



INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE CHESS FEDERATION

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Press Release

Bobby Johnson Earns the ICCF IM Title

Bobby Johnson has earned the title of Correspondence International Master (IM). His Medal and Title Certificate will be awarded at the 2014 ICCF Congress to be held from October 11th through 18th in Sydney, Australia. Bobby achieved his two requisite norms in the [WebServer MasterNorm 65 \(WS/MN/065\)](http://www.iccf-webchess.com/EventCrossTable.aspx?id=30673) and in the [WebServer MasterNorm 93 \(WS/MN/093\)](http://www.iccf-webchess.com/EventCrossTable.aspx?id=30673) events. In WS/MN/065 his score of 8.0 in the Category IV tournament with 13 players equaled the IM Norm standard. Likewise, in WS/MN/093, his score of 8.0 to date in the Category IV event with 13 players equaled the IM Norm threshold. He has one game remaining in that event and should he win he would finish in a tie with current US CC co-Champion Wolff Morrow for first place <http://www.iccf-webchess.com/EventCrossTable.aspx?id=30673>. Bobby was pitted against titled players in 5 of his games completed to date earning a win and 4 draws. His overall record in those two events is 9 wins, and 14 draws without a loss. The links to the crosstables of the cited tournaments are as follows:

<http://www.iccf-webchess.com/EventCrossTable.aspx?id=24177>

and

<http://www.iccf-webchess.com/EventCrossTable.aspx?id=33055>

Bobby proudly introduces himself as a Native American to most everyone he meets including his opponents at ICCF. He holds a Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering and has long worked as a scientist and engineering research consultant to the US Govt. in the study of the effects of non-linearities on the dynamics of deployable space structures, particularly chaotic and transient dynamics. He began playing chess with his parents as a child and he maintained a casual interest in chess throughout his school years. Bobby credits the Spassky-Fischer match in 1972 for motivating him to play chess whenever and wherever possible. Family and work consume most of his free time, leaving him with little or no time for formal over-the-board (OTB) chess play. He managed to carve out the time to play in a number of GM simultaneous exhibitions over years achieving a high level of success.

Bobby began playing online chess at chess.com <http://www.chess.com/> in 2007 where he eventually rose to become the #1 player in 2009. Shortly thereafter, he joined the ICCF and began his online correspondence chess career. Now, four years later, as he has achieved his first goal, the ICCF IM title, he is aiming his sights at the SIM and GM titles. Bobby has annotated a short but interesting miniature win from his most recent event <http://www.iccf.com/event?id=39671>, WebServer MasterNorm103. It is an excellent example of how a top level player prepares. He locates a promising trend from a move that is not main line and then his research finds a novelty on move 9. Having no blueprint to follow, his opponent rapidly goes astray. The game with Bobby's notes can be located at <http://www.iccfus.com/gameofthefmonth/games/Johnson.html>.

For Immediate Release 12:00 p.m. EST, January 15, 2014 more

[ECO "B12"]
 [Opening "Caro-Kann: Advanced Variation"]
 [Event "WS/MN/103"]
 [Site "ICCF"]
 [StartDate "2013"]
 [White "Johnson,Bobby (USA)"]
 [Black "Garnica,Hervé (FRA)"]
 [Result "1-0"]
 [WhiteElo "2411"]
 [BlackElo "2286"]

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.e5 Bf5 4.Nf3 e6 5.Be2 Nd7 6.0-0 h6 7.c3 Ne7 8.a4! All was common and uninteresting in this Caro-Kann Defense before 8.a4!, a move not found at chessgames.com or most other opening books and databases. However, it has been played with unusually high success at ICCF, which is where I dug it up. [Systems with 8.Na3 a6 9.Nc2 Bh7 are popular with GM's such as Ponomarev.] **8...g5** this move has been played by highly rated players at ICCF and is not bad as long as black has found an answer for, **9.Na3!N** If white's plan for an all-out queen side attack was not previously clear to black, this move made it crystal clear. [9.a5 Bg7 10.h4 (10.a6 b6 11.Re1 0-0 12.Bd3 Qe8 13.Bxf5 ½-½ Emelyanov,M (2472)-Yamaliev,V (2438)/ICCF 2012) 10...Ng6 11.h5 Ne7 12.Be3 0-0 13.Nbd2 c5 14.a6 b6 15.Qa4 c4 16.b3 cxb3 17.Bb5 b2 18.Ra2 Rc8 19.Bxd7 b1Q 20.Nxb1 Rc4 21.Qb5 Rc7 22.Bxe6 fxe6 23.Nh2 Qe8 24.Qe2 Bxb1 25.Rxb1 Rxc3 26.Rc1 Rxc1+ 27.Bxc1 Nc6 28.Qd1 Na5 29.Ng4 Nc4 30.f4 gxf4 31.Rf2 Kh8 32.Nf6 Bxf6 33.exf6 Rxf6 34.Bxf4 Qf8 35.Qf3 Kg8 ½-½ Sukhodolsky,A (2486)-Zhak,B (2556)/ICCF email 2009] **9...Qc7?** This move is an error and ignores white's attack [9...Bg7 is probably better] **10.c4** Continuing the attack. **10...0-0-0** The line from a Bob Seger song, "We were running against the wind" comes to mind here. Black should be looking at lines playing away from White's attack rather than into it. **11.c5** An obvious attacking move. **11...Bg7** Probably better on move 9. **12.Be3** Protecting d4-c5 and joining the attack. **12...f6** Again ignoring or simply not seeing white's pending . . . **13.Nb5!** Black immediately resigned – game over with all pieces on the board! [I had expected 13.Nb5 cxb5 14.axb5 g4 (14...Kb8 15.Qb3 Nc8 16.Rfc1) 15.Nh4 Kb8 (15...fxe5 16.Rxa7 Qb8 17.Qa4) 16.Qa4 both lines leading to complex positions with white having the clear advantage.] **1-0 [Johnson]**