much better than a new set.

The Site of the Season was going to be awarded to Kasparov's new web site, www.kasparovchess.com. This site covers the whole gamut of chess web sites. As such, we get news from the latest tournaments, including post-mortem analysis from Kasparov himself. Then, there are the interviews with famous and not so famous players. For example, Vladimir Zagorovsky, the 4th world champion had a short tribute written by his granddaughter. There is a playing zone, where you can play blitz games over the net, or follow online matches between GMs. My favourite section has to be 5 short audio-visual lessons from Kramnik. You actually get to hear him talk about the moves while watching them being played out in a ChessBase window. The downside is the bombardment of advertising, and the annoying software bugs, especially in the playing zone.

No this Spring, the Site of the Season award goes to the correspondence chess site, Campbell Report, at correspondencechess.com/campbell/index.html. The most interesting sections are Mark Morss' "Hard Chess" articles and the match diaries, especially the Human-Computer CC matches which are annotated by the human as the game is being played. Check it out, it's worth it.

ICCA WEB SITE

Basil Henrick is doing a splendid job of the ICCA Web site, www.esatclear.ie/~bhenrick. Its not one of those sites that's all flash graphics and no content. Quite the opposite

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The Email olympiad (Olympiad XIV) starts on July 1. Our team in board order is: IM Tim Harding, Neil Johnson, Stephen Gillen, Jonathan O'Connor, Michael Sheehan and David Blair. Any advice, war stories, and pep talks for your editor would be gratefully received.

IM Desmond Taylor will be the Irish representative in World Championship XXIV semi-final (postal) starting 31/3/2000. Best of luck to him. If Desmond wins this heat, does he go through to final or must he play in the 3/4 final, whatever that is!

Free chess magazine to the first person who can explain this succinctly to the editor.

The 5th North Atlantic Team Tournament, NATT-5 will start around Christmas this year. It's a postal competition with 10 players per team. Players interested in that have some time to think about it and a firm appeal for people to declare their availability will follow in the next issue.

ICCF World Cup XII will be announced later for a start in (I think) about August. We will have to put this in the newsletter if details are firmed up in time, as we want a good Irish entry, especially from players not involved in team events.

AGM NOTICE

The AGM of the ICCA will be held on the morning of the 1st July in the Teacher's club, Parnell Square, Dublin. The AGM of the ICU is scheduled for 12.30 that day. Submissions to the AGM, motions and nominations for committee must be sent to David Blair as soon as possible.

David Blair, our hard-working secretary, is stepping down. So any volunteers are most welcome.

SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE

We hope you enjoyed this double issue. If you are a paid-up member, thank you for your financial support. If, however, you have not renewed your subscription, this will be the last free issue you receive. Sadly, we are losing our sponsor, Fort James, and cannot afford to continue supporting free-loaders. In an effort to improve our coffers, the committee of the ICCA is considering a sizeable increase in the annual subscription.

If so, please send your £5 (outside Ireland/GB: £8) to Jack Killane in Irish pounds or to Tom Clarke in sterling.

Fees	
£5.00	Annual Subscription
£4.50	100 CC Cards including postage to Ireland/UK
£5.00	100 CC Cards worldwide
£4.00	100 CC Cards worldwide for orders over 500
£?.??	Donation to Heidenfeld

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Email: Gerry.SMITH@fjeuro.com (responsible for our own events and friendly matches)

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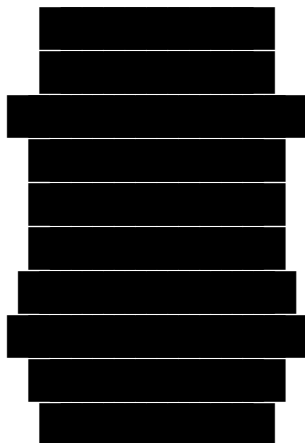
Email: jonathan_oconnor@hotmail.com

All games annotated by your editor unless otherwise stated.

Taylor,W - Wallner,K

CCOL13 prel3-01 corr, 1998

When I first played through this game, I thought "White played a nice attack on the queen side and black's attack on the king-side just wasn't powerful enough". But now I believe that Black was fully aware of the collapse of his queen side, but he wanted to attack on the king-side. Decide for yourself what was happening and when did Black realise his eminent demise? **1.c4 Nf6 2.d4 g6 3.Nf3 Bg7 4.g3 0-0 5.Bg2 d5 6.cxd5 Nxd5 7.0-0 Nb6 8.Nc3 Nc6 9.e3 Re8 10.d5 Na5 11.Nd4 Bd7 12.Nb3 Nxb3 13.Qxb3** Rowson gives 13.axb3 c6 as fine for Black. Thinking that 13.Qxb3 was a novelty, I did a quick database search, and found that Yusupov had played the pawn capture against Kasparov (Belgrade 1989). **13...e6 14.e4 exd5?!** This is the culprit. The early capture increases the power of the Bg2. Other games have played 14...c6 and 14...a5 was played in Cvitan-Azmaiparashvili EU chT 1997. Black's plan in that game was to harass the white queen. **15.exd5 Bf5 16.Be3 Qd7 17.Rfe1 Bh3 18.Bh1 Rad8 19.a4 Qf5?!** Is this provocation or self-delusion? In a couple of moves the queen moves back to d7. **20.Bf4 Rxe1+ 21.Rxe1 Qd7 22.Rd1 Re8 23.a5**



23...Bxc3 24.axb6! Also good is 24.Qxc3 Na4 (24...Nxd5?! doesn't work because the Qc3 protects e1 after 25.Bxd5 Qxd5 26.Rxd5 Re1+ This might win in blitz! 27.Qxe1+-) 25.Qxc7 Qxc7 26.Bxc7 Nxb2 27.Rb1 Na4! 28.f4 Nc3 29.Ra1 should also win for white, but it is a bit confusing.; 24.bxc3?! Qa4! 25.Qxa4 Nxa4 26.Bxc7??? Nxc3+ **24...Bd4 25.bxc7 Re2 26.Bg2** Fritz likes the passed pawns after 26.Qf3 Rxf2 27.Qxf2 Bxf2+ 28.Kxf2+- **26...Rxb2 27.Bxh3** After 27.Bxh3 Black gets a check or two, but he can't stop the c-pawn queening. 27...Qxh3 28.Qc4 Bxf2+ 29.Kh1 Bc5 30.Bd2 Qf5 31.Rf1 Qc8 32.d6+- **1-0**

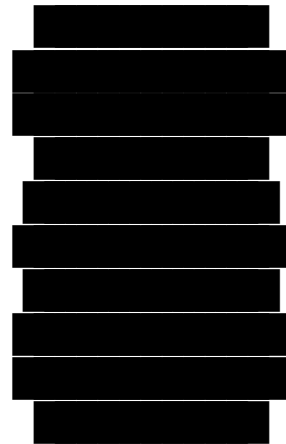
Dravnieks,O - Gibney,E

Canadian Chp K52 corr, 1996

Notes by Eugene Gibney

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 a6 The O'Kelly variation is not commonly seen either in CC or OTB play. Transposition to the Kan is possible. 2...a6 does have some surprise value, and the advantage that Black is guiding the game into systems of his choice already at move two. **3.c3** This move, and 3.c4, are probably the critical challenges to the O'Kelly. **3...d5 4.exd5 Nf6** Here Black chooses an unusual line, which involves giving up a pawn for unclear compensation. **5.c4 e6 6.dxe6 Bxe6 7.Nc3** The alternative 7.d4 cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bc5 9.Be3 Ng4 is unclear **7...Nc6 8.Be2 Qc7** ECO gives 8...Nd4 9.d3 Nxe2 10.Qxe2 Be7 11.0-0

0-0 12.h3 with a white plus as in Olafson-Bazan, Mar del Plata 1960. **9.0-0 0-0-0** BCO 2 evaluates this position as unclear. Black's compensation for the pawn consists of free development, good central control, and a certain difficulty for white in completing his queenside development. **10.b3 Ng4 11.Ne4 Nd4** Already Black has generated some king-side threats (i.e. checkmate!) **12.g3 Nxe2+** Not 12...Nxf3+ 13.Bxf3 Qe5 14.Bxg4 Qxa1 15.Nc3! Qxc3 16.Bxe6+ fxe6 17.dxc3 Rxd1 18.Rxd1 with a clear pawn plus for white. **13.Qxe2 h5 14.d3 h4 15.Nxh4** 15.Bf4 is better when Black plays 15...Qd7 with an unclear position. Not 15.gxh4? Rxh4. **15...Rxh4 16.Bf4**

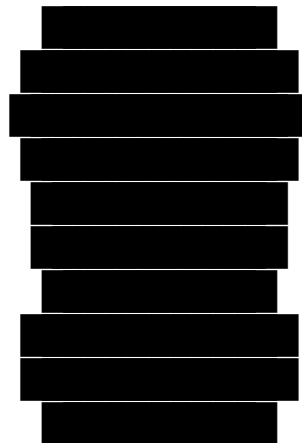


16...Qxf4! It is seldom one gets to sacrifice a Queen in correspondence play. **17.gxf4 Nxh2 18.Rfc1 Bg4** Not 18...Be7 - intending to double rooks on the h-file - when 19.f3 gives white chances to hold his position together. **19.Qe3 Be7 20.Ng3 20.Ng5 Bxg5 21.Qxc5+ Kb8 22.fxg5 Bf3 23.Qe5+ Ka8 24.Qg3 Rg4** and black is winning. **20...Bf6 21.Qxc5+ Kb8 22.d4 Bxd4 23.Qe7 Bf6 24.Qxd8+** White returns the queen to try to stave off the mating attack **24...Bxd8 25.f3 Nxf3+ 26.Kf2 Bf6 27.Rab1 Nd2 28.Ke3** If 28.Rh1 then ...Bd4+ **28...Nxb1 29.Rxb1 Rh3 30.Rg1 Bh4 31.Kf2 Kc7 0-1**

Sheehan,M - Storgaard,F

ICCA/EM/F01 Irish email, 1999

1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.e3 Nbd7 6.Bd3 Bd6 7.0-0 0-0 8.Qc2 dxc4 9.Bxc4 e5 10.h3 exd4 11.exd4 Nb6 12.Bb3 Nbd5 13.Bg5 Be6 14.Nxd5 cxd5 15.Rae1 Rc8 16.Qd3 h6? This weakens the king-side as a later ...g6 can be met with a sacrifice. The immediate 16...Re8 was better. **17.Bh4 Re8 18.Ne5 Be7 19.Bxf6 Bxf6 20.Bc2 Kf8 21.Ba4 Re7 22.Qh7 Rec7**



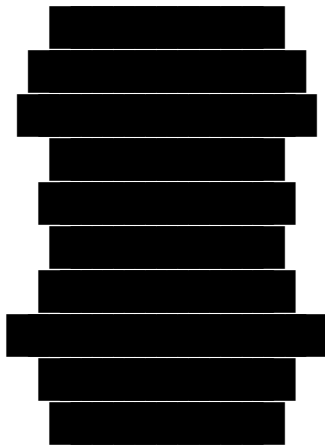
23.Ng6+ 23.f4! is much better. It threatens to clear the e-file with 24.f5 Bxe5 25.Rxe5 Bd7 26.Qh8 mate or 24...Bd7

25.Nxd7+ Rxd7 26.Qh8 mate. Black is forced to play 23...g6 allowing 24.Qxh6+ Bg7 with some compensation for the pawn, but it shouldn't be enough. In the game, White wins a pawn a different way, but leaves black with his better bishop. This gives black enough counterplay to draw. **23...fxg6 24.Rxe6 Re7 25.Rxe7 Bxe7 26.Qxg6 Rc4 27.Bd1 Rxd4 28.Re1 Re4 29.Rxe4 dxe4 30.Bh5 Kg8 31.Qxe4 b6 32.Bg6 a5 33.a4 Bc5 34.g3 Qf6 35.Qe8+ Qf8 36.Qe6+ Kh8 37.Bf7 1/2-1/2**

Sheehan,M - O'Hare,C

ICCA/EM/A02 ICCA (2), 12.04.1999

1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.d4 c6 5.Nf3 Nf6 6.Bc4 Bf5 7.Bd2 e6 8.Qe2 Bb4 9.0-0-0 Nbd7 10.a3 Bxc3 11.Bxc3 Qc7 12.Ne5 Nxe5 13.dxe5 13...Nd5 In Stoklasa, J.-Brady, S. Dublin Classic 1999, Brady, after much thought and playing to win, avoided the normal 13...Nd5. 13...Nd7? 14.Bb4! Now Black was in a bad way, and suffered a horrible loss. **14.Bd2 0-0-0**

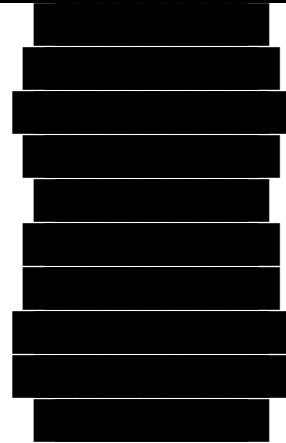


In these positions, the bishops are always misplaced. White could try to win by swapping off the heavy pieces and playing to win the minor piece ending. Therefore, White should play for c2-c4 clearing the d-file for the major piece hoovering. If Black wants to have fun, he should play 14...b5 15.Bb3 a5 But, 15.Bxd5! exd5 16.Bb4! might make White smile. **15.g4?!** This gives Black a target for ...h5 gaining counterplay **15...Bg6 16.f4?!** White should not block his black-squared bishop, especially as it has no enemy counterpart. Again, White should play for c2-c4. If Black tries to prevent this with b7-b5, then c2-c4 b5xc4 Bxc4 will leave black a weak pawn on c6. 16.f3; If 16.Bb3 with idea of Kc1-b1-a2 and c2-c4 then 16...Qb6 lays the nasty trap 17.Kb1?? Qxb3+ **16...h5 17.h3 Qb6 18.Bxd5 cxd5 19.Be3 Qa5 20.f5 exf5 21.gxf5 Bxf5 22.Qf2 g6 23.Bxa7 Rd7 24.Bd4 Re8 25.Bc3 Qa4 26.Rh2 Qc4 1/2-1/2**

Blair,D - O'Hare,C

ICCA/EM/F01 Irish Email, 1999

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 Bg7 4.e4 d6 5.f4 0-0 6.Nf3 Na6!? 7.e5 Nd7 8.Be2 8.Qe2 has been played before trying to hold onto the center after 8...c5 9.d5 Nb6 **8...c5 9.exd6 cxd4 10.Nxd4 Nb6 11.0-0 Qxd6** Now, black has some problems with his queen. **12.Be3 Qc5 13.Ne4 Qc7 14.Qb3 Rd8 15.Nb5 Qc6 16.Nxa7 Qxe4 17.Bf3 Qxc4 18.Nxc8 Raxc8 19.Qxb6**



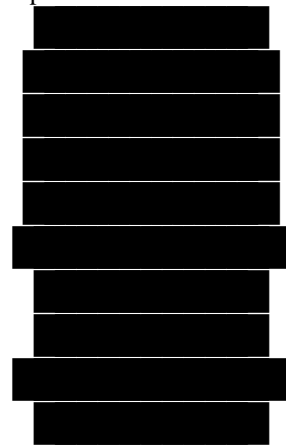
This draw seems a bit premature. I think White is a little better here. In the players defence, I've only looked at this position for 5 minutes! 1/2-1/2

Burns,S - O'Connor,J

ICCA/EM/Final, 25.04.1999

Notes by Steve Burns

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Qg4 Qc7 8.Qxg7 Rg8 9.Qxh7 cxd4 10.Ne2 Nbc6 11.f4 Bd7 12.Qd3 dxc3 13.Nxc3 a6 14.Rb1 Na5 15.h4 Nf5 16.Rh3 0-0-0 17.h5 Nc4 18.Rb4 Bc6 unclear (NCO). White plans Nc3-e2-d4 forcing a trade which allows Qd4-a7 hoping to trade queens and then endeavour to make use of the extra pawn. **19.Ne2 Bb5 20.a4?! Bc6 20...Nxe5** turns out fine for white e.g. 21.Qc3 Bxe2 22.Qxc7+ Kxc7 with a promising position. However, 20.a4 has left white open to a future ...a5 and ...Bxa4. **21.h6**



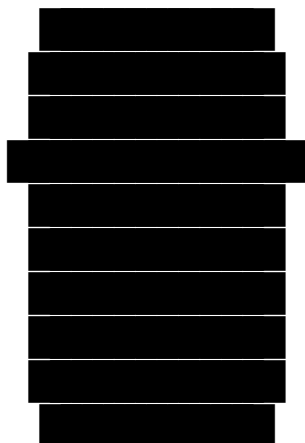
With the idea of enticing the d8 rook to h8 as white intends playing on the queen side. The threat of h7 is potentially strong as we shall see later. **21...Rg4** The alternative 21...Rg6 22.h7 Rh8 23.Nd4 Nxd4 24.Qxd4 is similar but black has been forced to play ...Rh8 which removes the threat of h7; *Ed: I found some analysis of this position in MegaCorr. After 21.h6 it recommended 21...Qa5 which loses to 22.Qc3 with threats of Rb4xc4. But maybe 22...b6 is playable. 23.h7 Rh8 24.g4 Ne7 25.Nd4 And maybe not! White is about to rip black's position to shreds. For instance 25...Bxa4? 26.Bxc4+- 22.Nd4 Ed: I had been hoping for 22.Qf3? Nxe5! 22...Nxd4 23.Qxd4 f6? Black is probably now lost. Better was 23...Rh8 nullifying the threat of h7. Alternatively as black suggested afterwards 23...a5 24.h7 Rh8 25.Rbb3 Bxa4 26.Rbg3 when black has a few problems to overcome.(26.Rbc3 b5 and black may be better. Ed: Wrong! White is much better. My bishop is doing nothing on a4. A possible continuation is: 27.Ba3! b4 28.Bxc4 bxc3 29.Ba6+ Kd8 30.Rxc3! Qd7 31.Qb6+ Ke8 32.Qb8+ Qd8 33.Qxd8+*

Kxd8 34.Rc8+ Kd7 35.Rxh8+-) 23...f6 is one of those CC hari-kari moves we make trying to avoid a small plus for our opponent. I decided I needed to confuse the position. Sadly this might work OTB, but not in CC. **24.h7 Rh8 25.Qa7 Rg7** Maybe Kd7, trying to hold on to the queen. **26.Qa8+ Qb8 27.Qxb8+ Kxb8** Having swapped off queens the rest is a matter of technique. The f and g pawns cannot be stopped without considerable material loss. **28.exf6 Rgxh7 29.Rxh7 Rxh7 30.g4 a5 31.Rxc4! dxc4 32.Bxc4** Ed: I'm sure Steve enjoyed the final few moves, because I as sure as hell did not! **1-0**

O'Connor,J - Blair,D

ICCA/EM/Final, 12.04.1999

This game revolves around the problem of piece co-ordination. Through out the game both players suffered from poorly placed pieces, and lack of development. Although white had more pieces developed than black, they were not very well placed. This meant that black could bring out his remaining pieces more harmoniously and therefore catch up on development. **1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Be3 a6!?** 4...c6 is normally played. ...a6 is played in the modern. I was very keen to refute this move, but I don't even come near. **5.f3 b5 6.g4 Bg7 7.Qd2 h5 8.g5 Nfd7 9.Nge2 e5** 9...c5 is what I expected. **10.d5 Nb6 11.b3 f6?** This is too early. Black should castle first. It is very difficult for white to coordinate his pieces. 11...0-0! 12.0-0 b4 13.Nb1 a5 14.f4?! exf4 15.Nxf4 N8d7 and the e5 square beckons **12.Rg1** Eyeing g6 **12...fxg5** Avoiding the pawn swap doesn't help 12...f5 13.exf5 gxf5 14.0-0 b4 15.Nb1 a5 16.Re1 Qe7 17.Nf4 exf4 18.Bxb6 Be5 19.Bd4± **13.Bxg5 Bf6 14.0-0-0** In every move that follows, I expected ...b4 Nc3-b1, but the b-pawn is en-prise and ...a6-a5 maybe too slow. Could this be why the GMs play 4...c6 to control the d5 square and to avoid the tempo loss of a7-a6-a5? **14...Bxg5 15.Rxg5 Qf6 16.f4 N8d7** The endgame after 16...b4 17.Nb1 exf4 18.Qxf4 Rf8 19.Qxf6 (19.Qg3 Bg4±) 19...Rxf6 is better for white. 20.Nd4 Bg4 21.Re1 N8d7 22.Nc6 a5 23.Nd2 Kf7 24.h3 Rf4! 25.e5! dxe5 26.hxg4 Kf6 27.Rgxe5 Nxe5 28.Nxe5± **17.Bh3 b4** Thank God! That's one less consideration to think about **18.Nb1 exf4 19.Qxf4** ...Qa1 now comes under scrutiny on every move. However, even if the queen wins the a2 pawn, it needs at least two more moves (a6-a5-a4) to help in the attack against the white king. This should be too slow. **19...Rf8 20.Qg3**



20...h4? This came as a complete shock to me. 20...Nc5? loses a pawn after 21.Rxg6 Nxe4 22.Rxf6 Nxg3 23.Rxf8+ Kxf8 24.Nxg3 Bxh3 25.Nxh5±; 20...Ne5! was best, although black has plenty of chances to go wrong. 21.Rf1 Qe7 (21...Qxf1+

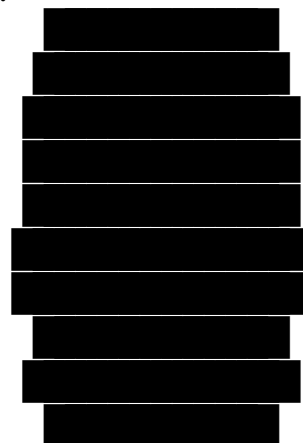
22.Bxf1 Rxf1+ 23.Kb2 Bg4 24.Rxe5+ dxe5 25.Qxe5+-) 22.Rxf8+ Qxf8 23.Bxc8 (23.Rxe5+? is premature 23...dxe5 24.Qxe5+ Kd8 25.Bxc8 Kxc8 26.Nf4 Nd7! 27.Qg5 Qf6! 28.Qxf6 Nxf6 29.Nd2±) A) 23...Qf1+ 24.Kb2 Rxc8 (24...Nxc8 25.Rxe5+ dxe5 26.Qxe5+ Ne7 27.Nf4±) 25.Rxe5+ dxe5 26.Qxe5+; B) 23...Nxc8 24.Rxe5+ dxe5 25.Qxg6+ Kd8 26.Qxh5±; C) 23...Rxc8! 24.Nd2 Qf6 25.Kb1 c6 and black's pieces are starting to coordinate. **21.Qxh4 Ne5** 21...Qf2 22.Qxf2 Rxf2 23.Nd4 Ne5 24.Bg2± **22.Bg2** This simple move took me ages to see! White is much better now. **22...Nf7** Black is flailing around. White must be careful but his attack is coming, and he's always a pawn up! 22...Nf3 23.Bxf3 Qxf3 24.Nd4 Qf4+ 25.Qxf4 Rxf4 26.Rxg6 Rxe4 27.Rg8+ Kd7 28.c4+- **23.Rh5 Nd7** 23...Qa1 24.Rh7+-; 23...Qxh4 24.Rxh4 g5 25.Rh7 Bg4 26.Rd2± 0-0-0 27.Nd4 Ne5 28.h3 Bd7± **24.Rf1** 24.Rh7 Qxh4 25.Rxh4 Nf6 (25...g5 26.Rh3) 26.Rf4± **24...Qa1** 24...Qxh4 25.Rxh4 Nfe5 26.Rxf8+ Nxf8 27.Nd4+-; 24...Qxf1+ 25.Bxf1 gxh5 26.Nf4 Nde5 27.Nxh5 Rh8 28.Nd2 Bg4 29.Nf6+- **25.Rh7 g5** 25...Nde5 26.Qe1 a5 27.Nf4 Rg8 28.Qg3 Ba6 29.Rf2+-; 25...Qxa2 26.Nd4 Nde5 27.Ne6+- **26.Qf2!** I always like moves which have more than one purpose. **26...Nfe5** 26...Nde5 27.Nd4 **27.Qd4** Get off the long diagonal! **27...Rxf1+** 27...Qxa2 28.Rxf8+ Kxf8 29.Rh5; 27...Qxd4 28.Nxd4 Rxf1+ 29.Bxf1+- **28.Bxf1 Qxa2 29.Qf2!** Switch-back for the final attack on the black king. The black queen is on holidays on a2 and the black rook was swapped off, only the two knights stand guard and they are not enough to hold off white's queen, rook and knight. **29...Nf8** 29...Qa1 30.Nd4 Nf8 31.Rg7+-; 29...Bb7 30.Rh8+ Ke7 31.Rh7+ Kd8 32.Nf4+- Bxd5 33.Rh8+ Nf8 **30.Rg7 Qa1 31.Nd4!** 31.Nd4+- Bd7 32.Qf6 Neg6 33.Bh3!+- Bxh3 34.Qf7+ Kd8 35.Nc6+ Kc8 36.Qxc7# **1-0**

Henrick,B - Winkler,E

EU/II/GT/193, 1999

Notes by Basil Henrick

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.e5 c5 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.bxc3 Ne7 7.Nf3 Qc7 8.a4 b6 9.Bb5+ Bd7 10.Bd3 Nbc6 11.0-0 h6 12.Re1 0-0 13.Ba3 John Nunn has reached this position with White against P.Nikolic on three occasions, playing 13.Bf4 twice and 13.Ba3 on the other occasion scoring 1½. **13...c4?!** opening this diagonal looks dangerous. 13...Na5 14.dxc5 bxc5 looks a better idea, when I had planned 15.Nd2 and if 15...Bxa4?! 16.Bxc5 Qxc5 17.Rxa4 Qxc3 18.Re3!± **14.Bf1 Rfe8 15.Nh4 Qd8** again 15...Na5 would give a lot of play on the Q-side **16.f4 Nc8? 17.Qh5 Na5** too late! 17...N8e7 was necessary **18.Re3!**



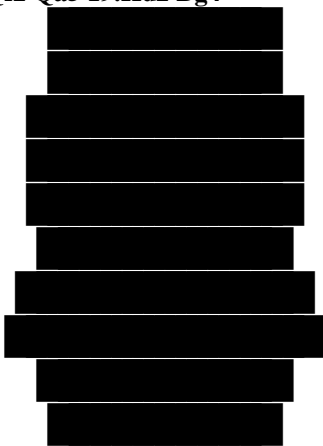
setting a trap. **18...Kh7** 18...Bxa4? 19.Rg3+- Ed: It's not so

clear after 19...Bxc2 20.Qxh6 Bg6 21.Rxg6 (21.Qg5 Qxg5 22.Rxg5 Be4) 21...fxg6 22.Qxg6 Qd7 19.Qxf7 trap #2 19...Qxh4?? 20.Rg3 and now Black must give up the Q to prevent mate. 20...Rg8 21.Bf8! 1-0

Bloodgood,C - Salter,D

Ireland-ASPCC Friendly Match, 1999

1.Nf3 f5 2.d4 e6 3.e4 fxe4 4.Ng5 Presumably the Bogart-Maltese Falcon gambit. 4...Nf6 5.f3 c5! Smyslov tried 5...h6 in Gretarsson-Smyslov Rejkavik 1995, but it weakened the h5-e8 diagonal and after 6.Nh3 (6.Nxe4? Nxe4 7.fxe4 Qh4+) 6...d5 7.fxe4 dxe4 8.Be2 Bd6 9.Bh5+ Ke7 he was in big trouble and lost in 25 moves. 6.fxe4 cxd4 7.Qxd4? This throws away to tempi, and is not in the spirit of the gambit. Better was 7.Bd3 7...Nc6 8.Qd1 Bc5 9.Bd3 d6 10.Nc3 h6 11.Nf3 0-0 12.Qe2 Ng4 13.Rf1 Nd4 14.Nxd4 Rxf1+ 15.Qxf1 15.Kxf1? Nxe2+ 16.Kg1 Bxd4++ 17.Kxh2?? Qh4# 15...Bxd4 16.Bf4 e5 17.Bg3 Ne3 18.Qf2 Qa5 19.Kd2 Bg4

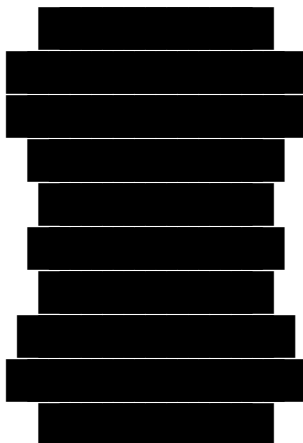


Yeuch! It's no wonder that white resigned here. 0-1

Salter,D - Bloodgood,C

Ireland-ASPCC Friendly Match, 1999

1.Nf3 f5 2.d4 e6 3.e4 fxe4 4.Ng5 This must have been a very friendly match, as Dave and Claude played the same opening as white and black. Presumably this was to help research Bloodgood's book on the Bogart-Maltese Falcon Gambit. 4...Nf6 5.f3 h6 6.Nh3 d5 7.fxe4 dxe4 8.Be2 Qe7 Smyslov played 8...Bd6 9.Bh5+ Nxe5 10.Qxh5+ Qf7 11.Qxf7+ Kxf7 12.0-0+ Ke8

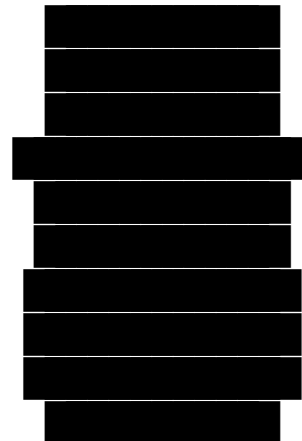


13.Re1 I'd prefer 13.Nc3 c5 14.Nxe4 cxd4 15.Bf4 followed by Ra1-e1. 13...c5 14.Rxe4 cxd4 15.c3 Nc6 16.cxd4 Be7 17.Nc3 a6 18.Nf4 e5 19.Ng6 exd4 20.Nxe7 white wins a piece after 20...Nxe7 21.Nd5 1-0

Bloodgood,C - Salter,D

Ireland-ASPCC Friendly match, 1999

1.Nf3 c5 2.b3 e6 3.Bb2 Nf6 4.c4 b6 5.e3 Bb7 6.Be2 Be7 7.d4 d5 8.0-0 0-0 9.Nbd2 Nc6 10.Ne5 Rc8 11.Bf3 Bd6 12.Nxc6 Bxc6 13.cxd5 exd5 14.dxc5 bxc5 15.Rc1 Re8 16.Re1 Qe7 17.Nf1 Ne4 Black is better due to his pawn center and his more active knight. 18.Bg4 Rb8 19.Bf3 Ba8 20.Qe2 Rb6 21.g3 Bb7 22.Bg2 f5 23.Qh5 Rf8 24.Rc2 g6 25.Qh6 a5 26.Nd2 a4 27.bxa4 Ra8 28.Nf3 Rxa4 29.Ba1 Ba6 30.Nh4 Qf7 31.Rd1

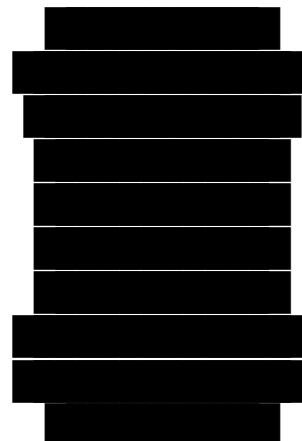


31...Bd3 32.Rcc1 Bc4 33.Bf1 Bxf1 34.Kxf1 Rxa2 35.f3 f4 36.exf4 Bf8 0-1

Dave Salter - Claude Bloodgood

Friendly v ASPCC, 1999

1.c4 f5 2.Nf3 e6 3.g3 Nf6 4.Bg2 d5 5.0-0 c6 6.b3 dxc4 7.bxc4 e5? 8.Nxe5 Qd4



9.Nf3 Qxc4 9...Qxa1 might have been a better try, although black has to give up his queen for two rooks in many lines. 10.Nc3 Bb4 11.Qb3 Bxc3 12.dxc3 0-0 13.Ba3 (13.Nd4 Na6 14.Nc2 almost traps the queen, but 14...Nc5-+) 13...Qxf1+ 14.Kxf1 Re8 15.Ng5 h6 16.c5+ Kh8 17.Nf7+ Kh7 18.Nd6 Rf8 19.Nxc8 Rxc8 20.Qxb7 Nbd7 21.Bxc6+- 10.Bb2 Be7 11.Na3 Qb4 12.Qc2 0-0 13.Nc4 Be6 14.Nfe5 Bxc4 15.Nxc4 Qb5 16.Rab1 Qa6 17.Qb3 Nbd7 18.Ne5+ Kh8 19.Nxd7 wins a piece after 19...Nxd7 20.Qe6 1-0