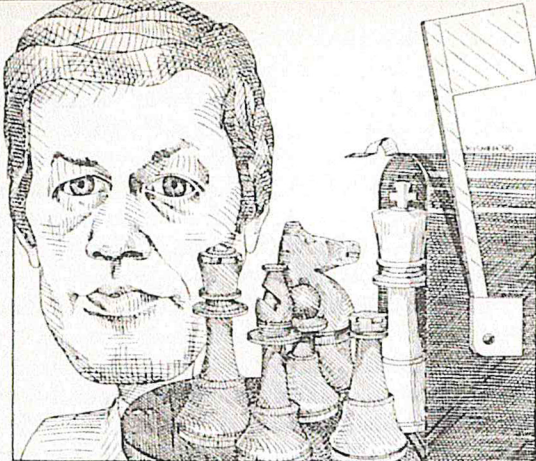




THE CHECK IS IN THE MAIL

BY NM ALEX DUNNE

International Master

Correspondence chessplayers are invited to send their comments, questions and correspondence games (with or without annotation). Because of the volume of mail submissions cannot be returned, and personal replies are not possible. Send your letters to:

Alex Dunne
Chess Life
186 Route 9W
New Windsor, NY 12553

Karl Dehmelt was awarded the title of International Correspondence Chess Master at the ICCF meeting last year in Bad Blankenburg, Germany.

Karl, who was born in 1957, started playing chess at the age of seven when his father taught him the moves. His first tournament was the Philadelphia Junior Championship of 1970. He began playing correspondence chess in 1971 in the USCF Prize Sections.

Karl began playing international postal in 1979, and met with growing successes. His first ICCF Master tournament brought him only a 6½-7½ score, but taught him something about playing internationally, for he finished his next ICCF Master tourney with a 13-1 score and first place. His next result of 11-3 was good for second place. In the XV World Championship Second Round, Karl finished with a plus score of 8½-7½.

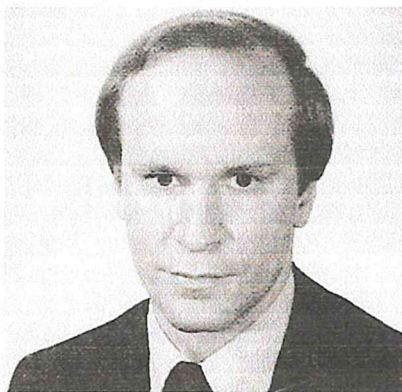
In team events, Karl has been particularly effective, scoring 7-2 on Board 3 of the North Atlantic Team Tournament II, 5½-2½ on Board 2 of the Pacific Area Team II, and is currently 5½-3½ with one game left on Board 5 of the XI Olympiad Preliminaries. Karl is currently playing in the Horowitz Memorial, the Kellner Memorial, and on Board 1 of the North American Team Tournament III.

POSTAL BEAUTY CONTEST

Is it right that beauty is so often *only* its own reward? Surely not. And thanks to the generosity of Dr. Ronald Hames, the scales of chess justice have become more evenly balanced between *how* one wins and the hard fact of victory. For now in *Chess Life*, players who conduct scintillating games will receive the Hames Correspondence Game of the Year Awards.

Resident postal editor Alex Dunne is the judge of a contest with prizes of \$100 for the best game by a master and \$100 for the best game by a non-master to appear in "The Check Is In The Mail" during a given year.

What better reason, then, to send your postal brilliancies to Alex Dunne, *Chess Life*, 186 Route 9W, New Windsor, New York 12553.



Karl Dehmelt

Karl attended the University of Pennsylvania where he gained a B.S. in engineering, with emphasis on computer science and engineering. His degree led to his employment as a senior project (control systems) programmer for Leeds and Northrup Company. The computer programs that L & N produce are for the realtime control of electric and steam power utilities, waste-water treatment plants, and clean water treatment and distribution.

Karl began playing correspondence chess in order to force himself to look at opening books every now and then (since he hates to study chess) and over the years postal chess has been a means for him to keep a little bit in practice since playing in OTB tournaments is not always possible "or recommended after a 40 hour work week leaves you mentally tired — playing in OTB can start to seem like an extension of work at times — the only difference being that at least the OTB games come to an end."

"One of my weaknesses is that at times I will follow 'book' lines too far without examining the position I am getting and then realizing that the author of the book line made an error in judgement."

Regarding the current politics in the ICCF/US, Karl has this to say: "I think Max Zavanelli has done an excellent and tremendous job in reestablishing the credibility of the US within the ICCF, and if some of the penalties that he has handed out seem harsh, then maybe they must be harsh in order to 'wake US players up' to the fact that silent withdrawals and irrational argumentative behavior is simply not acceptable."

He further notes, "I feel that my playing postal chess has made me a better OTB player and vice versa. I believe that I became a better player when I spent the summer after graduating from high school by playing chess every day against better and equal players (in particular, Tom and Rick Costigan and Boris Baczynskyj). Playing against very good players once a year, such as in the World Open, is not going to improve the level of my play. In correspondence chess, I changed to ICCF play because it seemed more interesting."

GAME OF THE MONTH

In the following ICCF game, Karl demonstrates how to make pieces dance across oceans. Black is Michael Alcock on Board 3 for Great Britain.

SICILIAN DEFENSE

Moscow Variation

W: Karl Dehmelt (2460)

B: Michael Alcock (2360)

North American Team Tournament II

(Notes based on those by Dehmelt)

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Bb5 +

A favorite of the Costigan brothers, the Moscow Variation seeks to exchange off light-squared Bishops before occupying the light squares with pawns.

3. ... Bd7

Black can better frustrate his opponent's design with 3. ... Nd7.

4. Bxd7+ Qxd7 5. 0-0 Nc6 6. c3 Nf6 7. d4 Nxe4 8. d5 Nb8 9. Re1 Nf6 10. Bg5 Na6 11. c4 Nc7 12. Nc3

All of this is book, notes Karl. He couldn't find Black's twelfth move anywhere, so the reader is invited to see if he can discover the refutation of Black's dubious TN.

12. ... e5!?

