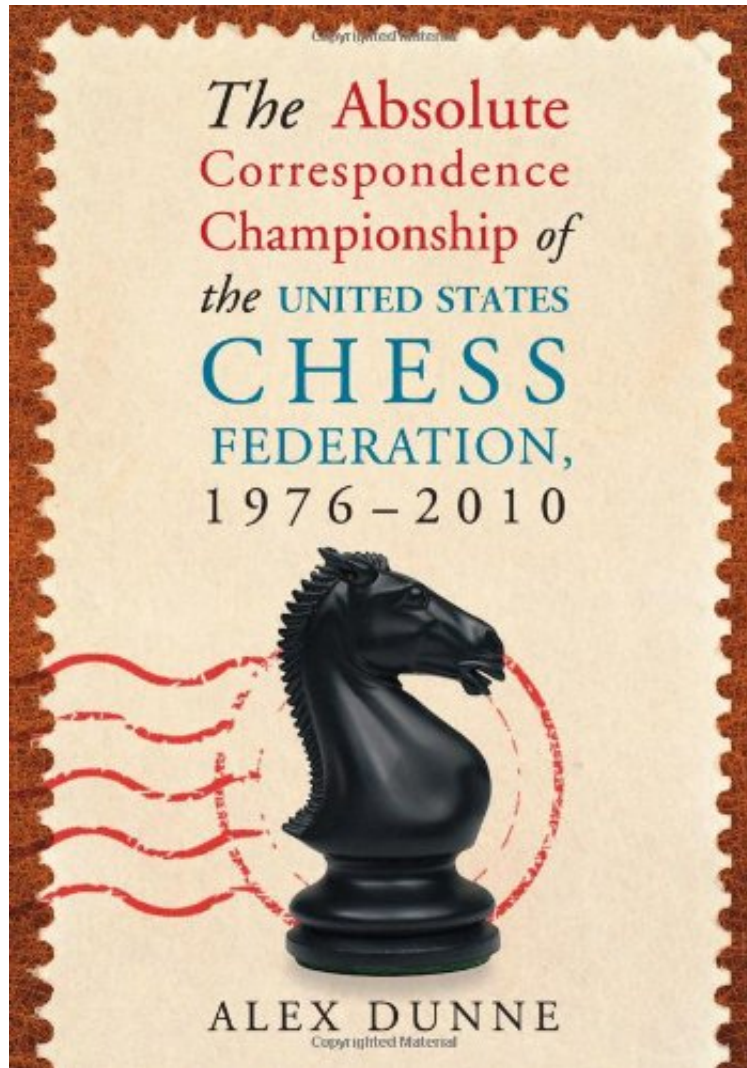


[Download] The Absolute Correspondence Championship of the United States Chess Federation, 1976-2010

The Absolute Correspondence Championship of the United States Chess Federation, 1976-2010

Alex Dunne

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#4124369 in Books The House of Staunton, Inc. 2012-11-05 Original language: English PDF # 1 9.90 x .90 x 6.90l, 1.35 #File Name: 0786472944348 pages Author: Alex Dunne Pages: 330 Publication Years: 2012 | File size: 43.Mb

Alex Dunne : The Absolute Correspondence Championship of the United States Chess Federation, 1976-2010 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Absolute Correspondence Championship of the United States Chess Federation, 1976-2010:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Retrieving America's Correspondence Chess History By interested_observer As an over-the-board club player (rated maybe 1650), I used to read Alex Dunne's column in the

monthly USCF magazine and enjoyed the games provided, though not paying attention to their backgrounds. Many well-known game and tournament collections scarcely ever mention a correspondence game, either for its own sake or as the inspiration as an annotation. This always seemed odd to me since correspondence players had more time and resources to avoid blunders and repeats of historical errors. So when I read about Dunne's book, I gave it a chance. I'm glad I did, since the games gave me hours of pleasure to play through. The format of the book starts out with a very abbreviated history of the start of the Absolute Correspondence Championship and lists the lifetime (through 2010) results for the participants. The games are presented in annual groupings (averaging eight or nine per year) from 1976 through 2010. Each annual event is introduced with a crosstable and a brief notes on each player. There are about 300 total games given, about three-fourths with some amount of internal annotations, and most of the rest with a sentence or two of introduction. A sample of the winner's triumphs always appears. Very few draws are given at all. The games were selected mainly for their quality but sometimes because Dunne wanted to display something about the player. The games are all entertaining. Apparently USA absolute correspondence players in the past didn't turn in their games along with their results; so there was no complete, growing data base. Dunne had to go out to build the history. If no one knows what correspondence players have done, they don't get mentioned in other's annotations. Dunne has done a service to his art. Although the most commonly used opening was the Sicilian Defense (72 times, followed by the King's Indian Defense at 17 times), there were plenty of instances of less common openings, like the Trompowsky (8 times), the Ponziani (6 times), and the Baltic Defense (4 times). (The sprinkling of oddball openings, strongly played, reminded me of the fun I had reading "500 Master Games of Chess" by Tartakower and DuMont.) For future editions, it would be interesting to have more information on the Absolute Correspondence Championship, like how it differs from other championships (e.g., Golden Knights), how one comes to be invited to play, what the prizes are, and so on. It would also help to standardize the amount of annotation each game gets. Cleaning up the occasional typos (none very disruptive), would be OK too. I purchased the Kindle-for-PC edition of this book. It would be helpful if could find an optional way to toggle chess texts into a click-through chess display on the PC. For periods of lengthy unannotated moves, having one hand on the PC screen to keep my place and the other moving pieces on a board is tedious and technically avoidable. Having an ability to save the position while allowing the reader to go off on his or her own analysis would be even better. Getting to read about the champion James O'Brien and the other players was a treat. If it hadn't have been for this book, I would never have known about any of it.

3 of 5 people found the following review helpful. A disappointment

By N E Pedersen I cannot recommend this book. The reasons are many; some specifics follow.

Game selection: There should be more games played among the top four finishers in each tournament. There were several instances where tournament winners lost games to tail enders - those might have been interesting games but none are included in the book. Some games were terminated by death or withdrawal of a player when the game is barely out of the opening and far from being decided - why include them?

Annotations: Approximately 10% of the games have no annotations whatsoever. If you want unannotated games, go to the USCF web page [...] or contact Robert Rizzo at rrizknight@juno.com who compiled the original collection of about 500 games to get a copy of the entire available archive in PGN format. On page 268, after White's 8th move, a page is devoted to an "annotation" that merely list the moves of five full games none of which have any comments themselves, one of which is 79 moves long. On page 274, the author writes "His [Jacobs] defeat of Brandhorst showed that Romantic chess is also alive and well" - that game appears on page 284 without a single annotation.

Editing: Michael Spiegel is listed twice in the Statistics section - which is right? Stanley Fink scored 75% (1980 Absolute) but is not listed at all in the Statistics section although that would tie him for second best percentage. While the percentages in the Statistics section are all carried to one decimal place, some are slightly inaccurate. Why do some of Keith Rodriguez's games display his OTB IM title in front of his name (page 297) but others (page 301) in the same tournament do not? Some ICCF titles are mentioned but many are missing and none appear in front of players' names in the game scores; they are all easily found at the ICCF web site [...]. On page 274, the author writes "... one can hope that he [Jacobs] will be back in 2016 for a fiftieth reunion", except of course that would be only the fortieth reunion of the first Absolute. On page 221 the 2000 Absolute game between Kristo Miettinen and Jan Koziol ends with the comment "Draw offered - a heroic defense by Title" - odd since tournament winner Richard Title was not one of the contestants in the game...

Missed opportunities: All players over this 35 year period have been men - any thoughts? It is interesting that only two Absolutes were won by the top seed; many were won by men in the middle of the rating pack. In the 1991 tournament, the top rated player was nearly 500 points above the next highest rating but lost one game, drew five, and finished in second, what does that say about USCF correspondence chess ratings? The author reports that one player in the 2008 tournament withdrew halfway through when he discovered that computers were not allowed - should his second place finish in the 2007 Absolute be nullified? It would have been useful to have all of the biographical information collected into a single appendix at the back of the book rather than scattered around the various chapters. Lists of the youngest and oldest participants at the time their first tournament started would have been interesting. What states were represented, by how many players? What countries were represented?

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A good games collection

By B. W. Thew While I would prefer complete game collections, this book contains a solid selection. They seem to be well annotated and the pen portraits of the players are very good. In brief this is a very

good games collection and is coupled with some history of a major correspondence chess tournament. Recommended!

This collection of the games, most of them annotated, features the United States Chess Federation's premiere invitational tournament--the Absolute Championship. Features include statistical results of participants from 1976 through 2010, results of many opening variations as played in the Absolutes, yearly crosstables, biographical details of all winners and information on all participants, and indexes of players, opening variations and ECO codes.

"recommended"--IM John Donaldson (JeremySilman.com); "high-quality, short and instructive comments to cover the key moments...very useful for correspondence players...many club otb amateur players could learn a lot from playing through these games...there is much entertainment to be had"--British Chess Magazine.From the Inside FlapThis collection of the games, most of them annotated, features the United States Chess Federation's premiere invitational tournament--the Absolute Championship. Features include statistical results of participants from 1976 through 2010, results of many opening variations as played in the Absolutes, yearly crosstables, biographical details of all winners and information on all participants, and indexes of players, opening variations and ECO codes.About the AuthorAlex Dunne is the United States Chess Federation correspondence chess director, author of more than a dozen chess books and frequent contributor to Chess Life. He is a FIDE Master, Life Master and ICCF Correspondence Chess Master. He lives in Sayre, Pennsylvania.