



INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE CHESS FEDERATION

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Press Release

John R. Menke Sr. Earns the ICCF IM Title

John R. Menke Sr. has earned the title of Correspondence International Master (IM), as confirmed via email from International Correspondence Chess Federation (ICCF) Qualifications Commissioner, Neil Limbert. John's Medal and Title Certificate will be awarded at the ICCF Congress to be held in October in Antalya, Turkey.

John achieved his two norms in Email Jubilee Quarterfinal 02 (EM/J50Q/02) and in Jubilee Email Semifinal 04 (EM/J50SF/04). In both events he surpassed the IM norm standard by 1/2-point. The crosstables of those tournaments can be located via the following links:

<http://tables.iccf.com/email/j50quarter/j50q02.htm>

and

<http://www.iccf-webchess.com/EventCrossTable.aspx?id=8798>

The following game is presented as a marvelous example of John's deep understanding of the game. It comes from the 14th USCCC Final where John finished third. In this contest he gets the better of GM-to-be Ed Duliba. After Ed sees a way to win an exchange, John is able to use his superior piece placement and command of space to maintain a dynamic balance. The ensuing battle is a creative foray of threats where Menke forces the creation of weaknesses in black's position, marshals the black pieces into a state of passivity and then penetrates into the enemy camp with pawns to cut the black piece communication.

[ECOCode "A30"]

[Opening "Symmetrical English"]

[Event "14th US Correspondence Chess Championship Final"]

[Site "ICCF-US Email"]

[StartDate "30.Sep.2002"]

[White "Menke, John R. Sr. (USA)"]

[Black "Duliba, Edward P. (USA) SIM"]

[Result "1-0"]

[WhiteElo "2362"]

[BlackElo "2545"]

1.Nf3 c5 2.c4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e6 4.g3 b6 5.Bg2 Bb7 the Double Fianchetto variation 6.0-0 Be7 7.Re1 d5 8.cxd5 Nxd5 9.e4 Nxc3 10.bxc3 0-0 11.d4 Nd7 12.Bf4 Nf6 [12...cxd4 13.cxd4 Nf6 (13...Rc8 14.d5 exd5 15.exd5 Bf6 16.Rc1 Rxc1 17.Bxc1 Qa8 18.Ng5 h6 19.Nh3 Re8 20.Rxe8+ Qxe8 21.Nf4 Nc5 22.Be3 Be5 23.Nd3 Nxd3

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24.Qxd3 Bd6 25.h3 Qd7 26.Kh2 Be5 27.Bd4 Bxd4 28.Qxd4 Qd6 29.Qa4 g6 30.f4 Kf8 31.h4 a5 32.Qd4 h5 33.Bf3 ½-½ Knobel,R (2567)–Kupsys,A (2577)/Switzerland 2003/OM Corr) 14.Ne5 Bb4 (14...Rc8 15.Qa4 a6 16.Rad1 b5 17.Qb3 Re8 18.d5 exd5 19.exd5 Bd6 20.Re3 Qc7 21.Rde1 h5 22.Nc6 Rxe3 23.Rxe3 Bxc6 24.Bxd6 Bxd5 25.Bxd5 Qxd6 26.Bxf7+ Kh8 27.Re1 Rf8 28.Be6 Re8 29.Qc3 ½-½ Akesson,R (2556)–Joao,N (2515)/ICCF Email 2002) 15.Re3 Rc8 16.d5 exd5 17.exd5 Bd6 18.Nc6 Bxc6 19.Bxd6 Ba4 20.Bxf8 Bxd1 21.Be7 Qc7 22.Rxd1 Nd7 23.Bh3 h6 24.Bf5 b5 25.Bb4 Rd8 26.Re7 Qc4 27.Rxd7 Rxd7 28.Bxd7 Qxb4 29.d6 Qa4 30.Rd3 Qe4 31.Bxb5 Qe1+ 32.Kg2 Qe4+ 33.Kg1 Qe1+ 34.Kg2 Qe4+ 35.Kf1 Qh1+ 36.Ke2 Qe4+ 37.Kf1 Qh1+ 38.Ke2 Qe4+ 39.Kd1 Qg4+ 40.f3 Qh3 41.d7 1-0 Kramnik,V (2765)–Anand,V (2735)/Las Palmas 1996] **13.Qd3 cxd4 14.cxd4 Bb4 15.e5** [15.Nd2 Rc8 16.Rec1 Rxc1+ 17.Rxc1 Qa8 18.f3 Rc8 19.Nc4 Ba6 20.Bf1 Rd8 21.Qb3 Bf8 22.Be3 Rc8 23.Rc2 Qb7 24.Bd3 Qe7 25.Qa4 Bxc4 26.Rxc4 Rxc4 27.Bxc4 Nd5 28.Bd2 Nf6 29.Kf1 Ne8 30.Bd3 g6 31.Ke2 Nd6 32.Bf4 Qc7 33.Bd2 Qe7 34.e5 Nf5 35.g4 Ng7 36.Be1 Qc7 37.Kd1 Be7 38.Bd2 Kf8 39.Be4 f6 40.Qc6 Qxc6 41.Bxc6 Ne8 42.Bh6+ Ng7 43.Ke2 Kf7 44.Be3 fxe5 45.dxe5 Ne8 46.f4 Nc7 47.Kf3 Na6 48.Bb5 Nb4 49.Bc4 Nc6 50.Ke4 Na5 51.Ba6 Bc5 52.Bd2 Nc6 53.f5 gxf5+ 54.gxf5 exf5+ 55.Kxf5 Ne7+ 56.Ke4 Kg6 57.Bb5 Kf7 58.Bg5 Ba3 59.Bc4+ Kg6 60.Bf6 Bb4 61.Kf4 h6 62.Ke4 Ba3 63.Bh4 Bc5 64.Bg3 Kg7 65.Kf4 Kg6 66.Bd3+ Kg7 67.Kg4 Be3 68.Bh4 Kf7 69.Bc4+ Kf8 70.Bf6 Bd4 71.Kf4 Bb2 72.Ke4 Ba3 73.e6 Bd6 74.Be5 Bxe5 75.Kxe5 Kg7 76.Bd3 Nc8 77.a4 Ne7 78.Bb5 Nc8 79.Ba6 Ne7 80.Bd3 Nc8 81.Ba6 Ne7 82.Kd6 Kf6 83.Bc4 Nf5+ 84.Kd7 Ne7 85.Kc7 Ke5 86.Bb3 Nf5 87.Kb7 Kd6 88.Kxa7 Kc7 89.Ka6 Kc6 90.Bd1 Ne7 91.Bf3+ Kc7 92.Kb5 Nf5 93.Bg4 Nd6+ 94.Kb4 Kd8 95.Kc3 Ke7 96.Kd4 Nb7 97.Kc4 Kd6 98.Kb5 Nc5 99.h4 h5 100.Bh3 Ke7 101.a5 Nxe6 102.Kxb6 Nf4 103.a6 Nd5+ 104.Kb7 Kd8 105.a7 Nc7 106.Bf1 Kd7 107.Be2 1-0 Anand,V (2725)–Tiviakov,S (2625)/Wijk aan Zee 1996] **15...Nd5 16.Ng5 g6 17.Bd2 Ba6 18.Qc2 Rc8 19.Qb2 Bc3 20.Bxc3 Nxc3 21.Qd2 Ne2+ 22.Rxe2 Bxe2 23.Ne4** black has won an exchange but the specter of knight on the 6th balances the material deficit **23...Bc4 24.Rc1 b5 25.a4 Kg7 26.Nd6** the proverbial bone in the throat **26...Rb8 27.Bb7 Qb6 28.a5!** The black rooks are being dominated by the white minor pieces. The black a-pawn will become a permanent target and the black back rank pieces will provide no defensive role. **28...Qd8 29.a6 f6 30.Qe3 Kh8 31.Nxc4 bxc4 32.Rxc4 Qe7 33.Rc6** [33.exf6 Qxf6 34.Rc7 Rbd8 35.d5 exd5 36.Qxa7=] **33...Rbd8 34.h4 f5 35.Qf4 Qb4 36.Rd6 Kg8 37.Bc6 Rxd6 38.exd6 Kf7** inaccurate [38...Qc3 39.Bb7 Qe1+ 40.Kh2 Rd8 41.Bc6 Qe2 42.d7 Kf7 seems a better try] **39.h5 Rd8 40.d7 Qb8 41.Qh6** white obviously wants no part of a queen trade **41...Rh8 42.Bb7 Kf6** [42...Qf8 43.Qe3 Qb8 44.d5! e5 45.Qc5±; 42...Qd8 43.d5 e5 44.Qe3 Qb8 45.Qc5 e4 46.d6±] **43.d5 e5 44.Qc1 Qd6** [no better is 44...Rf8 45.Qc6+ Kg5 46.Qc5±] **45.Qe3 Qb8 46.Qc5** using the weak a-pawn as a target, the queen seizes the key c5 square **46...gxh5 47.Qc6+ Kg7 48.Qe6 Qf8** [if 48...h4, black severs communications with 49.d6 hxg3 50.Qxe5+ Kg6 51.fxg3] **49.d6 e4 50.f3 e3 51.Qe7+ Kg6 52.f4 Qd8 53.Kf1** [53.Qe6+! Kg7 54.Qxe3] **53...h4 54.gxh4 Rf8 55.Qe6+ Kg7 56.h5 1-0 (Rizzo)**