



**INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE CHESS FEDERATION**

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# Press Release

## **Thomas Biedermann Earns the ICCF IM Title**

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

Two norms totaling a minimum of 24 games are generally needed to earn the IM title. Tom's two qualifying tournaments only contained 22 games. However, since Tom exceeded the IM norm score in both tournaments, in fact he earned Senior International Master norms (SIM) in each, he will be granted the title on overscores. His performances were the equivalent of having played at the IM level over a total of 26 games hence meeting and indeed exceeding that aforementioned requirement. Tom achieved his two norms in World Championship Semifinal 04 (WC32SF04) and in the 2008 Interzonal Team Tournament Board 5 (Interzonal TT/5) events. In the category 7 WS32SF04 tourney he scored 8-½ points, ½-point above the SIM level and 1-½ points more than the IM standard. In the category 8 Interzonal Tom equaled the SIM norm of 6 points which was ½-point above the IM level. In total he played seven games vs. SIMs and another five vs. IMs. In all Tom finished with an undefeated record of 7 wins and 15 draws. The links to the crosstables of the cited tournaments are as follows:

<http://www.iccf-webchess.com/EventCrossTable.aspx?id=16145>

and

<http://www.iccf-webchess.com/EventCrossTable.aspx?id=17609>

Here is an example of Tom's excellent technique. The game is from the Norman King Memorial. English IM Shaw was employing the same line in another game in that tournament. Tom's 19<sup>th</sup> response diverted from the other opponent and proved to be the wiser choice in the end. In correspondence tournaments it is not unusual to find a player using a pet line in multiple games. The benefit is that it cuts down on the required analysis. The risk is that one can go down in flames if a refutation is found. In this case Mr. Shaw erred on move 22 and, as if often the case in correspondence chess at this level, that first mistake was his final one. Biedermann goes on to demonstrate with surgical accuracy how not to let your opponent off the canvas once a knockdown punch connects.

[ECO "E32]

[Opening "Nimzo-Indian Classical"]

[Event "Norman King Memorial"]

[Site "ICCF"]

**For Immediate Release 9 p.m. EDT, August 5, 2010 more**

[StartDate "2008.10.15"]

[White "IM Shaw, Sidney S. (ENG)"]

[Black "Biedermann, Thomas (USA)"]

[Result "0-1"]

[WhiteElo "2379"]

[BlackElo "2402"]

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.Qc2 0-0 5.a3 Bxc3+ 6.Qxc3 b6 7.Bg5 Bb7 8.e3 d6 9.Ne2 Nbd7 10.Qd3 Ba6 11.Nc3 d5 12.Qc2 h6 13.Bh4 Bxc4 14.Bxc4 dxc4 15.Qa4 c5 16.Rd1** [16.Qxc4 cxd4 17.Qxd4 Nc5 18.Bxf6 Qxf6 19.Qxf6 gxf6 20.0-0-0 Rfc8 21.Kb1 f5 22.Rd4 Nb3 23.Rd3 Nc5 24.Rd4 Nb3 25.Rh4 Kg7 26.Ka2 Nc5 27.Rd1 a6 28.Rhd4 b5 29.g4 fxg4 30.Rxg4+ Kf8 31.Rh4 Ke7 32.Rdd4 Rg8 33.Rxh6 Rg2 34.f4 Rd8 35.f5 Rxd4 36.exd4 Nd3 37.fxe6 fxe6 38.d5 Rxb2+ 39.Ka1 exd5 40.Nxd5+ Kd7 41.Nf4 Rd2 42.Nxd3 ½-½ Ivanchuk,V (2710)–Kasparov,G (2830)/Rethymnon GRE 2003] **16...b5 17.Nxb5** [17.Qxb5 Rb8 18.Bxf6 Nxf6 19.Qxc4 cxd4 20.Rxd4 Qa5 21.Qe2 Nd5 22.Qd2 Nxc3 23.Qxc3 Qxc3+ 24.bxc3 Rb1+ ½-½ Helbich,D (2545)–Silva,A (2530)/ICCF 2008] **17...Qb6 18.dxc5 Qxc5 19.0-0 Nb6** Mr. Shaw was more successful against 19 . . . Rfb8 played against him in the same tournament! [19...Rfb8 20.Nd6 Rxb2 21.Nxc4 Rb7 22.Nd6 Rc7 23.h3 Nd5 24.Bg3 N7f6 25.Be5 Nd7 ½-½ Shaw,S (2379)–Bucek,J (2384)/ICCF 2008] **20.Qa6 Ne4 21.Rd4** [21.Rfe1 Qc6 22.Qa5 Rfc8 23.f3 Nc5 24.Rd6 Qe8 25.Rdd1 Qf8 ½-½ Hulecova,S (2256)–Craven,D (2101)/ICCF 2008] **21...f5 22.Re1?! [⊔22.Rc1 e5 23.b4 Qc8 24.Qxc8 Rfxc8 25.Rdd1 c3 26.f3=; an interesting attempt at a dynamic position where white gets hanging pawns for the exchange is 22.f3 e5 23.fxe4 exd4 24.exd4 Qc6 25.e5 f4 26.Be7 Rf7 27.Bc5∞] 22...e5? [22...g5 23.Bg3 e5 24.Rxe4 fxe4 25.Nc3 Rad8 26.Qxa7 Rf7 27.Qa6? ] 23.Rdd1 g5 24.f3 gxh4 25.fxe4 f4 26.h3? necessary but perhaps not sufficient was [26.Rd5 Qe7 27.exf4 exf4 28.Rd2 Rad8 29.Rde2 h3? ] 26...f3+ 27.Rd2 Rad8 28.Rf2 Rd3 29.Nc3 Rxe3 30.Ref1 Re2 31.Qb5 Qd4 32.Qc6 Kh7 33.Qe6 Rxb2 34.Qe7+ Kg8 35.Nd1 Rxf2 36.Nxf2 fxg2 37.Kxg2 Nd7 38.Qe6+ Kh7 39.Kh1 Rxf2 40.Rxf2 Qxf2 41.Qxd7+ a final attempt to find a perpetual check fails to the subsequent King march 41...Kg6 42.Qe6+ Kg7 43.Qxe5+ Qf6 44.Qc7+ Qf7 45.Qc8 Qf3+ 46.Kg1 Qxe4 47.Kf2 Qd4+ 48.Ke2 c3 49.Qe6 c2 50.Qe7+ Kg6 51.Qe8+ Kg5 52.Qe7+ Kf5 53.Qh7+ Ke5 54.Qg7+ Kd5 55.Qf7+ Kc6 56.Qf3+ Kb5** two more checks and white will be out of bullets **0-1 (Rizzo)**