



**INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE CHESS FEDERATION**

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# Press Release

## ***Ken Holroyd Earns the ICCF IM Title***

Ken Holroyd has earned the title of Correspondence International Master (IM). His Medal and Title Certificate were awarded on July 23, 2013 at the ICCF Congress in Kraków, Poland. Ken achieved his two requisite norms in the 36<sup>th</sup> World Championship Preliminary Section 02 (WC36PR02) and in the WebServer MasterNorm #082 (WS/MN/082) events. In WCCC36PR02 his score of 10.0 in the Category III tournament equaled the IM Norm. In WS/MN/082 his score of 8.0 in the Category V tournament was good enough for a clear first and equaled the IM Norm. Ken faced six titled players in these tournaments including two SIMs and four IMs. His overall record was an undefeated 10 wins and 16 draws. The links to the crosstables of the cited tournaments are as follows:

<http://www.iccf-webchess.com/EventCrossTable.aspx?id=29263>

and

<http://www.iccf-webchess.com/EventCrossTable.aspx?id=29756>

Ken is a physician and medical researcher who first entered USCF OTB tournaments at age 12. He played occasionally up to age 18 and attained a master level rating. In the mid-90s he took a sabbatical from tournament chess but kept active playing blitz chess. He returned to OTB tournaments in 2009 and in the next couple of years scored 2 out of 6 against GMs. In 2010, with encouragement from Vanderbilt University colleague, ICCF GM Dan Fleetwood, he entered his first ICCF tournament. He points out that correspondence chess allows one to search for truth and perfect play in a position, and that he enjoys the theoretical investigations, as well as the competitive aspects. Ken asserts that, “completed games have a certain logical flow, and when completed feel like the creation of a work of art”. His favorite over the board player is former World Champion Vassily Smyslov; among current players he is fond of the play of both Vladimir Kramnik and Boris Gelfand.

Here is a game <http://www.iccfus.com/gameofthemoth/games/holroyd.htm> from the WC36/PR02 event which clinched Ken’s first IM norm. The double-edged Moscow Gambit develops into a race where Black tries to steamroll his Queenside pawn majority while White concentrates on a campaign against the Black King. White wins the war as Black’s Pawns are stalled and his pieces are not well coordinated to fend off the Kingside assault.

**For Immediate Release 9 a.m. EDT, August 5, 2013 more**

[ECO "D43"]  
 [Opening "Semi-Slav"]  
 [Event "WC36/PR02"]  
 [Site "ICCF"]  
 [StartDate "2012"]  
 [White "Holroyd,Kenneth (USA)"]  
 [Black "SIM Antonenko,Vladimir Georgievic (RUS)"]  
 [Result "1-0"]  
 [WhiteElo "2312"]  
 [BlackElo "2343"]

This was my final game to finish in Preliminary tournament 02 of the 36th World Championship. The win secured my first IM norm, as well as my first win against a Senior International Master. **1.d4 d5 2.c4 c6 3.Nf3 Nf6 4.Nc3 e6 5.Bg5 h6 6.Bh4** The Anti-Moscow Gambit, which leads to complicated positions with chances for both sides. It is therefore not surprisingly very popular in ICCF play. **6...dxc4 7.e4 g5 8.Bg3 b5 9.Be2** [9.Ne5 is another popular option, although it currently seems that Black can force a draw if he desires in long variations that begin with 9...h5 10.h4 g4 11.Be2 b4 12.Na4 Nxe4 13.0-0 Nxc3 14.fxc3 Bg7 15.Nxf7 Qxd4+ , as has been seen in several games. I currently have an ongoing ICCF game as Black in this variation.] **9...Bb7 10.e5** I made this move as it caught my attention that 10 e5 had been successful for White in two recent games between higher level ICCF players. Further analysis suggested that the two wins were soundly played, and that the positions starting at move 16 were very complicated with good attacking chances for White. [10.0-0; 10.Qc2 and; 10.h4 are more popular alternatives.] **10...Nd5** After [10...Nh5 it is also difficult for White to prove any advantage with 11.a4 (or the piece sacrifice 11.Nxc3 Nxc3 12.Nxf7) ] **11.0-0 Nd7 12.Nxd5** [A subsequent game between two 2600+ ICCF GMs Lafarga Santorroman – Hall continued 12.a4 Be7 13.Nxd5 cxd5 14.axb5 a6 and ended in a draw after 26 moves] **12...cxd5 13.Ne1** [Concrete analysis suggested to me that including throwing in the moves 13.a4 a6 before 14.Ne1 only allowed greater opportunities for Black counterplay, but this may need further investigation. ] **13...Bg7 14.f4 0-0?!** [Only in practical retrospect, it is probably safer to head the other way with the King as in Nedoma-Abramov, and play 14...Qb6 15.Kh1 0-0-0] **15.fxc5 hxc5 16.Nf3 f6** [The first game that had caught my attention was in World Championship Final 26, where 16...f5 17.h4 was played in the game Perevertkin-Jaulneau, and White won in 36 moves.] **17.Qd2 Qe7** [A second game had completed a month earlier, where Rodriguez Amezqueta – Raivio continued 17...fxe5 18.Nxc5 Qe7 19.Bg4 Bh6 20.h4 and White was better and won. SIM Antonenko's reply is an improvement.] **18.exf6 Bxf6 19.Rf2!** The only way I could find to fight for an advantage. **19...b4** [Concrete variations showed 19...g4 is not a good idea for Black. So instead he continues to push his queenside pawns.] **20.Raf1 a5 21.Qe3 a4** Here my opponent offered a draw. **22.a3** I declined and gave Black a choice of taking the a-pawn or pushing the b-pawn. **22...bxa3?** [22...b3 is better, for the subtle reason that it prevents the following repositioning of White's king bishop from e2 to c2, where it adds to the attack. Black's position then becomes very difficult to defend. In contrast, after 22...b3, White is somewhat better after 23.Be5 23 Be5, but I could not find an increasing or winning advantage with that nor with other White move 23 alternatives such as(23.Bc7; 23.Nd2; or 23.h3 ) ] **23.bxa3 Rae8 24.Bd1! Bc6 25.Bc2 Bb5 26.h3 Rc8 27.Rb1 Bc6 28.Re1 Rf7 29.Rfe2 Bb5 30.Qc3** The queen acts as a temporary blockader of Black's queenside counterplay, and allows the White rooks to penetrate further into Black's position. **30...Nf8 31.Ne5 Bxe5** There are many alternatives with most of these moves, but Black's defense is difficult at best. **32.Rxe5 Qf6 33.Qe3 Rg7 34.Rf1 Qe7 35.Rff5 Be8 36.Rxf8+!** This exchange sacrifice speeds up the win. [36.Rxc5 Bg6 37.Bxc6 Rxc6 38.Rxc6+ Nxc6 39.Rxe6 Qf7] **36...Kxf8 37.Rxe6 Qd7 38.Bd6+ Kg8 39.Rh6 Qc6 40.h4 Qd7 41.hxc5** White has a winning attack. The White bishop can return from d6 to e5, and the Queen can also make its way to the h file if needed. Therefore Black resigned, and I had made my first IM norm! **1-0 [Holroyd]**