

Check is in the Mail

by FIDE Master Alex Dunne



Unarrested development

Once again it is time to turn "The Check is in the Mail" spotlight on one of the shyest of our American Correspondence Masters. Never interested in too much publicity, just solid, sound, winning chess, Timothy Murray has let his accomplishments speak for him. Perhaps his background as an undercover officer for the Boston Police was a factor. Perhaps also the skills he learned working the cold case squad — solving unsolved murders and tracking down long-term "wanted" murder fugitives — helped him become a co-winner of the Eleventh U.S. Correspondence Chess Championship. Scoring a GM norm in the 15th Olympiad with a round to go, Tim has shown more than the right stuff. Currently, he is #5 on the USA/ICCF Rating List. In Mumbai in 2004, he was awarded the ICCM title. It's hard to stay out of the public eye with such accomplishments.

GAME OF THE MONTH

Technique is not the province of the endgame only. To become a master one must understand the techniques of middlegame attacks as well. Here's one for the textbooks.

KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE [E86]

W: CIM Tim Murray (2568)

B: CGM Cesar Blanco Gramajo (2577)
15th Olympiad 2003, Board 1

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 f3 0-0 6 Be3 e5 7 Nge2 c6 8 Qd2 Nbd7 9 0-0-0 a6 10 h4 h5

This line looks suspect. Black's most thematic response is 10 ... b5 with counterplay.

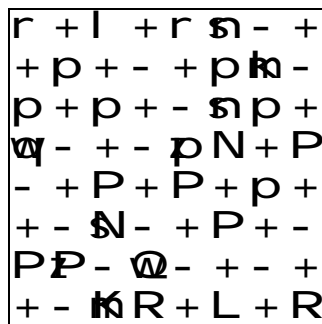
11 dxe5!

Black has beaten 11 Bg5 a few times, but this exchange leaves the black king a standing target.

22 ... dxe5 12 g4!

Pawns are not the medium of exchange in positions like these. Kings are.

12 ... Qa5 13 Ng3 hxg4 14 h5 Re8 15 Bh6 Nf8 16 Bxg7 Kxg7 17 Nf5+



after 17 Nf5+

This is not an original sacrifice, but it is a good one. Prospective masters need to learn this pattern.

17 ... Bxf5 18 exf5 e4 19 hxg6 fxc6 20 Qh6+ Kf7 21 fxg4 Rad8 22 Be2 Rxd1+ 23 Rxd1 Qe5 24 Rf1

Always precise, Murray targets the black king.

24 ... Ke7 25 Qg7+ Kd8 26 Qxb7

Black's game just falls apart as Black loses his protective pawns one by one.

26 ... Qc7 27 Qxa6 gxf5 28 Nb5 cxb5 29 Qxf6+ Qe7 30 Qxf5, Black resigns.

- At the ICCF annual meeting in December in Argentina, the Senior IM title was awarded to Chris Sergel. The U.S. also gained three new International arbiters in Keith Rodriguez, James B. Skeels, and Wesley K. Underwood. Congratulations, gentlemen!

- Playing the black pieces, Paul Cox was the beneficiary of some unusual if-moves. His opponent sent Paul a set of if-moves leading to a forced mate — in Paul's favor!

- When Larry Evans wrote that postal chess has about as much glamour as an open-book test, he did not have games like this in mind. Robert Hux is a two-time Absolute champion; Eugene Martinovsky, a two-time USCC Champion.

SLAV DEFENSE [D16]

W: IM Eugene Martinovsky (2385)

B: Robert Hux (2451)

Eighth NAICCC 1996

1 c4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Nf3 dxc4 5 a4 Bg4 6 Ne5 Bh5 7 h3 Na6 8 g4 Bg6 9 Bg2 Nb4 10 0-0 Bc2 11 Qd2 Bb3 12 Ne4 Nc2 13 Nc5 Qxd4 14 Nxb7 Nd5 15 Qg5 e6 16 Be3 Qxb2 17 Bc5 h6 18 Qf4 f6 19 Qe4 Qxe5 20 Qg6+ Kd7 21 Qf7+ Be7 22 Rad1 Rae8 23 e4 Rhf8 24 Qxg7 Qg5 25 Qh7 Rh8 26 Qf7 Rhf8 27 Qh7 Qg8 28 Qxh6 Qg5 29 Qh7 Rh8 30 Qf7 Qg8 31 Qxg8 Rcxg8 32 exd5 cxd5 33 a5 Bb8 34 a6 Bxc5 35 Nxc5+ Ke7 36 Rb1 Rhc8 37 Nxb3 cxb3 38 Rb2 Na3, White resigns.

- Peter Radomskyj demonstrates how two pieces can crush a rook into nothingness.

BENKO COUNTER GAMBIT [A57]

W: Peter Radomskyj (2212)

B: Mike Bennett (2051)

17 USCCC 2005

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 b5 4 f3 bxc4 5 e4 d6 6 Bxc4 g6 7 Nc3 Bg7 8 Nge2 0-0 9 0-0 Nbd7 10 f4 Nb6 11 Bd3 Nfd7 12 a4 a5 13 Bb5 Bb7 14 g4 f5 15 exf5 gxf5 16 g5 Kh8 17 Qd3 Qe8 18 Ng3 e6 19 Re1 Nxd5 20 Nxd5 Bxd5 21 Qxd5 exd5 22 Rxe8 Raxe8 23 Bxd7 Re7 24 Bxf5 Rb8 25 Bg4 Bxb2 26 Bxb2+ Rxb2 27 Rf1 Rb4 28 Bh5 Kg8 29 f5 Re5 30 Bd1 d4 31 Nh5 Rb7 32 h4 c4 33 Nf6+ Kf8 34 Bf3 Rc7 35 Rb1 Rxf5 36 Rb8+ Kg7 37 Rg8+ Kf7 38 Bh5+ Ke6 39 Bg4 Re7 40 Rf8 Ke5 41 Bxf5 Kxf5 42 Ng8+ Ke4 43 Nxe7 c3 44 Kf2 Kd3 45 Nf5, Black resigns.

- Playing cc on a web server makes making moves easier, but masters like Ken Goebel have a way of making the game more difficult.

ENGLISH OPENING [A29]

W: Ken Goebel (2233)

B: Arthur Garey (2030)

1WSP05, 2005

1 c4 e5 2 Nc3 Nf6 3 Nf3 Nc6 4 g3 d5 5 cxd5 Nxd5 6 Bg2 Be6 7 0-0 Nb6 8 d4 exd4 9 Nb5 Bc5 10 Qc2 Be7 11 Rd1 0-0 12 Nfxd4 Nxd4 13 Nxd4 Qc8 14 Nxe6 fxe6 15 Be4 h6 16 Bf4 c6 17 Be5 Nd5 18 Bh7+ Kh8 19 Bxg7+ Kxg7 20 Qg6+ Kh8 21 Qxh6 Bg5 22 Qxg5 Kxh7 23 Rd4, Black resigns.

Chess Assistant 8.1 Mega Packet - for \$149.5

The unique program at the unique price!

The full package includes 4 CDs and 3 DVDs.

www.ChessAssistant.com

Be a Key Piece of the Future U.S. Chess Headquarters

Own one of the 32 teak pieces that will accent our beautifully designed entry courtyard.

With a custom engraved bronze plaque attached to the piece you select, you can celebrate an achievement, commemorate a title, prize or position. And this prominent memorial will be there forever.

To find out about availability, prices, and engraving options, please contact:
Judy Pearson at (931) 787-1234 ext. 134,
or email jpearson@uschess.org



U.S. CHESS FEDERATION
1-800-388-KING (5464)
www.uschess.org

CORRESPONDENCE CHESS TOURNAMENT

UPDATES FOR NOVEMBER 2005
CONGRATULATIONS!

JOHN COLLINS MEMORIAL CLASS

Walter Lewis	03CA68	4-2
L. C. Gerecz	03CA68	4-2

TROPHY QUAD

Thomas Buchanan	04QD14	5-1
Michael Kessler	04QD14	5-1
Franklin Castle	05QD17	6-0
John Leitel	04QA19	4½-1½
M. Whitecotton	03QB26	6-0
Thomas Langland	03QM12	6-0
M. Whitecotton	04QAB04	5-1
Gregory Durham	04QB20	6-0

E-MAIL — SWIFT QUAD

Michael Quirk	05SQB09	6-0
Harry Simon	04SQ26	5-1
Kendrick Aung	05SQ02	5½-½
J. Gonzalez-Gigato	05SQCD12	6-0
Jones Murphy	04SQ19	5-1
John Badger	05SQAB16	5½-½



WARNING! THE USE OF A CELL PHONE in the tournament room is prohibited at most tournaments! If your cell phone rings in a room with games in progress, you could be severely penalized, maybe even forfeited! TURN IT OFF!

CHECK OUT USCF'S CORRESPONDENCE CHESS RATED EVENTS

USCF's 59th ANNUAL

2006 Open Correspondence Chess Golden Knights Championship
\$1,500 First Prize

(plus title of USCF's Golden Knights Champion and plaque)

• 2nd place \$800 • 3rd place \$600 • 4th place \$400 • 5th place \$200 • 6th thru 10th place \$100 each. **Entry fee: \$25.**

The entry deadline is November 30, 2006.

These USCF Correspondence Chess events are rated and open to all USCF members who reside on the North American continent, islands, or Hawaii, as well as those USCF members with an APO or FPO address. USCF members who reside outside of the North American continent are welcome to participate in e-mail events. Your USCF membership must remain current for the duration of the event, and entry fees must be paid in U.S. dollars. Those new to USCF Correspondence Chess, please estimate your strength: **Class A:** 1800-1999 (very strong); **Class B:** 1600-1799 (strong); **Class C:** 1400-1599 (intermediate); **Class D:** 1399 and below (beginner level). Note: Prize fund based on 400 entries and may be decreased proportionately per number of entries assigned.

CORRESPONDENCE CHESS MATCHES (TWO PLAYERS)

\$5 entry fee per person with two, four or six game options.

WIN A CORRESPONDENCE CHESS TROPHY

Four-player, double round-robin with class-level pairings. 1st-place winner receives a trophy.
Entry fee: \$10.

VICTOR PALCIAUSKAS PRIZE TOURNAMENTS

Seven-player class-level pairings, one game with each of six opponents. Players must have a USCF CC rating to enter. 1st-place winner receives \$130 cash prize and a certificate signed by Victor Palciauskas. **Entry fee: \$25.**

JOHN W. COLLINS MEMORIAL CLASS TOURNAMENTS

Four-player, double round-robin with class-level pairings (unrated welcome). 1st-place winner receives a John W. Collins certificate.
Entry fee: \$7.

E-MAIL RATED EVENTS (NEED E-MAIL ACCESS):

LIGHTNING MATCH Two players with two, four or six game option. **Entry fee \$5 per person.**

Swift Quads Four-player, double round-robin format. 1st-place prize merchandise credit of \$30.
Entry fee: \$10

NEW!! Walter Muir E-Quads

Four-player, double round-robin e-mail format tournament with class-level pairings (unrated welcome). 1st-place receives a certificate. **Entry fee: \$7.**

Express Tournament

Seven-player events, one game with each of six opponents.
Prizes: 1st place \$30 merchandise credit, 2nd place \$20 credit.
Entry fee: \$15.

USCF's 3rd ANNUAL

2006 E-mail Correspondence Chess
Electronic Knights Championship

(Seven-player sections, one game with each of six opponents.)

\$1,500 First Prize

(plus title of USCF's Electronic Knights Champion and plaque)

• 2nd place \$800 • 3rd place \$600 • 4th place \$400 • 5th place \$200 • 6th thru 10th place \$100 each. **Entry fee: \$25.**

The entry deadline is November 30, 2006.

These USCF Correspondence Chess events are rated and open to all USCF members with e-mail access. Your USCF membership must remain current for the duration of the event, and entry fees must be paid in U.S. dollars. Maximum number of tournament entries allowed for the year for each player is ten.

Note: Prize fund based on 400 entries and may be decreased proportionately per number of entries assigned.

Please circle event(s) selected.

NOTE: Except for Lightning Matches, Swift Quads, Walter Muir E-Quads, Electronic Knights & Express Tournaments, players will use post office mail, unless opponents agree to use e-mail.

To Enter: 800•903•USCF (8723), Fax 931•787•1200
or on-line www.uschess.org

Name _____
USCF ID# _____
Address _____ City _____
State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____
E-mail _____
Credit card # (VISA, MC, Discover, AMEX) _____
Exp. date _____ If using VISA, need V-code _____
Check here if you do not wish to have an opponent who is incarcerated. _____
Make checks payable to U.S. Chess and mail to:
Joan DuBois, USCF, PO Box 3967, Crossville, TN 38557



U.S. Chess Federation
www.uschess.org

