

New Englander

Chess Club Update – March 2018

Chairman's Chatter

It must be a record! This issue carries results or the draw for no less than 7 rounds of the Club Championship. This is, in part, due to the number of postponements and I hope the coming gap of over a month between rounds will enable us to bring the competition back on schedule.

Paul Hanks

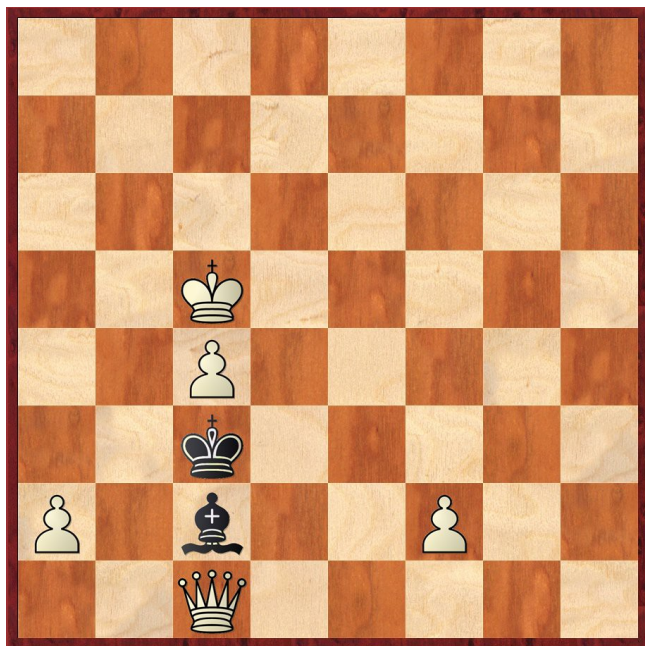
Diary Dates

10-11th March The EACU will be holding its new Individual Championship tournament at Whittlesford, Cambs with Open, U-170 and U-130 categories. The entry form appears on the club website.

21st March Lancaster Club AGM. There will be no club meeting on this evening.

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



Last Month's solution (Hanks 2018)

Position : 5K2/5p1k/4R1b1/6Pp/5N2/1B6/1B6/8

1 Rxc6 fxc6/f5 2 Bg8# [1 ... h4/f6/f5 2 Rh6#]

Website to Watch

There should be a feast of chess during March. From 10th to 28th, the FIDE Candidates Tournament is being held in Berlin. <https://worldchess.com>, the official website, seems to be directed solely at collecting subscriptions. The event will determine who will challenge Magnus Carlsen in a 12 game match

scheduled to take place in London from 9th to 28 November. For updated details, perhaps you should bookmark <https://london2018.worldchess.com>.

The European Individual Championship overlaps the above competition, taking place in Batumi Georgia from 17th to 28th. The website is www.e2e4.ge.

For neither event is it clear whether the website will host live games and so, it may be wise to use a general viewer such as www.chessbomb.com.

Result Round-up

Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

New England A	½	Cambridge	4½
R Ilett	0	C Davison	1
P Walker	½	N Hutchinson	½
F Bowers	0	B Buisman	1
P Spencer	0	M Symanski	1
R Jones	0	J Daughman	1

Peterborough B	2	New England B	2
G Tandy	1	P Turp	0
M Connolly	½	P Spencer	½
M Dunkley	½	R Jones	½
D McLennon	0	D Lane	1

EACU Team 500 : 25th February 2018

New England	1	Linton	3
F Bowers	1	S Weersing	0
M Ingram	0	A Weersing	1
M Tarabad	0	L Tun	1
T Ingram	0	N Weersing	1

Bury Dons	3	New England	1
R Martinez	0	F Bowers	1
J Pack	1	M Ingram	0
G Tebble	1	M Tarabad	0
R Scott	1	T Ingram	0

Team 550 Competition

Warboys N	3½	NE Patriots	½
C Watkins	1	R Ilett	0
B Duff	1	C Russell	0
P Baddeley	½	P Weinberger	½
M Onyons	1	P O'Gorman	0

NE Cavaliers	1½	Spalding	2½
P Walker	1	T Nottingham	0
R Jones	½	P Szutkowski	½
D Lane	0	R Coats	1
M Ingram	0	T Bennett	1

Spalding	1	NE Cavaliers	3
P Szutkowski	0	F Bowers	1
J Smith	0	P Turp	1
F Robinson	0	D Lane	1
T Bennett	1	M Tarabad	0

NE Cavaliers	P	NE Patriots	P
Provisionally re-arranged on 28 th March 2018			

New England Club Ladder

White		Black	
N Foreman	0	1	P Spencer
N Wedley	1	0	M Ingram
N Wedley	0	1	F Bowers
M Tarabad	1	0	T Ingram

Position	Change		Player	Record @ 28/02/18
	Month	Overall		
1	+1	+6	P Spencer	1,1
2	-1	2	P Hanks	1,1
3	-	+9	M Tarabad	0,½,1,1,1
4	-	-3	F Bowers	1,1,½,½,½,1,1
5	-	+1	P Walker	0,½,1,1
6	-	-3	N Wedley	½,0,1,1,1,½,0,0,1,0
7	-	+1	R Ilett	1,1,½,0,½,1
8	+1	-3	S Walker	0,1,0
9	-1	-7	J Parker	0,½,1,0,0,1,½
10	+1	-1	M Ingram	0,1,½,0,0,0,0,
11	-1	-1	P O'Gorman	0,0,0,1
12	-	+2	T Ingram	1,0,1,0,0
13	+1	-2	P Weinberger	0,1,0
14	-1	-1	R Jones	1
15	+1	+1	I Garratt	0,0
16	-1	-1	D Lane	0,0
17	-	-	N Foreman	0

Club Championship

Round 1			
P Spencer	P	P	P Weinberger

Round 2			
N Foreman (Rd 1)	P	P	J Sutherland (0)
M Williams	1	0	N Foreman

Round 3			
R Ilett (2)	P	P	E Serban (2)

Round 4			
J Parker (1)	0	1	P Weinberger (1+ P)
M Williams (0+ P)	P	P	M Tarabad (0)

Round 5			
P Spencer (3+ P)	P	P	E Serban (3+ P)
R Ilett (3+ P)	P	P	P O'Gorman (3)
S Walker (2)	½	½	C Russell (2)
M Ingram (1)	1	0	J Parker (1+ P)

Round 6			
P Walker (4)	1	0	E Serban (3+ 2P)
R Ilett (3+ 2P)	P	P	P Spencer (3+ 2P)
P O'Gorman (3+ P)	0	1	F Bowers (3)
S Wozniak (2½)	P	P	P Hanks (3½)
C Russell (2½)	½	½	R Jones (2½)
T Ingram (1½)	1	0	D Lane (2)
M Williams (1+ 2P)	0	1	P Weinb'r (2½+ P)
N Wedley (1½)	½	½	S Walker (2½)
J Sutherland (0+ P)	1	0	M Ingram (2)
M Tarabad (1+ P)	0	1	J Parker (1+ P)

Round 7			
P Spencer (3+ 3P)			P Walker (5)
E Serban (3+ 2P)			F Bowers (3)
P Hanks (3½+ P)			R Ilett (3+ 3P)
P Weinb'r (3½+ P)			C Russell (3)
T Ingram (2½)			R Jones (3)
S Wozniak (2½+ P)			S Walker (3)
D Lane (2)			M Williams (2+ P)
M Ingram (2)			N Wedley (2)
J Parker (2)			J Sutherland (1+ P)
N Foreman (0+ 5P)			M Tarabad (1+ P)
N Foreman (0+ 4P)			P O'Gorman (3+ P)

Match night : 18th April Deadline : 2nd May
Next draw : 3rd May

New England Grand Prix

Player	Champ	Ladder	League	Cup	550 Team	Total	TPR*
F Bowers	4	5½	4½	1½	1	16½	167
P Hanks	3½	2	7	1½	½	14½	164
R Ilett	3	4	2	2	1½	12½	171
P Walker	5	2½	3	1	1	12½	171
P Weinberger	3½	1	1	1	2½	9	108
P Spencer	3	2	3		1	9	145
M Tarabad	1	3½	1	½	2	8	91
N Wedley	2	5				7	105
R Jones	3	1	2		1	7	126
S Walker	3	1			3	7	110
J Parker	2	3	0	0	2	7	94
D Lane	2	0	3½		1½	7	99
M Ingram	2	1½	1		1	5½	89
P O'Gorman	3	1		½	1	5½	83
C Russell	3			½	1½	5	109
T Ingram	2½	2				4½	87
E Serban	3		1			4	143
S Wozniak	2½			½	½	3½	102
M Williams	2					2	71
P Turp			0		1½	1½	141
J Sutherland	1					1	58
N Foreman	0				0	0	30
I Garratt	0	0			0	0	27

* Tournament Performance Rating is approximate and excludes Summer League

Match of the Month

Ray Ilett v Liam Varnam (201)

New England v Royston, CCCA Division 1, 11.01.18

1 d4 Nf6
2 c4 c5
3 d5 b5

The Benko Gambit is a popular choice of attack-minded players with the black pieces.

4 cxb5

White can decline the gambit with 4 Nf3 but capturing the pawn is considered strongest.

4 ... a6

With this move, Black offers to play a full pawn down but he has good compensation with play down the half open a and b files and pressure against White's centre.

5 e3 axb5
6 Bxb5 Qa5+
7 Nc3 Bb7

Black's best choice here with pressure along the long white diagonal although moves like 7 ... e6 and 7 ... Na6 are also playable.

8 Bd2!

A fairly obvious move, but a good one - developing and protecting d4 with tactics. If now 8 ... Nxd5? (or Bxd5?) then 9 Nxd5 Qxb5 10 Nc7+ picks up Black's queen, a recurring theme in these positions.

8 Na6?!

Playable but missing a much stronger move 8 ... Qb6! (removing the queen from danger).

This move was played against me twice recently by the current Cambridgeshire county champion I Bin Suhal. In the first game, 8 ... Qb6! 9 Bc4 e6 10 e4 Nxe4! (another recurring tactical device, especially against me!) 11 Nf3 Nd6 12 Ne5 Nxc4? 13 Nxc4 Qa6 14 Qe2 Be7 15 Nb5! (1-0 in 20 moves, CCCA County Championship 2016).

Our most recent game went 8 ... Qb6! 9 Qb3 e6 10 e4? - a big blunder here - 10 ... Nxe4! and Black is clearly better (later 0-1, Peterborough v New England, CCCA league 2017).

9 a4?!

A well motivated move. The idea is to consolidate an outpost on b5 and ease the pressure down the a and b files. However, it is not necessary right now and weakens the b4 square allowing a possible knight outpost. I should simply develop with Nf3 and a big advantage.

9 ... Nb4
10 e4?!

Nervously played! Surely it's correct here ... isn't it? Er ... not really though? It still suffers from a tactical drawback. Once again, simply 10 Nf3 is correct.

10 ... e6

OK but it misses the elegant tactical reply 10 ... Nxe4! 11 Nxe4 Qxb5! 12 axb5 Rxa1 13 Qxa1 Nc2+ regaining the queen with equality.

11 Nf3

At last!

11 ... Be7

Of course not 11 ... Bd6? 12 e5 etc.

12 0-0 0-0
13 Re1

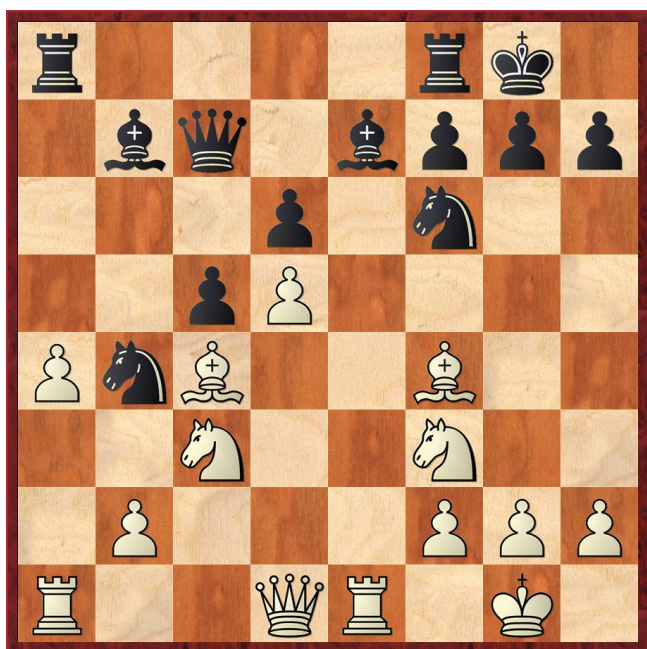
Simple and good. White's powerful centre is strongly protected and Black has nothing for his pawn minus.

13 ... Qc7
14 Bc4

I did consider the tactical 14 d6!? Bxd6 15 e5 but Black has 15 ... Bxf3!? and I felt no need to complicate matters. The text is solid and good; it also reduces Black's chances of counterplay, an important consideration when playing against such strong players.

14 ... exd5
15 exd5 d6
16 Bf4!?

Not technically the best move (which is 16 Nb5!) but it does set a trap and my opponent was by now getting short of time.



16	...	Nh5?!
17	Nb5!	Qd7
18	Rxe7	Qxe7
19	Bxd6	

Regaining the exchange with a clearly winning advantage.

19	...	Qe4
20	Bxf8	Qxc4
21	Ne5	

21 Nd6! is stronger. The text does offer a pawn back, but after the exchange of queens, the position is simplified to White's advantage.

21	...	Qd5
22	Qxd5	Bxd5
23	Bxc5	Na6
24	b4	Nxc5
25	bxc5	f6
26	Nc7	Rd8
27	Nxd5	Rxd5
28	Nf3	Rxc5

Black regains more material, but will soon have to give up his knight for the a pawn.

29	a5	Nf4
30	a6	Nd5
31	a7	Nb6
32	a8=Q+	Nxa8
33	Rxa8+	Kf7
34	g3	

Avoiding the back row mate threat. The remaining game score was lost in the time scramble. With the extra piece, I later went on to win.

Ray Ilett

Eye Opener

In the Match of the Month, Ray demonstrated his knowledge of the opening and the confidence it gave him against a very strong opponent. Sometimes, it is worth noting tactical variations that might let you escape with a creditable draw in such circumstances.

Hultin v Fromm

Vaxjo 1992

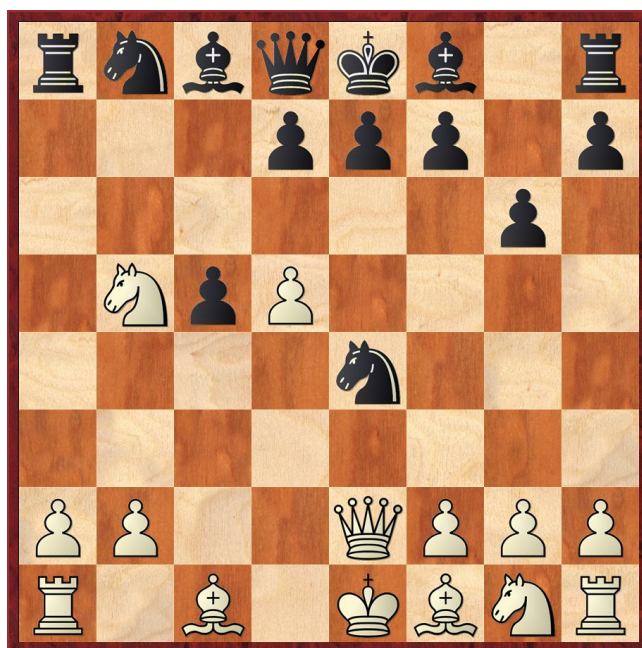
1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	c5
3	d5	b5
4	cxb5	a6

So far, as in the featured Ilett v Varnam game.

5	Nc3	axb5
6	e4	

Here, both sides need to know what happens if

6	Nxb5	g6
7	e4	Nxe4
8	Qe2	



- 8 ... Nf6 9 Nd6# is the direct justification
- 8 ... f5 leads to a long and convoluted variation with 9 f3 Ra4 10 Kd1 Ba6 11 fxe4 Ra5 12 Qe1 Bxb5 13 Bd2 Ba4+ 14 Ke2 Ra8 15 Bc3 Rg8 16 Kf2. The computer favours White's final position but it is hard to disagree with the space advantage, better co-ordination and threats like Bf1-c4.
- 8 ... Qa5+ 9 Bd2 Nxd2 10 Nd6+ Kd8 11 Nxf7+ Ke8 [11 ... Kc7 12 Qxd2 with an extra pawn for White] 12 Nd6+ with an honourable perpetual check.

The actual game finished

6	...	b4
7	Nb5	Nxe4
8	Qe2	

and now, Black has none of the previous resources.