

2006-08-20

Final offers from Chess Mail ... by Tim Harding

his today's mail:

From: "Chess Mail Ltd."

To:

Subject: **Final offers from Chess Mail and new database CD pending**

20 Aug 2006

Dear Former Chess Mail subscriber

It is now about seven months since the last issue of Chess Mail magazine was published and about 12 months since our MegaCorr4 CD was produced.

Now is your final opportunity to buy copies of our books, CDs or Chess Mail magazine back year sets from our website, which will close before the end of this year. Please visit <http://www.chessmail.com> where you can see some attractive offers, and in the next few days some new articles about correspondence chess for you to read. An order form for our new CD will be posted shortly and we shall send out a second email to you with details shortly.

If possible, please send us a brief email back to us to indicate whether you are interested in the new CD and whether you already have MegaCorr3 or 4. If you need PGN or Chess Assistant format, we particularly need to know that as soon as possible.

If you would like your own correspondence games to be preserved for posterity, please send them to us in ChessBase or PGN format not later than 3 September. Game files should be emailed to editor@chessmail.com. We also accept corrections to your games on our previous CDs.

I am aware that as yet we have not made the final issues of Chess Mail available in PDF format because MegaCorr4 only went up to the fourth issue of volume 9. So our new CD, to be called "Ultracorr" will include a complete set of Chess Mail in PDF format and our complete annotated game database.

The CD will probably be produced in two versions: standard full-priced version with all the CM PDF files, and a cheaper version with only the volume for people who already bought MegaCorr4. The games on "Ultracorr" will only be in ChessBase format unless there is sufficient demand for Chess Assistant or PGN versions, which would cost more because of the extra work.

The exact number of games on "Ultracorr" will not be known until the database is finalised early next month. However we are sure that "Ultracorr" will be the first database ever produced with over 800,000 correspondence games; our present database already exceeds that number and we are still adding more games. The new games are mostly ones played in recent years but also include historic games, including some from scrapbooks sent to us by the late Hermann Heemsoth.

So the new CD should have 100,000 extra games compared with MegaCorr4 and will be much better value than the current ChessBase "corr 2006" CD which has only a few thousand games that are not on MegaCorr4.

After September I shall be concentrating entirely on completing my chess history research and writing my doctoral dissertation. In 2007 I shall be doing no chess publishing work except for the monthly "The Kibitzer" columns at www.chesscafe.com/.

The intention is to produce a history book on correspondence chess for publication in 2008 or 2009 after the university work is complete.

Thank you for your support in the past. I hope that you will revisit chessmail.com and order something from us before the end of September.

If we can achieve at least three thousand dollars of sales in the next few weeks, this will enable us to close or suspend the activities of Chess Mail Ltd. without leaving any debts. We do not owe any money to anyone except ourselves, but we have some ongoing expenses and we shall have to pay for a final audit early next year.

Any surplus will support my chess history research.

Best wishes
Tim Harding