



# Check is in the Mail

by FIDE Master Alex Dunne

## Short Stuff

Where can you get so much entertainment for under \$6? All of the following games were played for that much or less – correspondence games of 20 moves or under. Master, Expert, Class Player or Grandmaster, no one is immune to the surprise sacrifice, slip of the mouse, or just being outplayed by a wily opponent. And as Cecil Purdy cogently noted, Black certainly wins his share of these short shorts. So draw up a chess board, grab some pawns and pieces, and prepare to enjoy!

### PONZIANI OPENING [C44]

W: CIM Corky Schakel (2422)  
B: CIM Robert Jacobs (2391)

*2004 Absolute Championship*

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 c3 Nf6 4 d4 exd4 5 e5 Ne4 6 Qe2 f5 7 exf6 e.p. d5 8 Nxd4 Nxd4 9 cxd4 Kf7 10 fxg7 Bb4+ 11 Kd1 Re8 12 Be3 Kg8 13 a3 Ba5 14 Qh5 Be6 15 Bb5 Bf7 16 Qf3 c5 17 Bxe8 Qxe8 18 b3 cxd4 19 Bxd4 Rc8, White resigns.

### SCOTCH GAME [C44]

W: Mauro Bigando (2123)  
B: CIM Kristo Miettinen (2396)

*ICCF E-mail 2002*

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 exd4 4 Bc4 Bb4+ 5 Bd2 Bxd2+ 6 Qxd2 Nf6 7 e5 Ng4 8 Bxf7+ Kxf7 9 Qf4+ Nf6 10 exf6 Re8+ 11 Kf1 Qxf6 12 Qxc7 Kg8 13 Na3 d6 14 Re1 Bh3 15 Rxe8+ Rxe8 16 gxh3 Qxf3 17 Rg1 Qxh3+ 18 Rg2 Re7 19 Qxd6 Re5, White resigns.

### RUY LOPEZ [C62]

W: Neal Moenich (1606)  
B: Z. L. King (1706)

*ASPC, 2004*

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 d6 4 d4 exd4 5 Nxd4 Bd7 6 Nc3 Qf6 7 Nxc6 bxc6 8 Bc4 g6 9 0-0 Bg7 10 Re1 Nh6 11 f4 Ng4 12 Qe2 Qh4 13 h3 Bd4+ 14 Kh1 Nf2+ 15 Kh2 Nxh3 16 g3 Qh6 17 Kg2 Nxf4+ 18 Bxf4 Qh3+ 19 Kf3 Bg4 mate.

A blast from the past – Richard Kujoth shows why the Queen's Gambit is not a gambit.

### SLAV DEFENSE [D11]

W: Richard Kujoth  
B: Erickson

*Chess Review 1950*

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nf3 dxc4 4 e4 b5 5 a4 Qb6 6 b3! cxb3 7 axb5

cxb5 8 Qxb3 Bd7 9 Nc3 e6 10 Nxb5 Nf6 11 Bf4 Bxb5 12 Bxb5+ Nbd7 13 Ra6! Qb7 14 Bxd7+ Qxd7 15 Ne5 Qxd4 16 Rxe6+ Kd8 17 Nxf7+ Kd7 18 Qb7+ Kxe6 19 Ng5, mate.

### KING'S GAMBIT [C33]

W: Jerry Steffen (1848)  
B: Harry Simon (1944)

*CCLA Thematic, 2004*

1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Bc4 b5 4 Bxf7+ Kxf7 5 Qh5+ g6 6 Qd5+ Kg7 7 Qxa8 Nc6 8 Nf3 Nf6 9 d3 Bd6 10 a4 b4 11 a5 Qe7 12 a6 Bxa6 13 Qxh8+ Kxh8 14 Rxa6 Nxe4 15 0-0 Bc5+ 16 d4 Nxd4 17 Kh1 Nxf3, White resigns.

### KING'S INDIAN DEFENSE [E90]

W: CIM Rolf Haeussler (2310)  
B: CIM Theo Schmidt (2480)

*ICCF 1996*

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 h3 0-0 6 Nf3 e5 7 d5 Na6 8 Be3 Nh5 9 Nd2 Qe8 10 Nb3 f5 11 Be2 Nf4 12 Bf3 Qe7 13 a3 b6 14 0-0 fxe4 15 Bxe4 Qh4 16 Qc2 Bd7 17 f3 Bh6 18 Qf2 Nxh3+, White resigns.

### TWO KNIGHTS' DEFENSE [C57]

W: Ladislav Kalvach  
B: CIM Milan Drtina (2323)

*Czech Republic corr. 1986*

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 Ng5 d5 5 exd5 Nxd5 6 d4 Bb4+ 7 c3 Be7 8 Nxf7 Kxf7 9 Qf3+ Ke6 10 Qe4 b5 11 Bxb5 Bb7 12 f4 g6 13 fxe5 Rf8 14 Qg4+ Rf5 15 Bd3 Nxd4 16 Rf1 Ne3 17 Bxe3 Nf3+ 18 gxf3 Qxd3 19 Qd4 Bh4+ 20 Qxh4 Qxe3+, White resigns.

White traps the queen and everybody is happy until the next postcard arrives.

### KING'S GAMBIT [C30]

W: Boldmann  
B: A. Jannsson

*Correspondence, 1937*

1 e4 Nc6 2 f4 e5 3 fxe5 Qh4+ 4 g3 Qxe4+ 5 Qe2 Qxh1 6 Nf3 Be7 7 Nc3 d6 8 Kf2 Nxe5 9 Bg2 Ng4 mate.

### TWO KNIGHTS' DEFENSE [C55]

W: James Deffley (1699)  
B: Tom Greco (2112)

*Express Tournament 2005*

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 d4 exd4 5 Nxd4 Nxe4 6 0-0 d5 7 Nxc6 bxc6 8 Bb3 Bd6 9 c4 0-0 10 cxd5 Ba6 11 Re1 Nxf2 12 Qf3 Nd3 13 Rd1 Bc5+, White resigns.

### FRENCH DEFENSE [C11]

W: Daniel Quinones (1873)  
B: Marino Serrajotto (2206)

*ICCF E-mail 2002*

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nc3 d5 3 e4 e6 4 Be3 dxe4 5 f3 Nd5 6 Nxd5 exd5 7 fxe4 Qh4+ 8 Kd2 dxe4 9 c3 Bd6 10 Ne2 0-0 11 g3 Qe7 12 Nf4 c5 13 Nd5 Qd8 14 Kc2 cxd4 15 Qxd4 Nc6 16 Qxe4 Re8 17 Qf3 Ne5 18 Qe4 Bg4 19 Bd3 f5, White resigns.

### VIENNA GAME [C28]

W: Ricardo Ruiz (1570)  
B: Phillip Norman (1544)

*USCF CC Match, 2005*

1 e4 e5 2 Nc3 Nf6 3 Bc4 Nc6 4 d3 Bb4 5 Bg5 d6 6 Nge2 Nd4 7 0-0 Bc5 8 Na4 Bg4 9 Nac3 Qd7 10 Qd2 Nf3+, White resigns.

This shorty is from *Joyas del Ajedrez Postal* by Eduardo Marchisotti

### CENTER COUNTER GAME [B01]

W: P. Schroter  
B: H. Ludwig

*Correspondence, 1932*

1 e4 d5 2 exd5 Nf6 3 d4 Nxd5 4 c4 Nb4 5 Qa4+ N8c6 6 d5 b5 7 cxb5 Nd4 8 Na3 e5 9 dxe6 e.p. Bxe6 10 Be3 Qh4 11 b6+ c6 12 b7 Rd8 13 Rd1 Bc5 14 Ne2 Bb3 15 Rxd4 Bxa4 16 b8=Q Bxd4 17 Qb7 Nd3+ 18 Kd2 Bxe3+, White resigns.

### ENGLISH OPENING [A16]

W: Guenther Roth (2320)  
B: SM Karl-Heinz Soentges

*ICCF 1996*

1 c4 Nf6 2 Nc3 d5 3 cxd5 Nxd5 4 g3 g6 5 Bg2 Nxc3 6 bxc3 Bg7 7 Rb1 Nd7 8 Nf3 Nb6 9 0-0 0-0 10 Qc2 Bd7 11 d3 Ba4 12 Qd2 Bc6 13 c4 Re8 14 Bb2 Bxf3, 0-1.

A reminder that putting "check" after a move if it is not check does not invalidate a move.

### KING'S GAMBIT [C31]

FALKBEER COUNTER GAMBIT  
W: Riccardo Benti (2349)  
B: Ronald Fischer (2044)

*ICCF E-mail 2002*

1 e4 e5 2 f4 d5 3 exd5 c6 4 Qe2 cxd5 5 fxe5 Nc6 6 Nf3 Bg4 7 Qf2 Bxf3 8 gxf3 Qh4 9 Qxh4, Black resigns.

### PIRC DEFENSE [B08]

W: IM Jason Bokar (2440)  
B: Steven Smithers (2426)

*1st NAPZ Email Championship 2001*

1 Nf3 d6 2 e4 Nf6 3 Nc3 g6 4 d4 Bg7 5 Be3 0-0 6 Qd2 Bg4 7 Ng5 a5 8 f3 Bd7 9 e5 Ne8 10 h4 dxe5 11

**dxe5 Bxe5 12 h5 h6 13 Nge4 g5 14 Bxg5 Bxc3 15 bxc3 hxg5 16 Qxg5+ Kh8 17 Qh6+ Kg8 18 0-0-0, Black resigns.**

GM Nickel shows he can beat human opponents, too.

**GRUENFELD DEFENSE [D81]**

W: CGM Arno Nickel (2586)  
B: Mario Wagener (2007)  
*ICCF E-mail 2002*

**1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 Qb3 dxc4 5 Qxc4 Be6 6 Qb5+ Nc6 7 Nf3 Nd5 8 e4 Ndb4 9 Qa4 Bd7 10 Qd1 Bg4 11 a3 Nxd4 12 axb4 Nxf3+ 13 gxf3 Qxd1+ 14 Nxd1 Bxf3 15 Rg1 e6 16 Bd2 Bd6 17 Bc3 0-0 18 e5, Black resigns.**

**SCOTCH GAME [C44]**

W: Gianfranco Pecis (2286)  
B: Marino Di Marino (2062)  
*ICCF E-mail 2002*

**1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 d4 exd4 4 Nxd4 Qh4 5 Nc3 Bb4 6 Be2 Nf6 7 0-0 Bxc3 8 Nf5 Qxe4 9 Bd3 Qe5 10 bxc3 0-0 11 Re1 Qa5 12 Rb1 Re8 13 Rb5 Qxa2 14 Nxf7 Kxg7 15 Bh6+ Kh8 16 Rg5 Rxe1+ 17 Qxe1 Qe6 18 Bg7+ Kg8 19 Qd2, Black resigns.**

Robert Durkin was a New Jersey Expert some years ago. If any readers have anecdotes about him, I'd like to hear from you.

**DURKIN ATTACK [A00]**

W: Robert Durkin  
B: Fred Wren  
*Chess Review, 1955*

**1 Na3 e5 2 e4 f5 3 exf5 Nf6 4 Be2 Bxa3 5 Bh5+ Kf8 6 bxa3 d6 7 Qf3 e4 8 Qh3 Qd7 9 g4 b6 10 Ne2 g6 11 Bxg6 Qg7 12 Nf4 Nxd4 13 Rb1 Ne5 14 Bb2 hxg6 15 Nxd4+ Qxg6 16 Qxh8+, Black resigns.**

The Oops! Award for 2005 goes to this strange little game.

**DUTCH DEFENSE [A81]**

W: CIM Ted Brandhorst (2452)  
B: CIM Sune Hjorth (2413)  
*26th World Championship E-mail 2002*

**1 d4 f5 2 g3 Nf6 3 Bg2 d6 4 Nf3 Nbd7 5 Ng5 h6 6 Ne6, Black resigns.**

**KING'S GAMBIT [C24]**

W: Johannes Sinke  
B: Joop van Oosterom  
*Netherlands CC 1980*

**1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 Nc3 c6 5 d4 Bb4 6 e5 Ne4! 7 Kf1 Nxc3 8 bxc3 Bxc3 9 Ba3 b5 10 Qg4 g6 11 Qxf4 d5 12 Qh6 Be6, White resigns.**

**SEMI-SLAV DEFENSE [D31]**

W: SM Tim Harding (2404)  
B: Erik Baan (2193)  
*ICCF Jubilee Officials 2001*

**1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 c6 4 Nf3 dxc4 5 Bg5 Qc7 6 g3 Ne7 7 e4 b5 8 Bg2 Ng6 9 0-0 h6 10 Be3 Bb7 11 Nd2 e5 12 f4 exd4 13 Bxd4 Na6 14 e5 Bc5 15 Nde4 Rd8 16 Nd6+ Bxd6 17 exd6 Rxd6 18 Ne4 Rxd4 19 Qxd4 0-0 20 Qxa7, Black resigns.**

**CORRESPONDENCE CHESS TOURNAMENT**

UPDATES FOR OCTOBER 2005  
**CONGRATULATIONS!**

**MASTER**

Humberto Cruz 2200

**CANDIDATE MASTER**

Kenneth Goebel 2009

**TOURNAMENT WINNERS**

**VICTOR PALCIAUSKAS**

John Menke 03UCMA12 6-0

**JOHN COLLINS MEMORIAL CLASS**

Albert D. Rooke 03CC52 4½-1½

M. Murray-Miller 04CB33 6-0

Robert Huiner 04CA13 4½-1½

Steve Douglas 03CM56 4½-1½

David Funston 03CM56 4½-1½

Wes Hopkins, Jr. 04CA20 5-1

Robert Foxx 03CMA47 5-1

**TROPHY QUAD**

Ronald Tardie 03QC4 6-0

Paul Snider 04QB02 6-0

**E-MAIL — SWIFT QUAD**

Joe Shipman 04SQ17 5-1

Michael Proof 04SQ20 5½-½

Jose Gonzalez-Gigato 05SQD08 6-0

Zachary Cohn 05QCD13 6-0

Kendrick Aug 04SQ27 6-0

**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 (unrateds 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 (unrateds 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**  
**\$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](http://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