

Jonathan Penrose: England's double grandmaster on his CC career

DR JONATHAN Penrose is second on the ICCF rating list at 2711, and is one of the elite band of players to hold both the FIDE and ICCF grandmaster titles. His CC achievements include first place in the BPCF Jubilee and Julius Nielsen Memorials, a gold medal on top board for England in Olympiad Final IX and third place in the 13th World Championship Final.

His distinguished OTB career included ten wins in the British Championship, breaking the record long held by H.E. Atkins, although he failed by one to equal Atkins's other record of seven consecutive victories. Penrose's win against Tal in the last round of the 1960 Leipzig olympiad was the only game lost by the Latvian genius between his two matches against Botvinnik. However, he rarely played individual tournaments outside Britain, otherwise the GM title would probably have come much sooner.

Most of 1950s was spent studying psychology culminating in a doctorate, which led to university teaching from the early 1960s, with chess fitted in during the holidays. Always an amateur, Penrose was the leading player in England for 20 years until he was taken ill at the board at the 1970 Siegen Olympiad. A few years later, he took up CC with immediate success.

The late Dr Charles Hunter, a stalwart of English CC teams at this time, and Hugh Alexander, who had switched to CC in the 1960s, started to persuade Dr Penrose in 1971 that it might be interesting to try postal play. However, it was a few years before he actually had a go, and he made his debut in the BPCF v Finland friendly

Interview by Tim Harding

match that began on January 3, 1975.

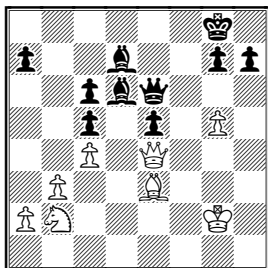
The English board order for this 30-board match was a bit strange. Dr Hunter was on board 1 (fair enough), with 69-year-old Graham Mitchell (who had played in the 1st CC World Championship Final) on board 3 but why was Penrose placed on board 4 and a certain Tim Harding on board 2? Peter Markland, who had played in the 1970-71 Hastings Premier and was later to become a CC-GM also, was down on board 10.

Evidently, the British team selectors put too high a premium on CC experience. Hunter had told Penrose: "You'll find it quite difficult...it's a different game", so he was happy to start on a lower board.

It is typical of this modest man not to argue about board orders. In September 1972 I had to play higher than usual on the Oxfordshire team because term had not yet begun for the undergraduates, but one didn't expect to meet on board 2 in an OTB match a player who had won his last British Championship just three years previously. (Naturally, I soon lost.)

In this case, the player concerned was Ernest Klein (1951 British champion) who was making a brief comeback for Essex on condition that he played board 1. This Viennese-born master had been involved in a BBC v Norway radio CC match in 1952 against Olaf Barda. Each night at 11.30 the latest move was announced on

the radio but after 38 moves the following position arose, with Klein (White) two pawns down.



Now the BBC voice announced that “Due to pressure of work, Mr Klein has had to withdraw from the game...” Klein had unsportingly refused either to play on or to resign. “He de-Kleined to continue”, as it was joked at the time.

Debut at CC

To return to the debut match, probably the Finns were not fooled as they put their highest rated player, Jorma Äijälä, on board 4. It did them no good as Penrose won both games comfortably. The following is the better game, and previously unpublished.

English Opening (A33)

Jorma Äijälä (FIN) -

Jonathan Penrose (ENG)

Great Britain-Finland, corr 1975

(Notes by Tim Harding)

1 c4 c5 2 ♖c3 ♖c6 3 ♜f3 ♜f6 4 d4 cxd4 5 ♝xd4 e6 6 g3 ♗b6 7 ♜c2 d5 8 cxd5 exd5 9 ♙g2

9 ♝xd5 ♝xd5 10 ♗xd5 ♙e6 11 ♗e4 ♖b4 12 ♜e3 f5 13 ♗e5 ♜f7 14 ♙g2 ♙d6 15 ♗c3 ♗ac8 with excellent compensation for the pawn (Beliavsky-D.Gurevich, USSR 1975).

Personal facts

Jonathan Penrose PhD

Born October 7, 1933

(Colchester, England)

OBE for services to chess 1971

Living Hertfordshire (England)

Taught psychology at Middlesex University (now retired)

FIDE IM 1961, GM 1993

Career includes 10 British Championship victories and wins against Bogoljubow and Tartakower (at age 16), Euwe, Tal, Larsen, O’Kelly and Portisch, and the better of a draw with Fischer.

Also achieved record 50 wins for England in nine FIDE Olympiads (mostly on board 1).

ICCF IM 1980, GM 1983

Highest-rated ICCF player for several years (rating was 2725 at one time).

Career includes 5 games with ICCF world champions: loss to Umansky, win against Baumbach and draws with Öim, Palciauskas and Zagorovsky.

Final CC career record (not counting annulled games):

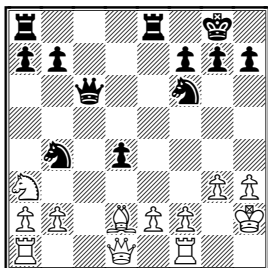
+46 =25 -4 (78%).

9...d4 10 ♖b1 ♙c5 11 0-0 0-0 12 ♜e1 ♗e8 13 h3 ♙f5 14 ♖d3 ♖b4 15 ♜xc5 ♗xc5

The position has similarities to a Tarrasch Defence. White has obtained the ♙ pair but it is only temporary. His

queenside development is backward so he is unable to prevent ...♗e4.

16 ♖a3 ♗e4 17 ♗d2 ♗xg2 18 ♝xg2 ♝c6+ 19 ♝h2



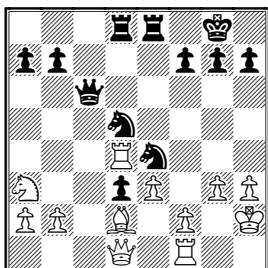
19...d3 20 e3

An admission of failure, but after 20 exd3 (not 20 ♗xb4? dxe2) 20...♗xd3 Black's knights, supported by the rooks, create threats on both wings.

20...♗bd5 21 ♖c1 ♝d7 22 ♖c4 ♗e4!? 23 ♝g2 ♖ad8 24 ♖d4 ♝c6

This sets up a masked battery on the long diagonal in preparation for the final combination.

25 ♝h2?



25 ♖c4 looks somewhat better: 25... ♝g6 (25...♝f6 26 ♖d4) 26 ♖d4? (but better 26 ♗b5 or ♗b1) 26...♗f4+.

25...♗xe3!?

This piece sacrifice, although sound, is not necessary as 25...♗xd2 26 ♝xd2 ♗xe3 also wins. However, White might fight on with rook and knight against queen in the line 27 ♝xe3 (27 fxe3?? ♖xd4) 27...♖xe3 28 ♖xd8+ ♖e8 29 ♖xd3.

26 ♗xe3 ♖xd4 27 ♗xd4 ♗g5! 28 h4

28 ♗xa7 ♗f3+ 29 ♝h1 d2.

28...♗f3+ 29 ♝h3 g5 30 ♗e3?

This loses instantly, but Black has a technically easy win after 30 ♝xd3 g4+ 31 ♝xg4 ♗h2+ 32 ♝h3 ♗xf1 33 ♝xf1 ♝d7+ and ...♝xd4.

30...g4+ 0-1.

After that warm-up against Finland, in 1977 Dr Penrose began CC Olympiad Final VIII, still down on board 4! He massacred the 'innocents' +11 -0 =1 (with Manfred Kahn of East Germany) and thus set up one of the world's highest CC-Elos when ICCF began publishing ratings. This also earned him the CC-IM title.

When we last met, for a long chat in London last November, I naturally asked Dr Penrose how he had found the CC opposition compared with OTB in this early time of his CC career. "On the whole, they were weaker, obviously," he replied, though "possibly this is because I wasn't on board one".

Penrose was, of course, used to playing the top British players and the top boards of other countries in OTB events

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John C. Knudsen

Email: knudsen@correspondencechess.com

like FIDE Olympiads and the Clare Benedict team tournament and world championship zonals.

After the Olympiad VIII result, England had to play him on board 1 Olympiads IX and X he had more draws. "It is hard to win with Black in CC" and he was usually happy to get a draw in those games.

Distinguished family

When you talk with Jonathan Penrose, you get the impression he is very English but in fact one of his grandparents was Irish and another was Latvian: maybe this accounts for the extra touch of flair in his play!

In fact he comes from a very distinguished family. His father was Lionel Penrose, a renowned geneticist and his uncle Roland Penrose was very much involved in modern art and the surrealist movement. He knew Duchamp and Jonathan also met him once in London, "so I was very interested to read your article about Duchamp".

One of his brothers, Roger Penrose, is the author of the book *The Emperor's New Mind* which attacks the idea that computers can be intelligent, but you sometimes have to be an expert in maths to understand it. "I wish he would write something a little easier to read."

Jonathan's other elder brother, Oliver, was also a mathematician and expert chess player in his youth.

If you want more facts about Jonathan's early life and OTB career, I refer you to the interview by Jimmy Adams which appeared in the August and October 1998 issues of *Chess Monthly*.

I believe that Penrose could have become CC World Champion if he had begun just a few years earlier, rather than continuing OTB play with diminishing returns in the early 1970s. Then he could

have played in World Championship Final XI or XII which (while no pushover) were perhaps not quite as strong as Final XIII; moreover, he would have been a few years younger at the crucial time.

He agrees that maybe after breaking Atkins' record would have been a good time to stop OTB and start CC, and then he might have done even better.

Returning to Olympiad VIII, Penrose's brilliant result on board 4 helped the English team to take third place. IM George Botterill wrote in the book *British Chess* that the next game changed the assessment of a sharp Sicilian variation.

Sicilian (B33)

**Jonathan Penrose (ENG) -
Kjell Krantz (SVE)**

CCOL8 final, bd. 4 1977

**1 e4 c5 2 ♟f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♟xd4
♟f6 5 ♟c3 ♟c6 6 ♟db5 d6 7 ♟f4 e5 8
♟g5 a6 9 ♟a3 ♟e6**

The old Bird/Larsen line that was soon to be superseded.

**10 ♟c4 ♟c8 11 ♟xf6 gxf6 12 ♟e3 ♟e7
13 ♟d3 ♟b6 14 0-0 ♟xb2?!**

Suggested by Larsen in *Skakbladet* (1963).

15 ♟cd5 ♟xd5 16 exd5 ♟d4 17 ♟b1!

If 17 ♟f3 ♟f4 (17...♟xd5? 18 ♟xd5
♟xd5 19 ♟b5+) 18 ♟h3 (Lombardy-

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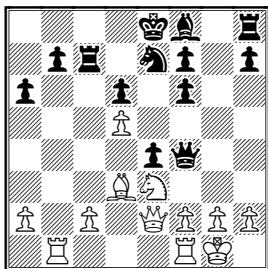
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Markland, Nice ol 1974) 18...♖h6! 19 ♖g4 ♗f4 according to *Chess Monthly*.

17...♖c7

If 17...b5 18 a4! Δ 18...♖xa4 19 ♖a1 followed by ♖xa6.

18 ♖f3 ♗f4 19 ♖e2! e4?!



20 ♖xa6! bxa6 21 ♖b8+ ♖c8

Botterill commented: “It is easy to see that the piece sacrifice is amply justified by the fact that Black’s king’s rook and king’s bishop cannot communicate with the other side of the board.”

22 ♗xa6 ♖d8 23 ♖fb1 ♗e5 24 ♖xc8+! ♖xc8 25 ♗a5+ ♗e8

25...♖c7 26 ♖b8+ ♖d7 27 ♗b5+.

26 ♗a4+ ♖d8 27 ♖b7 1-0.

The only way to avoid mate is 27...♗e7 28 ♖xe7 “leading to an obviously disastrous endgame” — Botterill. If 27...♖c7 28 ♖b8+ ♖c8 29 ♗a5+ ♖d7 30 ♖b7+ soon mates or 27...♗a1+ 28 ♖f1 ♖c7 29 ♖b8+ ♖c8 30 ♗a5+ ♖d7 31 ♖b7+.

Here is the previously unpublished game against GM Yudovich, which illustrates Penrose’s handling of the Queen’s Gambit Accepted that brought him a lot of points.

QGA (D29)

Mikhail Yudovich sr. (USSR) – Jonathan Penrose (ENG)

CCOL8 final, bd. 4, 1977–82

1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4 3 ♖f3 a6

His favourite move order. 3... ♖f6 4 e3 c5 5 ♖xc4 e6 6 0–0 a6 is the normal route.

4 e3 e6 5 ♖xc4 ♖f6

In later games Penrose preferred 5...c5 first and if 6 0–0 ♖f6, or 6 ♖e2 b5 7 ♖b3 ♖f6 8 0–0 transposing.

6 0–0 c5 7 ♖e2 b5 8 ♖b3 ♖b7 9 ♖d1 ♖bd7 10 ♖c3 ♗c7 11 e4 cxd4 12 ♖xd4 ♖c5 13 ♖g5

Two of Penrose’s opponents later preferred 13 ♖e3. Another game went 13 a3 0–0 14 ♖e3 ♖fd8 (instead of 14...♖ad8 with some advantage to White according to Neishtadt’s book on the QGA) 15 f3 ♖e5 16 ♖c2 ♖fd7 17 ♖a2 ♖b6 18 ♖xc5 ♗xc5+ 19 ♖e3 ♗c7 20 ♖e1 ♖bc4 21 ♗f2 ♖xa3 and Black eventually cashed in his extra pawn in Santoro–Penrose, CCOL 10 final.

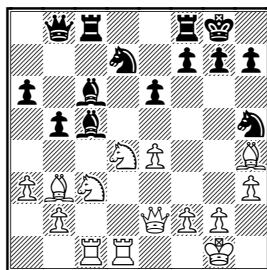
13...0–0 14 ♖ac1 ♗b6

Not in Neishtadt’s book.

15 ♖f3 ♖c6 16 h3 ♖ac8 17 ♖h4 ♗b8 18 a3

Later, Danner–Penrose, Nielsen Memorial, went 18 ♖h1 ♖h5 19 ♖d4 ♖xd4 20 ♗xh5 ♖f6 21 ♖e2 ♗f4 22 ♖g3 ♗h6 23 f3 ♖h5 24 ♖h2 ♖fd8 ½–½.

18...♖h5 19 ♖d4



19...♖xd4! 20 ♗xh5

Not 20 ♖xd4?? as 20...♗f4 forks the c1–♖ and h4–♖. So White loses the initiative.

20...♖f6 21 ♖e2 ♗f4 22 ♖g3 ♗g5 23 ♖e1 ♖c5 24 ♖h2 ♖fe8

BPCF-20 Jubilee			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	Pts.
1	Dr. Jonathan Penrose	ENG		1	½	1	½	½	½	½	1	1	1	1	1	9½
2	Simon Webb	ENG	0	■	½	0	1	1	1	1	1	½	1	1	9	
3	Haije Kramer	NLD	½	½	■	1	1	½	1	½	½	½	½	1	8	
4	Nigel Povah	ENG	0	1	0	■	1	0	½	1	½	½	1	½	7	
5	Adrian S. Hollis	ENG	½	0	0	0	■	½	½	1	1	1	½	1	6½	
6	Francisek Brglez	YUG	½	0	½	1	½	■	0	½	½	½	½	1	6	
7	John K. Footner	ENG	½	0	0	½	½	1	■	½	½	0	1	½	6	
8	Hermann Heemsoth	GER	½	0	½	0	½	½	½	■	½	1	½	1	6	
9	Harry Åhman	SVE	0	0	½	½	0	½	½	½	■	½	½	½	4½	
10	K.D. Mulder v. Leens Dijkstra	NLD	0	0	½	½	0	½	1	0	½	■	½	½	4½	
11	Ing. Paul Diaconescu	ROM	0	½	½	0	0	0	½	0	½	½	■	½	4	
12	Dr. Klaus Engel	GER	0	0	½	0	½	½	0	0	½	½	½	■	3½	
13	Jozef Boey	BEL	0	0	0	½	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	■	3½	
14	Lucius Endzelins	AUS								deceased					-	
15	Peter H. Clarke	ENG								retired, ill					-	

A good waiting move, possibly preparing ...e5 in some lines. Black doesn't want to reduce the pressure by an exchange of rooks on the d-file. White's reply concedes the bishop pair.

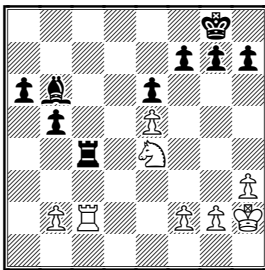
25 e5 ♖h5 26 ♗e2 ♜e7 27 ♗d3 ♜xg3
28 ♜xg3 ♗a8 29 ♖c2 ♗b6 30 ♖e2
♗ed8 31 ♗xd8+ ♜xd8 32 ♜b4 ♜d4
33 ♜e7 ♜f4 34 ♜b4

This leads to a lost endgame.

If 34 ♗xe6 ♖f8 (or maybe 34...♗c5) and White will lose his f-pawn.

34...♜xb4 35 axb4 ♗d8 36 ♗c2 ♗d4
37 ♗e4 ♗xe4 38 ♜xe4 ♗xb4 39 ♖c2
♖c4 0-1.

See diagram. Adjudicated won for Black.



Becoming a GM

In 1981, Penrose began his first individual CC event — the BPCF Jubilee tournament, which still has not been properly documented as no book appeared and many games are unavailable.

This began as a 15-player tournament, but was reduced to 13 players at an early stage. Two games don't count for his career record: Endzelins died and CC-GM Peter Clarke (whose best man Penrose had been in 1962) retired, unwell, before any moves were played.

Curiously, Penrose and Clarke both married chess players named Margaret Wood. Peter Clarke's wife (known as "Peggy") is the daughter of the late B.H. Wood of Chess, Sutton Coldfield; she still plays CC.

Penrose married the daughter of Frank Wood, whom I remember as the excellent organiser of Oxfordshire junior chess in the 1960s; he is happily still alive and well. The Penroses are now divorced, "but we are still friendly". They have two grown-up daughters, Katy and Harriet.

The BPCF event developed into a race between two of the English contingent

and Penrose's score of 9½/12 (*not* 9½/14 as stated in *Chess Monthly*) was just enough for clear first.

"Towards the end of the BPCF Jubilee, TD Reg Gillman did warn me that Webb was getting a good score and I should play for wins, but it didn't matter as I was winning my two remaining games anyway."

As a result of this tournament, ICCF awarded Penrose the CC-GM title in 1983 but he had to wait another ten years before the FIDE congress completed the double. Note (that unlike Golombek's case) this was not an honorary GM title, but earned by results.

The British Chess Federation had tried to prove much earlier that Penrose had qualified but Leonard Barden, supported by Lothar Schmid, demonstrated that the Varna (1962) and Lugano (1968) olympiads and the 1963 Enschede zonal had been genuine GM results for Penrose.

In the BPCF tournament, Penrose won what he described as perhaps "my most enjoyable CC game".

Sicilian, Keres Attack (B81)

Simon Webb (ENG) -

Jonathan Penrose (ENG)

BPCF Jubilee corr, 1981

(Notes by Penrose)

1 e4 c5 2 ♟f3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♞xd4 ♟f6 5 ♞c3 d6 6 g4 ♞c6 7 g5 ♞d7 8 ♞db5 ♞db8

A satisfying move to be able to make.

9 a4 a6 10 ♞a3 ♟e7 11 ♞c4 ♟e5 12 h4

12 ♞xe5 dxe5 and Black has a comfortable game, controlling all the central squares.

12...♞bc6 13 ♟e3 ♞xc4

Necessary, to stop an invasion on b6.

14 ♟xc4 ♟d7 15 f4 ♟a5

To discourage queenside castling — but also White's next move is not without risk.

16 0-0

Where else to put the ♞? Webb suggested 16 ♞d2 b5 17 ♞b3.

16...h6 17 ♟e2 hxg5 18 hxg5 f5

To confront White's centre. 18...f6 would be answered by 19 f5.

19 ♟d3

To counter the threat of 19...fxe4 20 ♞xe4 d5.

If 19 exf5 ♟xf5 with possibilities of ...♟h3.

19...d5 20 exf5 exf5 21 ♟fe1

To meet 21...d4 with 22 ♞xd4.

21...0-0-0

21...d4 is now a major threat.

22 ♟b5

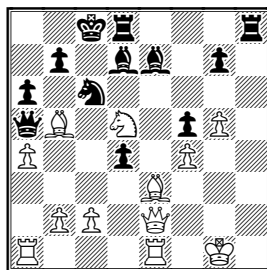
A brave attempt to complicate in a difficult position.

22...d4

22...axb5 23 axb5 regains the piece with counterplay on the a-file.

23 ♞d5

The point.



23...dxe3 24 ♟xc6 ♟c5

The only way to keep the initiative for Black.

25 ♟xd7+ ♟xd7 26 ♟ed1

26 ♞c4 allows 26...♞d2!.

26...♟h4

The remaining moves of the game needed to be worked out at this moment!

27 b4

A last attempt to confuse the issue but

CC Olympiad IX Fin. bd1		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Pts.
1.	Penrose, Dr J. ENG		½	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	5
2.	Maeder, K-H. BRD	½	■	½	½	½	½	1	1	½	5
3.	Zagorovsky, V.P. USSR	½	½	■	0	1	0	1	1	0	4
4.	Gasiorowski, R. POL	½	½	1	■	½	0	1	1	0	4½
5.	Pereira, Alvaro POR	½	½	0	½	■	½	½	½	1	4
6.	Bang, Erik DEN	½	½	1	1	½	■	½	1	½	5½
7.	Haag, Eugen HUN	½	0	0	0	½	½	■	½	0	2
8.	Anton, Aurel ROM	0	0	0	0	½	0	½	■	½	1½
9.	Vukcevic, B. YUG	0	½	1	1	0	½	1	½	■	4½

Black carries on with his plan regardless.

27...♖d8 28 ♖c4

28 bxc5 ♗xd5 is also better for Black.

28...♗h8 29 ♖xc5+ ♖b8 30 ♖f1

If 30 ♗xe3 ♗h1+ 31 ♖f2 ♖h4+ 32 ♖e2 ♗h2+ while 30 ♖xe3 leads to the same finish as in the game.

30...♗h2 31 ♖xe3 ♗h1+ 0-1.

Olympiad glory

Starting about a year after the BPCF event, but taking much longer to complete (1982-87), was the Final of the 9th CC Olympiad. This olympiad was nominally won by Great Britain as it was prior to Scotland and Wales having separate full membership of ICCF. However, it was in effect an English team which won.

Always a good team player, Penrose feels this was the peak of his CC career: The team scored 33½/48, three and a half points clear of West Germany with the USSR third. They lost 2-4 to the USSR but won all their other seven matches.

“All members of the team did well: every member of the team made a plus score.”

In fact, three of them were unbeaten. Penrose scored +2 =6, Adrian Hollis +4 =4, Simon Webb +5 -1 =2, John Footner also +5 -1 =2, John Toothill +3 -1 =4 and Chris Shephard +3 =5.

See the board crosstable, which shows the players in the finishing order of their

teams. Dr Penrose had the second best result.

He was now meeting players closer to his own level and his +6 =2 -0 result was very solid rather than spectacular. Both wins have already been published elsewhere by me: the game with Anton (Romania) in *BCM (June 1998)* and the one against Vukcevic (Yugoslavia) in my book *Winning At Correspondence Chess*.

Round about this time, Penrose also experienced his first loss at CC, in a relatively unimportant event. He played for Essex in the 1981-82 Ward Higgs inter-county tournament, winning against D.V. Mardle, but in the same competition in 1984, he was beaten in a nice anti-Sicilian attack by Trevor Thomas from

In our next issue

Alexander Alekhine's CC career

CC in Latin-America: news & games

Forgotten Finnish invitationals

In issue 5:

Gambit Special, featuring Counter Gambits and readers' games

PLUS an interview with Andres Valverde, the father of the email CC program Ectool

Julius Nielsen Memorial			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Pts.
1	Penrose, Dr. J.	ENG		½	1	1	1	½	½	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	11½
2	Ekebjærg, Ove C.	DEN	½	■	½	½	½	1	½	1	½	½	1	1	1	1	9½
3	Shephard, C.C.W	ENG	0	½	■	0	½	½	½	½	1	1	1	1	½	1	8
4	Mohrlok, Dieter A.	GER	0	½	1	■	1	½	½	0	½	½	0	1	1	1	7½
5	Stern, Dieter	GER	0	½	½	0	■	0	0	1	1	1	1	½	1	1	7½
6	Danner, Georg	OST	½	0	½	½	1	■	1	½	½	1	0	0	1	½	7
7	Helsloot, Jan S	NLD	½	½	½	½	1	0	■	½	½	1	½	½	0	1	7
8	Hyldkrog, Lars	DEN	0	0	½	1	0	½	½	■	0	½	1	1	1	1	7
9	Smit, Dick	NLD	0	½	0	½	0	½	½	1	■	½	1	0	½	1	6
10	Ingerslev, Aage	DEN	0	½	0	½	0	0	0	½	½	■	1	1	½	1	5½
11	Sørensen, Arne	DEN	0	0	0	1	0	1	½	0	0	0	■	1	1	1	5½
12	Breazu, Mihai	ROM	0	0	0	0	½	1	½	0	1	0	0	■	½	1	4½
13	Koskinen, O Ili	FIN	0	0	½	0	0	0	1	0	½	½	0	½	■	1	4
14	Strand, Torger	NOR	0	0	0	0	0	½	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	■	½

Reading: “an underestimated player” he observes.

Apart from that game, “normal service” continued with the Julius Nielsen Memorial organised by Denmark from 1985–88, won by Penrose with a convincing +10 =3 –0, two points clear of the runner-up, Ekebjærg. In this event, too, there was a withdrawal: Penrose was thinking of offering a draw to Kosenkov when suddenly the Russian retired and his games were cancelled.

Sicilian (B27)

Jonathan Penrose (ENG) – Mihai Breazu (ROM)

Julius Nielsen Memorial, 1985–88

(Notes by Tim Harding)

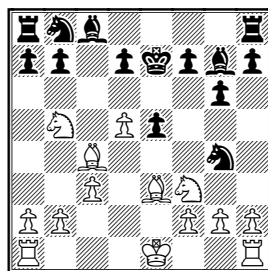
1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 g6 3 d4 ♙g7 4 dxc5 ♗a5+ 5 c3 ♗xc5 6 ♙e3 ♗c7 7 ♙d4 e5!?

Better 7...♖f6, as played in Koskinen–Ekebjærg from the same event.

8 ♙e3 ♖f6 9 ♖a3 ♖g4

Not 9...0–0 10 ♖b5 ♗c6 11 ♖xe5 ♗xe4 12 ♖xf7!± Maric–Tringov, Bar 1977. 9...♖xe4 10 ♖b5 ♗c6 11 ♖xa7 ♗c7 12 ♖b5 should also favour White, although Black survived in Bryson–Dunnington, Roth–erham 1997.

10 ♖b5 ♗c6 11 ♙c4 ♗e7 12 ♗d5 ♗xd5 13 exd5!±



13...d6

13...♖xe3 14 fxe3 ♖a6 15 d6+ ♗f8 16 0–0 is very depressing so Black decides to give up the exchange instead.

14 ♖c7 ♖xe3 15 fxe3 ♙f5 16 ♖xa8 ♖d7 17 ♖d2 ♗c8 18 ♙e2 ♖c5 19 ♖b6 axb6 20 a4 ♖d3+ 21 ♙xd3 ♙xd3 22 ♗a3 ♗d7 23 ♗f2 e4 24 ♗b3 ♗c7 25 ♗b4 f5 26 ♖b3 b5 27 ♖c1 ♙c4 28 ♗d1

If 28 axb5 ♗b6 and ...♙xb5 (tournament book).

28...♗b6 29 ♖e2 ♙e5 30 ♖d4 ♗a5

30...♙xd4 31 ♗xd4 (tournament book).

31 ♖xb5 h5 32 ♖a7 ♗c7 33 ♖c6+ bxc6 34 ♗xc4 c5 35 ♗b1 1–0.

The next event to start (1988) was the 10th Olympiad Final, with Penrose again on board 1.

This time England finished second, in a very close fight for the medals, and Penrose scored +4 =4 -1. The loss was probably his most difficult game, “certainly my most interesting loss”.

QGA (D20)

Hans-Ulrich Grünberg (DDR) - Jonathan Penrose (ENG)

CCOL10 final, bd.1 1988-93

(Notes by Penrose)

1 d4 d5 2 c4 dxc4 3 e4

One of the most challenging answers to the QGA. Nowadays I might prefer to answer 3...d6.

3...e5 4 dxf3 dxb4+

In the World Final two years later, I switched to 4...exd4.

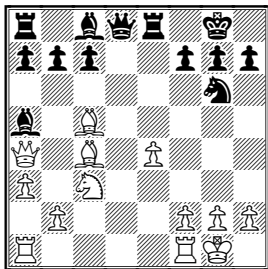
5 dxc3 exd4 6 dxd4 de7 7 dxc4 dxc6 8 de3 dxd4

8...0-0 is also possible:

a) 9 ddb5 dd7 10 a3 da5 11 b4 db6 12 dxb6 axb6 13 f4 da7 14 dxa7 dxa7 15 0-0 dh8 16 db3 de8 17 dda1 dg8 18 b5 de6 19 dex6 fxe6 20 db4 h6 21 a4 da8 22 ddc4 = Vyzmanavin-Bagirov, Podolsk 1988.

b) 9 a3 dxc3+ 10 bxc3 da5 11 de2 dg6 12 0-0 de7 13 dc2 de5 14 dfe1 b6 15 df5 dxf5 16 exf5 dfe8 17 a4 dda8 18 h3 dec4∞ Bareev-Ivanchuk, Dortmund 1988.

9 dxd4 0-0 10 a3 da5 11 0-0 dg6 12 dc5 de8 13 da4



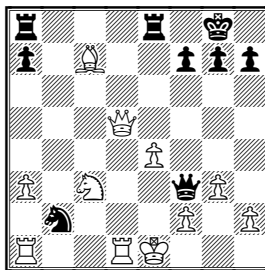
13...d3!

I played this combination early on, without analysing it out, but it didn't quite work. I put the game aside to analyse more deeply the next month but somehow was never quite able to justify the sacrifice. However, it is probably the best move in the position. If there is a mistake it may be earlier.

14 dxa5 dg5 15 g3 b6 16 dxb6 dxf6 17 dfd1 df3 18 df1 dxf1 19 dxf1 de5 20 dxc7 dh1+ 21 de2 df3+ 22 df1 dh1+ 23 de2 df3+ 24 de1! dc4

Hoping to be able to play ...dxe4! after some d moves (Hawkes).

25 dd5 dxb2



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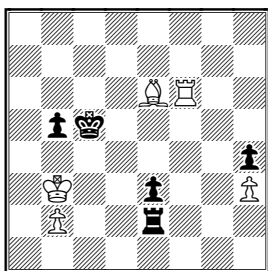
CC Olympiad X Fin. bd1		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Pts.
1 Öim, T.O.	USSR		½	½	0	1	½	0	1	½	1	5
2 Penrose, Dr. J.	ENG	½		0	1	½	½	1	1	½	1	6
3 Grünberg, H-U.	DDR	½	1		½	1	1	1	1	1	½	7½
4 Zapletal, Ing. J.	CSR	1	0	½		0	½	½	1	1	1	5½
5 Krzyszton, J.	POL	0	½	0	1		½	1	1	½	1	5
6 Palm, H.	BRD	½	½	0	½	½		1	1	½	½	5
7 Sterud, E.	NOR	1	0	0	½	0	0		½	0	0	2
8 Santoro, G.	ITA	0	0	0	0	0	0	½		0	½	1
9 Sorri, J.	FIN	½	½	0	0	½	½	1	1		0	4
10 Bouwmeester, H.	NLD	0	0	½	0	½	½	1	½	1		4

26 ♖a5! ♜ac8 27 ♜f1 ♞xd1 28 ♜xd1
 ♜xc3 29 ♖xc3 ♜xc3 30 ♜d3 ♜c1+
 31 ♜g2 g6 32 ♜b3 ♜c2 33 ♜b4 ♜e2
 34 h4 ♜g4 35 ♜b7 a5 36 ♜b5! ♜d8
 37 ♜xa5 ♜d3 38 ♜h2 ♜f3 39 ♜b8+
 ♜g7 40 ♜c5 ♜h6 41 ♜f8+ ♜h5 42
 ♜b5+ 1-0.

I spent a lot of time on this game, to no avail. A possible finish was 42...f5 43 ♜xf5+! gxf5 44 ♜f7+ ♜g4 45 ♜g7+ ♜h5 46 ♜g5# (Hawkes).

This event also featured “my best swindle”.

**Juhani Sorri (FIN) -
 Jonathan Penrose (ENG)**
 CCOL10 final-01, 1988-93



Black has just played 51... e4-e3. White made a mistake in reply:
52 ♜h6? ♜xb2+! 53 ♜xb2 ½-½.

Sorri offered a draw (good move!) and I now slightly regret accepting imm-

ediately. The position is a draw, but White could have been required to make a few careful moves in the subsequent ♜ v ♜+♜ ending.

In *CC Yearbook*, Pietro Cimmino indicated the possible continuations: 53...e2 54 ♜h5+ ♜d6 (54...♜d4 55 ♜xh4+ ♜e5 56 ♖g4 e1♜ 57 ♜h5+ ♜d4 58 ♜xb5 ♜c3+ 59 ♜a2=) 55 ♖g4 e1♜ 56 ♜xb5= as the black ♜ is cut off from approaching the white ♜.

World Championship

The BPCF approached Penrose and asked if he would like to play in World Championship Final XIII, and he accepted. Presumably he was offered the place due to his very high rating.

He has turned down invitations too. “I always made sure I only had one tournament at a time”. There was in fact some overlap between team and individual events in the 1980s, but Penrose generally seems to have played moderately fast and got several games finished quickly in all his events.

The tournament proved very tough and although Penrose was the early leader he eventually lost two games to Russian players and finished with the bronze medal.

Baubach warned at the beginning: “Watch out for Umansky!” He was the

dark horse; however, Penrose didn't take notice. He doesn't seem to have prepared for particular opponents and wasn't aware that Umansky had won the USSR CC Championship until I told him.

The event took almost nine years to complete but Penrose had finished his games by 1994. (Maybe he should have played slower?)

The game with the runner-up was tense. A crucial game between two of the favourites that affected medal positions is always of interest. These two top CC-GMs had had one previous encounter, a draw with reversed colours.

Spanish (C93)

Jonathan Penrose (ENG) - Erik Bang (DEN)

13th CC World Ch Final 1989

1 e4 e5 2 ♟f3 ♞c6 3 ♟b5

In CC, Penrose preferred the main line Spanish, though he had flirted with the Goring Gambit (1 e4 e5 2 ♟f3 ♞c6 3 d4 exd4 4 c3) in earlier years. Later he played it occasionally, e.g. in the London League, but didn't consider it suitable where opponents could consult the literature.

"It wouldn't be a surprise; the main benefit of the Goring Gambit was surprise. I never played the Evans Gambit or the King's Gambit!"

"In most cases I did play fairly orthodox lines with White. I tried to avoid the Marshall Counter Gambit at all costs, OTB too. So I had played 8 a4 against Öim".

Bang has often played the 7...0-0 move order but not followed up with a Marshall, e.g. against Metz in the Bertl von Massow Memorial.

3...a6 4 ♟a4 ♞f6 5 0-0 ♟e7 6 ♞e1 b5 7 ♟b3 0-0 8 c3 d6 9 h3 ♟b7 10 d4 ♞e8 11 ♞g5

Penrose repeated moves as he had another game he wanted to concentrate



Jonathan Penrose studies his notes to the World Championship game with Erik Bang during the interview with Tim Harding in London last November.

on at the same time, and this manoeuvre saved him from thinking about the Bang game for a week.

11...♞f8 12 ♟f3 ♞e8 13 ♞bd2 ♟f8 14 a3 h6 15 ♟c2 ♞b8 16 b4 ♞bd7 17 ♟b2 g6 18 ♞b1

So far a standard Spanish.

This line with ♞b1 seems to have been fashionable in 1988, not long before this event began.

18...♙g7 19 ♖b3 ♜c8 20 ♗a5 ♘a8 21 d5

21 axb5 axb5 22 ♗d3 transposes to the note below on 21 d5 ♖b6 22 a4 ♗d7 23 ab ab 24 ♗d3.

21...♖b6

Black often plays ...c7-c6 in this line, to activate or exchange the a8-♗, e.g. 21...c6 22 c4 (22 dxc6 ♖b6 23 a4 ♗c7 Klinger-Eisterer, 1997) 22...bxc4 23 dxc6 ♗xc6 24 ♗xc6 ♜xc6 25 ♗a4 ♜c8 26 ♗d1 ♜e6 27 ♜c1 (1-0, 58) Romanishin-G.Timoshchenko, 49th USSR Ch, Frunze 1981. So it is interesting that Bang does without the move altogether.

22 a4

22 ♗d2 ♖h5 23 a4 ♗f4 (0-1, 51) Totic-Rogic, Belgrade 1988.

22...♗d7 23 axb5 axb5 24 ♗d2

Fairly unusual, though it looks natural said Penrose. When he looked in his notebook, he found he'd spent 14 days on the move!

Alternatives include:

a) 24 ♗c1 ♖h5 25 ♗e3 ♗f4 24 ♗c1 ♖h5 25 ♗e3 ♗f4 (draw, 75) Short-Hjartarson, Tilburg 1988;

b) 24 ♗d3 ♖h5 25 c4 bxc4 26 ♗xc4 ♗f4 27 ♗xb6 cxb6 28 ♗c1 ♗b7 29 ♗a7 ♗a8 30 ♗xa8 ♗xa8 31 ♗e3 (O. Sogaard-Kristinsson, 18th CC Wch sf), improving on 31 ♗xf4 as in Psakhis-Portisch, Sarajevo 1986 (move numbers adjusted to match the Penrose game.).

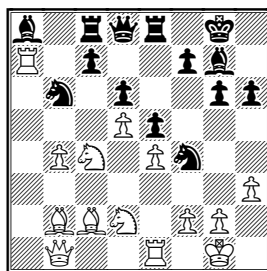
24...♖h5

New, and a good move, thematic in this line of the Spanish.

24...♜f8 25 c4 bxc4 26 ♗axc4 ♜b8 27 ♗xb6 ♜xb6 28 ♗c3 c6 ½-½ Neverov-Naivelt, 18th USSR CC Ch 1988.

25 c4 bxc4 26 ♗axc4 ♗f4 27 ♗a7 ♗d8!

This move combines both defensive and aggressive ideas says Penrose: "I was beginning to wonder if my whole plan had gone awry".



28 ♗xb6 cxb6 29 h4!

This seems weakening but it does prevent Black's principal threat of ...♗g5. **29...b5!**

Black opens a new route for the ♗ to attack.

29...♗xh4?! 30 g3 ♗g5 (30...♗g4? 31 ♗d1) 31 ♗f3 needs more analysis:

a) The main line analysed by Penrose was 31...♗g4 32 ♗d1! ♖h3+ (32...♗h3 33 gxf4 ♗g4+ 34 ♗f1 is not good enough for Black; he gets two pawns for the piece but his a8-♗ is locked out.) 33 ♗f1±. White threatens ♗xe5 or ♜xf7.

In the Portuguese CC magazine, *Peao Distante*, CC-GM Alvaro Pereira (another competitor in that Final) gave a possible continuation 33...♗xd5!? 34 exd5 (34 ♗xe5? ♗g5) 34...♗xb4 (threat ...♗c5) 35 ♗a2!?

b) In *CM1997*, Tim Harding suggested 31...♖h3+ 32 ♗g2 ♗f4+ 33 ♗g1 with repetition, but maybe the white ♗ can escape, says Penrose, though he wasn't sure.

30 g3 ♗b6

So the black ♗ threatens both a7 and f2. White takes a bad ♗ but obtains two pieces for the rook without loss of tempo. (Also in some lines where the white ♗ is driven forward, a light-squared ♗ would have been a deadly weapon for Black.)

31 ♗xa8 ♖h3+ 32 ♗g2 ♗xf2+ 33 ♗xh3 ♗xa8 34 ♖b3

13th CC World Ch Final			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Pts.	
1	M.M. Umansky	RUS		1	1	½	½	1	½	1	½	1	½	1	½	1	½	1	1	1	13
2	E. Bang	DEN	0	█	½	½	½	1	½	1	½	½	1	1	½	1	1	1	1	1	11½
3	J. Penrose	ENG	0	½	█	0	½	½	1	½	½	1	1	1	1	1	½	1	1	1	11
4	A.P. Korelov	RUS	½	½	1	█	½	½	½	½	½	1	0	½	½	½	1	1	1	1	10
5	A. Pereira	POR	½	½	½	½	█	½	½	½	½	½	½	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	10
6	V. Palciauskas	USA	0	0	½	½	½	█	½	½	½	½	1	1	1	1	½	½	1	1	9½
7	A. Zilberberg	USA	½	½	0	½	½	½	█	0	½	½	½	1	1	½	½	1	1	1	9
8	L.M.C. Santos	POR	0	0	½	½	½	½	1	█	½	½	½	1	½	½	1	½	1	1	9
9	H. Ziewitz	GER	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	█	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	1	1	8½
10	F. Baumbach	GER	½	½	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	█	0	1	1	½	½	1	1	1	8½
11	R. Goldenberg	FRA	0	0	0	1	½	0	½	½	½	1	█	1	0	½	½	0	1	1	7
12	U. Svenson	SVE	½	0	0	½	1	0	0	0	½	0	0	█	½	½	1	1	1	1	6½
13	J. Berry	CAN	0	½	0	½	0	0	0	½	½	0	1	½	█	½	½	½	1	1	6
14	M.C. Salm	AUS	½	0	0	½	0	0	½	½	½	½	½	½	█	0	0	1	1	1	5½
15	I.A. Kopylov	RUS	0	0	½	0	0	½	½	0	½	½	½	0	½	1	█	½	½	1	5½
16	V.V. Tomkovich	RUS	0	0	0	0	½	0	½	0	0	0	1	0	½	1	½	█	1	1	5
17	D.P. Lapienis	LIT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	½	0	█	½	1	½

“I thought if I could ward off his attack, I might have the better of it, but there are some tactics to deal with first”.

34 ♖d1 ♖a2 was mentioned in CM 1997 but we didn't discuss this; Penrose seems to think his move was necessary.

34...g5!

Now White knows he must play Rf1 but it's a tricky decision whether to exchange pawns first.

35 hxg5

This maybe helps Black by opening the h-file, but if the exchange is avoided Black can get a pawn to h5 as a pivot for perpetual check.

After 35 ♖f1 g4+ 36 ♖xg4 lines suggested in CM 1997 included 36...♗e2. However, Penrose said “I thought he might go 36...♗g2 whereas this is not much of a move if Black does not have an h-pawn”.

35...hxg5 36 ♖f1 g4+ 37 ♖xg4 ♗e2+ 38 ♖h3 ♖a2!

“I must have overlooked this move, or more likely the next: the idea that he can keep attacking my queen”.

39 ♖e1

Not 39 ♖xa2?? ♖xf1+ and White picks up the c2-bishop (40 ♖g4 ♗e2+ 41 ♖h3

♗xc2). Another trap to avoid is 39 ♖c1?? ♖xb2! 40 ♖xb2 f5 and ...♖h7 (Pereira).

39...♗f2! 40 ♖f1

40 ♖c1? ♖xb2! 41 ♖xb2 f5 42 exf5 ♖f7+.

40...♗e2 41 ♖e1

41 ♖f5? ♖c8! 42 ♖c1 ♖xc2 43 ♖xa2 ♖xe4 (Pereira).

41...♗f2 42 ♖f1 ½-½

Drawn by repetition of moves.

Also interesting was the ending against Palciauskas: “I had to work hard to draw”. This was especially satisfying. “I was pleased that the latter part of the game very closely followed analysis I had made”.

However the following was probably his best. Dr Fritz Baumbach — who was the reigning world champion when the game began — has kindly contributed his own comments (labelled “FB”) specially for this article.

FB: It was a great honour for me to meet such a famous CC player as Jonathan Penrose. He was at this time the Elo-leader with 2715 points (equal with D.P. Lapienis of Lithuania). Furthermore he was 10 times OTB champion of Great Britain and during the OTB olympiad 1970 (Siegen) I met him personally.

TH: Penrose had also personally met some of his other opponents (e.g. the late Dick Smit) at the ICCF Congress in Richmond, in 1989, while other people he played at CC were known to him from OTB events (e.g. Boey and Bouwmeester).

Maroczy Bind (B36)

**Jonathan Penrose (ENG) -
Dr Fritz Baumbach (GER)**

13th CC World Ch Final 1989

(Notes based on the private comments of both players)

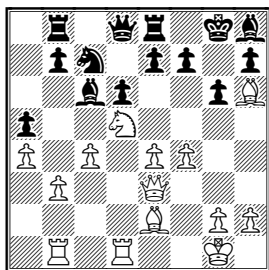
**1 e4 c5 2 ♖f3 ♗c6 3 d4 cxd4 4 ♗xd4
g6 5 c4 ♗f6 6 ♗c3 d6 7 ♕e2 ♗xd4 8
♜xd4 ♕g7 9 0-0 0-0 10 ♝d3 ♗d7 11
♕g5 ♗c5 12 ♝e3 ♕d7 13 ♗d5 ♖e8
14 ♖ab1 a5 15 b3**

This varies from Palmo-Baumbach, CCOL10 in which 15 ♖h1 was played. Baumbach repeated the line against Franzen in the 14th World Championship.

15... ♖b8 16 ♖fd1 ♕c6 17 a3 ♗e6

FB: At first I planned 17...b5 but after 18 ♗xe7+ ♖xe7 19 ♝xc5 dxc5 20 ♖xd8+ ♖xd8 21 ♕xe7 ♗d2 22 cxb5 ♕xe4 23 ♖e1 I am in a bad position.

18 ♕h6 ♕h8 19 f4 ♗c7 20 a4

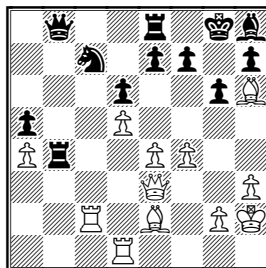


JP: White is a bit better in this line; at any rate, he has more space.

FB: After this unexpected move, I exceeded my time limit (61 days/20

moves) but Jonathan did not claim it. We had a really friendly correspondence!

**20... ♕xd5 21 cxd5 b5 22 ♖bc1 bxa4
23 bxa4 ♖b7 24 h3 ♝b8 25 ♖c2 ♖b4
26 ♖h2**



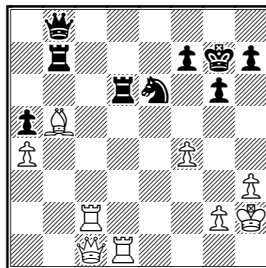
26...e6?

“A bit committal” comments Penrose. The problem with the move, he explains, is that the ♗ has to recapture on e6 allowing the white ♕ to b5.

FB: I agree with this comment, but what else? 26... ♖xa4 is not possible because of 27 ♖xc7! ♝xc7 28 ♕b5.

Jonathan’s answer was unexpected for me.

**27 ♝c1! ♖b7 28 dxe6 ♗xe6 29 ♕b5
♖d8 30 e5 ♕g7 31 ♕xg7 ♝xg7 32
exd6 ♖xd6**



33 ♖c8!

JP: This required calculation. As a direct consequence of 26...e6, White is able to

get ♖ versus two rooks in a position that favours the queen, since the black pawns at a5 and f7 are both vulnerable.

33...♖xd1 34 ♖c3+ ♗d4

FB: 34...♗d4 is wrong because of 35 ♗xb8 ♗xb8 36 f5 and wins.

35 ♗xb8 ♗xb8 36 ♖c7 ♗d8!

If 36...♗a8 37 ♗c4 when the f-pawn can only be saved by the passive ...♗f8.

37 ♗c4

Of course not 37 ♖xd8?? ♗f3+.

37...♗d7

The rook can still not be taken — but the a-pawn can be!

38 ♖xa5 ♗e7 39 ♖d5!

FB: Once more unexpected. After 39 ♖c3 f6 Black has counterplay.

39...h5

JP: Of course Black would like to be able to play...h4 followed by manoeuvring the ♗ to g3.

40 f5

Penrose couldn't find his notes to the latter part of the game.

Baumbach's own contemporary notes include these variations:

a) 40 a5? h4 41 a6 ♗d7! (JP: 41...♗h7? with threats such as 42...♗f3+ 43 ♖xf3 ♗ee1) 42 ♖e5+ ♗h7 43 ♖c5? ♗f3+ -+;

b) 40 h4 ♗d7 (40...♗h7? 41 f5!+-) 41 ♖e5+ ♗h7 42 ♖e8 (42 ♖f6? ♗f3+ =; if 43 ♗g3? ♗d2! "Computer!") 42...♗g7=.

40...♗d7

JP: After 40...gxf5 41 h4 might be possible.

41 ♖e5+ f6

FB: I think this was necessary. After 41...♗h7 42 f6 I see no defence against 43 ♖e8.

42 ♖e8 ♗xf5 43 ♗e6 ♗c7 44 ♖b8!

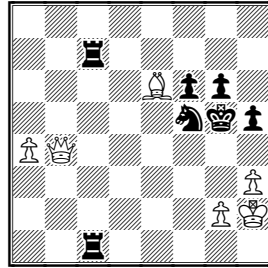
FB: Jonathan kept me occupied constantly so that I could not coordinate my pieces.

44...♗dc1

The desirable 44...♗cc1 (threatening

45...h4) was not possible because of 45 ♖g8+ ♗h6 46 ♗xf5 gxf5 47 ♖f7!.

45 ♖g8+ ♖h6 46 ♖d8 ♗g7 47 ♖g8+ ♖h6 48 ♖f8+ ♗g5 49 ♖b4



FB: The pendular movements of the white queen caused me difficulties time and again. This threatens a two-move mate (50 ♖d2+) but now it was better to hide the king again: 49...♗h6 50 a5 ♗e7 51 a6 ♗g7.

49...♗1c3? 50 a5 ♗e3 51 ♖b6 ♗e7 52 h4+!

Now Black is clearly lost. If 52...♗f4 53 ♗c4 or 52...♗xh4?? 53 ♖xe3#.

52...♗xh4 53 ♗xf5 gxf5 54 ♖xf6+ ♗g4 55 a6 ♗3e6 56 ♖a1 ♗e1

If 56...♗a7 57 ♖d4+ or 56...♗e8 57 a7 ♗a8 58 ♖g7+ ♗f4 59 ♖g3+ ♗e4 60 ♖f3+.

57 ♖a2 ♗e8 58 a7 h4 59 a8 ♖ ♗xa8 60 ♖xa8

If Black's pawns were on h7 and f7 with his ♖ on g7 he could draw by ...♗e6 but here there is plenty of space for the white ♖ to operate behind enemy lines.

60...♗e3 61 ♖g8+ ♗f4 62 ♖h7 ♗g5 63 ♖g7+ 1-0.

FB: "An interesting fight with a lot of good ideas, especially by Jonathan Penrose, who made it evident that he was deservedly the top-ELO player!"

If 63...♗f4 64 ♖h6+ wins the h-pawn, or 63... ♗h5 64 ♖f6 ♗g4 65 ♖g6+ ♗f4 66 ♖h6+ etc.

About CC in general

Dr Penrose kept his CC games in A4-sized hardback notebooks, with the games in the front (with date/time information etc.) and tables of analysis at the back. Sometimes he also made notes on loose-leaf sheets and didn't keep those after the games.

"I don't think I've made a clerical error in any CC game. Often I'd keep the game an extra day to make sure. In CC there is plenty of time to do this." (Purdy used to do the same.)

I asked if he had any other advice for readers.

"You need a lot of patience and hard work. A game can last several years and you must not get bored with it."

Penrose told Jimmy Adams in the *Chess Monthly* interview that computers were a big factor in his deciding to retire from CC.

"Indeed, correspondence play may not be possible in its traditional form for much longer unless some gentleman's agreement can be made so as not to use them for correspondence play..."

"The chess scene has been changed by computers. Even in over-the-board play, they have influenced the organisation of the game. In my day computers were a thing of the future and you had to do your own analysis."

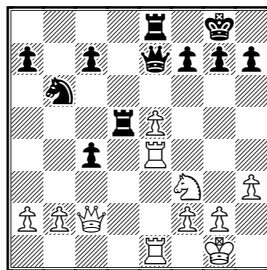
He doesn't have a computer but intends to buy one soon. "Not for email".

To analyse chess games?, I asked. "No, to play chess against the computer".

Apart from computers, however, he told me: "One of the reasons I gave up playing CC was that I felt I was starting to make tactical errors" e.g. a miscalculation when he played ...♖d8 against Umansky. "I thought he couldn't play e5-e6..."

Here is the position in question.

Mikhail Umansky (USSR) – Jonathan Penrose (ENG)
World Championship Final XIII



21...♖d8?!

Not a good move, because it allows 22 e6 and subsequent white control of the e-file. In fairness, White already has the superior game and alternative 21st moves by Black don't seem quite to equalise either, but the realisation of my simple tactical error gave me quite a shock.

22 e6! fxe6 23 ♖xe6 ♖xe6

23...♖f8 is bad: 24 ♖e4 ♖df5 25 ♖e7 ♖d6 26 ♖g4 ♖g6 27 ♖xg6 hxg6 28 ♖xc7 ♖5f7 29 ♖xf7 ♖xf7 30 ♖g5.

24 ♖xe6 ♖d6

Originally Penrose intended 24...♖d1+ 25 ♖h2 but too late he saw that his intended 25...♖d3? to force a queen exchange, is refuted by a couple of simple moves: 26 ♖e8+ (or even 26 ♖e5!) 26...♖f7 27 ♖e5+.

This game was annotated in *CM2/1997* by Umansky. Here are the final moves:

25 ♖e4 h6 26 ♖e2 ♖d1+ 27 ♖h2 ♖d6+ 28 g3 ♖d5 29 ♖e6! ♖d7 30 ♖e8+ ♖h7 31 g4! ♖d6+ 32 ♖g2 ♖g6 33 ♖h4 ♖f6 34 ♖e4+ g6 35 ♖xg6 ♖g7 36 ♖e7+ ♖g8 37 ♖f4 1-0.

While Umansky was the "dark horse", most of the other games went well and Dr Penrose took the bronze medal a clear point ahead of Korelov and Pereira.

Penrose found it amusing that one of his opponents, Viktor Tomkovich, wanted a video of ballroom dancing, and he sent him one. “We don’t have anything like this in Russia,” wrote his opponent.

In fact this was the last game Penrose finished in the championship. “The card came on my birthday and said ‘I resign’. I thought this was symbolic, i.e. it doesn’t often happen that a *Russian* player gives a *birthday present* of a card with a game resignation on it!” After this, he decided to stop playing correspondence chess.

At the very start of our meeting, Dr Penrose handed me copies of several previously unpublished games that I had asked him to seek out from his records.

He surprised me by saying “There is one more game” though he described it as “a mistake.” I thought at first he meant he had lost it, but no. The result was the right one, but it was a mistake to agree to play it, he said. Judge for yourself.

Spanish (C78)

Jonathan Penrose (Essex) - Ian Wallis (Suffolk)

UKC&DCC (Ward Higgs) 1997–98 bd1

(Notes by Tim Harding)

1 e4 e5 2 ♖f3 ♘c6 3 ♗b5 a6 4 ♗a4 ♘f6 5 0-0 b5 6 ♗b3 ♗b7 7 c3 ♗d6!?

“I made a quick assessment to find out if this move had been played before but found nothing. It should not be good but White has to play aggressively to get a plus” said Penrose.

7...♗xe4 is the main line and 7...h6 is also played fairly often.

8 d4 0-0!

The only precedent I could find is 8...♗xe4? 9 ♖e1 (9 dxe5 ♗xe5? 10 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 11 ♗d5+-) 9...♗a5 10 ♗c2 f5 11 dxe5 ♗e3 12 ♗e3 ♗xe3 13 ♖xe3 f4 14 ♖e1 d5 15 exd6 ♖f6 16 ♗xe4 ♗xe4 17 ♖xe4+ ♖f8 18 dxc7 1-0 Mont Reynaud-

Dean, Cupertino 1991.

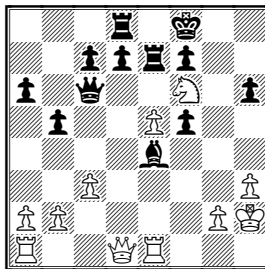
9 ♖e1 h6 10 ♗bd2 ♖e8 11 h3 ♗f8

Now that Black has played a sort of hybrid Smyslov and Zaitsev variation, with both ...h6 and ...♗b7 played but not ...d6. Now normal moves like 12 ♗f1 or 12 a4 can be met by 12...d6 with known Smyslov variation positions, offering White an edge. So Penrose takes the one opportunity to capture on e5 and enter unknown territory.

12 ♗xe5 ♗xe5 13 dxe5 ♖xe5 14 f4 ♗c5+ 15 ♖h2 ♖e8 16 e5 ♖e7 17 ♗f1 ♗e4 18 ♗e3 ♖ad8 19 ♗d5 ♗f2 20 ♗xf2 ♗xd5 21 ♗g3 ♖c6 22 ♗h4 ♗e7 23 f5 ♖c6

Now the final attack begins, showing a touch of the old Penrose magic.

24 f6! gxf6 25 ♗e3! ♗e4 26 ♗g4 f5 27 ♗xe7 ♖xe7 28 ♗f6+ ♖f8



29 ♖xe4! fxe4 30 ♖h5 ♖e6

30...♖e8 31 ♖xh6+ ♖e7 32 ♖g5 d5 33 ♖d1+-.

31 ♖f1!+- ♖c5 32 ♖f5 1-0.

However, this team event (organised by BCF) is not rated by ICCF and so Dr Penrose will shortly disappear from the published rating list as “inactive”.

We are grateful to London Chess Centre for providing the facilities for conducting this interview.