

New Englander

Chess Club Update – April 2018

Chairman's Chatter

We are entering the home straight of a long season with the final League matches in the coming month. We have also cleared many postponements in the Club Championship (thank you!) but don't forget the Ladder Competition! To win, you need to complete at least five games so keep up the momentum.

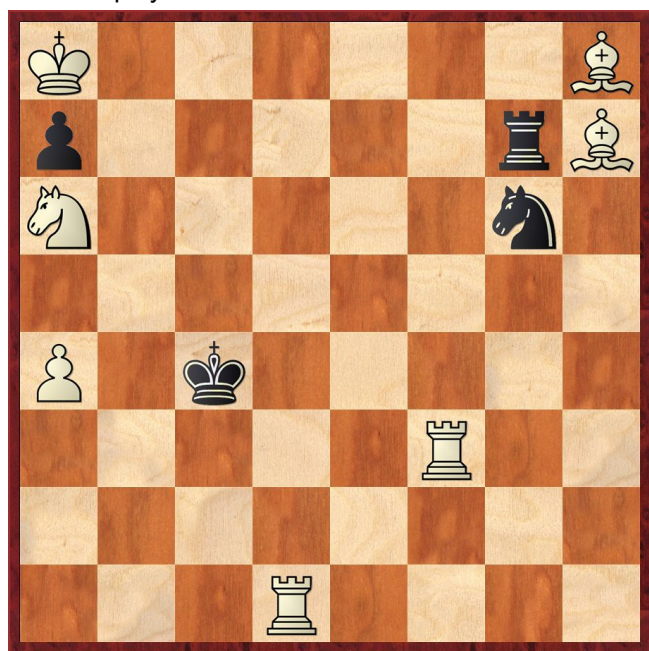
Paul Hanks

Diary Dates

18th April Postponed Round 7 of the Club Championship.

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



Last Month's solution (Lindner/Szentgyorgyi 1933)

Position : 8/8/8/2K5/2P5/2k5/P1n2P2/2Q5

1 Kb5 Kd4/3 2 Qe3#

Website to Watch

You can still catch all the Grenke Chess Classic being held from 31st March to 9th April in Karlsruhe and Baden Baden. On www.grenkchessclassic.de/en/, you can watch Carlsen, Anand, Caruana, Aronian and six other, mainly German, grandmasters in action.

While Caruana heads for the US Championship from 19th to 28th April (see www.uschesschamps.com) in St Louis, Carlsen heads for Shamkir, Azerbaijan for the 5th Gashimov Memorial Tournament between the same dates. The official website has been unavailable but www.chessdom.com is due to host live games.

Result Round-up

Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

New England A	4	St Neots	1
R Ilett	½	A Chapman	½
R Taylor	½	P Brown	½
F Bowers	1	P Barkas	0
P Walker	1	R Palumbo	0
P Hanks	1	D Doyle	0

St Neots	0d	New England A	5d
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Team 550 Competition

NE Patriots	1½	Warboys N	2½
R Ilett	½	C Watkins	½
P Spencer	0	B Duff	1
S Walker	½	P Baddeley	½
J Parker	½	M Onyons	½

Warboys N	3½	NE Cavaliers	½
C Watkins	½	F Bowers	½
B Duff	1	R Jones	0
P Baddeley	1	D Lane	0
D Polehonski	1	M Tarabad	0

NE Cavaliers	1½	NE Patriots	2½
R Jones	½	P Spencer	½
D Lane	0	S Walker	1
M Ingram	1	J Parker	0
M Tarabad	0	P Weinberger	1

New England Club Ladder

White		Black	
M Williams	0	1	M Tarabad
J Parker	1	0	P O'Gorman
P Walker	1	0	T Ingram
J Sutherland	1	0	M Tarabad
D Lane	1	0	N Foreman
M Ingram	0	1	N Wedley

Position	Change		Player	Record @ 28/03/18
	Month	Overall		
1	-	+6	P Spencer	1,1
2	+17	+17	J Sutherland	1
3	-1	+1	P Hanks	1,1
4	-	-3	F Bowers	1,1,½,½,½,1,1
5	-2	+7	M Tarabad	0,½,1,1,1,1,0
6	-1	-	P Walker	0,½,1,1,1
7	-1	-4	N Wedley	½,0,1,1,1,½,0,0,1,0,1
8	-1	-	R Ilett	1,1,½,0,½,1
9	-1	-4	S Walker	0,1,0
10	-1	-8	J Parker	0,½,1,0,0,1,½,1
11	-1	-2	M Ingram	0,1,½,0,0,0,0,0
12	-1	-2	P O'Gorman	0,0,0,1,0
13	-1	+1	T Ingram	1,0,1,0,0,0
14	-1	-3	P Weinberger	0,1,0
15	-	+1	I Garratt	0,0
16	-2	-3	R Jones	1
17	-1	-2	D Lane	0,0,1
18	-1	-1	N Foreman	0,0
19	-1	-1	M Williams	0

Club Championship

Round 1			
P Spencer	1	0	P Weinberger
Round 2			
N Foreman (Rd 1)	0	1	J Sutherland (0)
Round 3			
R Ilett (2)	P	P	E Serban (2)
Round 4			
M Williams (0+P)	0	1	M Tarabad (0)
Round 5			
P Spencer (3+P)	P	P	E Serban (3+P)
R Ilett (3+P)	1	0	P O'Gorman (3)
Round 6			
R Ilett (4+P)	P	P	P Spencer (3+2P)
S Wozniak (2½)	0	1	P Hanks (3½)

Round 7			
P Spencer (4+2P)			P Walker (5)
E Serban (3+2P)			F Bowers (4)
P Hanks (4½)			R Ilett (4+2P)
C Russell (3)	0	1	P Weinb'r (3½)
T Ingram (2½)			R Jones (3)
S Wozniak (2½+P)			S Walker (3)
D Lane (2)			M Williams (2)
M Ingram (2)	0	1	N Wedley (2)
J Parker (2)			J Sutherland (2)
N Foreman (0+4P)			M Tarabad (2)
N Foreman (0+3P)			P O'Gorman (3+P)
Match night : 18 th April Deadline : 2 nd May Next draw : 3 rd May			

New England Grand Prix

Player	Champ	Ladder	League	Cup	550 Team	Total	TPR*
F Bowers	4	5½	5½	1½	1½	18	168
P Hanks	4½	2	8	1½	½	16½	164
R Ilett	4	4	2½	2	2	14½	172
P Walker	5	3½	4	1	1	14½	172
P Weinberger	4½	1	1	1	3½	11	112
P Spencer	4	2	3		1½	10½	141
M Tarabad	2	4½	1	½	2	10	87
N Wedley	3	6				9	110
J Parker	2	4	0	0	2½	8½	95
S Walker	3	1			4½	8½	115
D Lane	2	1	3½		1½	8	97
R Jones	3	1	2		1½	7½	125
M Ingram	2	1½	1		2	6½	89
P O'Gorman	3	1		½	1	5½	80
C Russell	3			½	1½	5	105
T Ingram	2½	2				4½	87
E Serban	3		1			4	143
S Wozniak	2½			½	½	3½	101
J Sutherland	2	1				3	76
M Williams	2					2	62
P Turp			0		1½	1½	141
R Taylor			½			½	165
N Foreman	0	0				0	33
I Garratt	0	0			0	0	27

* Tournament Performance Rating is approximate and excludes Summer League

Match of the Month

Patzer's Corner – Don't make me angry!

The editor previously asked for examples of our blunders and inevitably, I can provide some real lemons! Everybody makes mistakes but what really gets me inwardly annoyed is just how early in my games these seem to have arisen, especially recently. Anyway, after my blunder on the seventh move here, I was positively fuming. Whether that helped me play better chess is debatable but I did at least manage to put up a fight subsequently. Perhaps the lack of development in the position lulled me into a false sense of security but I think that the real argument here is for more solid opening preparation!

Norman Wedley v Chris Russell

New England Club Championship Rd 3; 22.11.17

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	Nf3	c5
4	Bg5!	

Advantage Norman! I had been expecting the Colle System for which I had prepared. Fritz called this line a variant of the Blumenfeld Gambit which is usually characterised by 4 d5 b5. This is an interesting reply to 1 d4, which gives Black good counterplay after White accepts the pawn with 5 cxb5 but annoyingly, Norman does not go for it. (I've got to start disguising my opening repertoire!) In the position reached, Black can now equalise with 4 ... cxd4 since if 5 Qxd4 Nc6 gains a tempo but clearly I had forgotten that (sigh).

4	...	d6?
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With the intention of meeting 5 d5 with 5 ... e5 but played far too quickly – this is horribly weak. It allows White to exchange queens with advantage. Much better is 4 ... cxd4! 5 Nxd4 Qa4+ 6 Bd2 Qb6 7 Nb3 Nc6, which is solid for Black.

5	e3?!	
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Also too passive, (thanks, Norman!) If 5 dxc5! dxc5 6 Qxd8+ Kxd8 7 Ne5 Ke8 gives Black a very difficult game to defend.

5	...	Be7?!
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Another questionable move (sigh). Played to prevent the queen exchange but both 5 ... Qb6 and 5 ... Nbd7 are much better. If 5 ... Qb6, 6 b3 (not 6 Bxf6 Qxb2! 7 Bxg7 Bxg7 8 Nbd2 Nc6 with advantage to Black, as the queen cannot easily be dislodged – e.g. 9 Rb1 Qxa2). 6 ... Nbd7 is level.

6	Nc3	
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Solid enough but Fritz rates 6 dxc5 dxc5 7 Qxd8+ Bxd8 8 Nbd2 as better. A common theme running through this opening is that I really should have played cxd4 when Norman did not play d5 on move 4 and thereafter to prevent dxc5.

6	...	0-0!?
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Logical development but again, 7 dxc5 really needs to be prevented first – 6 ... cxd4, Nbd7 and Qb6 are all better. For example, 6 ... Nbd7 7 Bd3 0-0 8 0-0 b6 9 Qc2 h6 10 Bf4 Bb7 with even chances.

7	Bd3	
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Better than 7 Be2 and expected. However, Fritz thinks that 7 dxc5 dxc5 8 Bd3 opening up the d file gives White more attacking opportunities.

7	...	b6??
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Blunder number 1! I am trying to get in Bb7 to bolster the centre, but not recognising how critical my position has become. To play b7-b6, I need first to do 7 ... h6! 8 Bh4 Nbd7 9 0-0 b6, which is level. The text, however, is a clearly horrible as it totally ignores a simple two move threat.

8	Bxf6!	Bxf6
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This removes my defence of e4 and to prevent losing the rook on a8 after 9 Be4, I have to lose a pawn for nothing in a very defensive position. The best defence is difficult to find.

If 9 Be4 d5 10 cxd5 cxd4 11 Nxd4 e5 (if 11 ... Bxd4 12 Qxd4 f5 13 Bf3 Bb7 14 Rd1 maintains White's advantage) 12 Nc6 Qd6 13 Rc1 with a strong attack. Relatively best is 13 ... h6 14 0-0. It is worth noting that 13 ... a6 14 Bxh7+! Kxh7 15 Ne4 is totally lost for Black e.g. 15 ... Qd7 16 Qh5+ Kg8 17 Nxf6+ gxf6 18 Rc4 with 19 Rh4 to follow.

Alternatively 9 Be4 cxd4 10 Nxd4 Bxd4 (10 ... d5 11 cxd5 Bxd4 12 Qxd4 transposes) 11 Qxd4 d5 12 cxd5 f5 13 Bf3 Bb7 14 Rd1 with a big advantage.

None of these lines appeal at all and now I can feel the steam gently rising from my collar. This was an extraordinarily dumb position to get into!

9	Qc2?!	
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This is actually a mistake but it is hard to criticise Norman too heavily for it. It looks sound as I thought that Black could not afford to lose the h pawn, and White gains a tempo to bring his rooks into play. But we were both wrong! Now 9 ... cxd4! 10 exd4 Bb7 11 Bxh7+ Kh8 12 Be4 d5 13 cxd5 exd5 14 Bd3 Nc6 and although I am currently a pawn down, the threats of Re8+, Nxd4 and Nb4 mean that I still have some counter-chances. Nevertheless, either 15 Qd1 or 15 Ne2 will defend the pawn.

Or 9 ... Bb7 10 Bxh7 Kh8 11 Be4 d5 12 cxd5 exd5 13 Bd3 cxd4 14 Nxd4 Bxd4 15 exd4 Nc6 has the same basic assessment (although here Black can also play Qh4.)

9	...	g6?!
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Sadly, I had not seen the above lines through to their conclusion and elected to defend h7. So, now...

10	Be4	
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and I am still in trouble.

10	...	d5
11	cxd5	Bb7

Fritz rates this behind 11 ... cxd4 but if I do not get my pieces developed, this game is over. So I decide to sacrifice a second pawn. Nothing ventured...

12	dxe6	Nc6
13	exf7+	

At this point, White's attack is playing itself. I do have one advantage – Norman has not castled yet.

13 ... Rxf7?!

Another dubious move! I am throwing the rook on the fire too. It takes two moves for the bishop to take the rook. If 13 ... Kg7, simply 14 0-0! and I have nothing to play with.

14 Bd5 cxd4
15 Bxf7+ Kxf7

Exchanging off the powerful white bishop finally gives my game a bit of traction but after 16 Rd1! Qe7, I am still losing badly.

16 Qb3+!?

Norman starts to throw me some lifelines. This is playable but not the best. Also the queen can now be attacked with tempo. Fritz thinks that both 16 Rd1 and 16 0-0-0 are better moves.

16 ... Kg7
17 0-0-0

Fritz rates this best, but strategically the white king is more exposed on the queenside and I can hope to open lines for my bishop pair to get at the white king.

17 ... Na5!

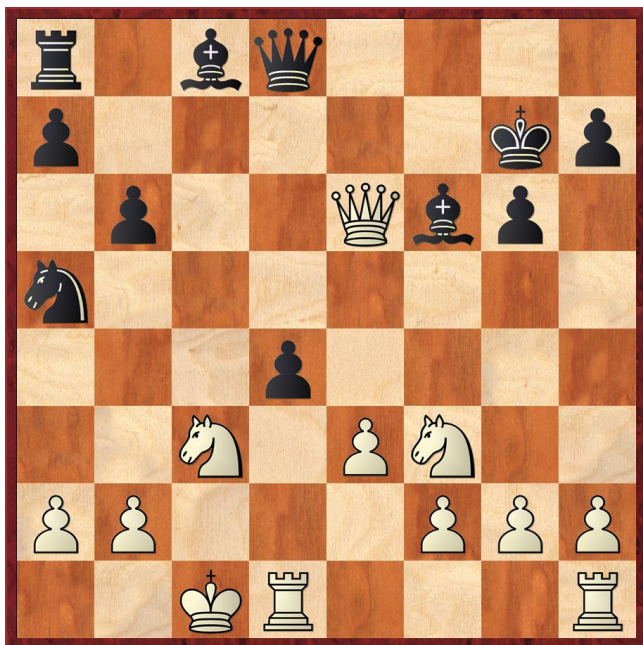
Best move for once... (though fairly obvious!)

18 Qe6?!

Fritz prefers 18 Qb4, though 18 Qc2 looks safest to me. The text move looks an ambitious square for the queen as it can be kicked again.

18 ... Bc8

What I am really hoping for at this stage is to provoke a mistake. Surprisingly, placed in the centre of the board the queen has only one good square. Where would you put it?



19 Qd5??

Not here! Unfortunately this is wrong. 19 Qe4! is the only square that works, as White must otherwise lose

the knight on c3. It looks terrible because of 19 ... Bf5. However, after 19 Qe4! Bf5 20 Nxd4!! Bxe4 21 Ne6+ Kg8 22 Rxd8+ Rxd8 23 Nxe4 Rc8+ 24 Kb1 Be5, I am basically just 2 pawns down in a losing endgame.

19 ... dxc3
20 bxc3!

Best. After 20 Qxd8 cxb2+ 21 Kc2 Bxd8 22 Kxb2 Bf6+ the game is technically level in material but with an extra piece, I should have the advantage.

20 ... Qc7?!

This looked logical at the time. I think that I wanted to keep the queens on the board but Fritz points out that after the queen exchange, I win a pawn (20 ... Qxd5 21 Rxd5 Be6 and White must lose either the a or c pawn.) Soon, I shall have to deal with the fact that I have left my rook en prise in the corner (21 Qxa8 Qxc3+ mating).

21 Rd3

Fritz recommends 21 ... Nb7 but I have yet another rush of blood to the head.

21 ... Bxc3??

Blunder number 2! Norman can simply take the rook and I have undone most of the work to get back into the game. I suspect that at the time I thought that after 22 Qxa8 Bf5 23 e4 Be6, the discovered check would allow me to get at the white king. However, after 22 Qxa8! best play gives 22 ... Bf6+ 23 Kd1 Nc4 24 Qd5 Nb2+ 25 Kd2 Nxd3 26 Qxd3 Qf7, after which I am losing, but still have some opportunities to fight back.

22 Qd6??

Norman returns the favour! I think I bluffed him into thinking that I had something dodgy up my sleeve.

22 ... Qxd6

Now I am definitely winning. But I missed 22 ... Bb2+! 23 Kb1 Qxd6 24 Rxd6 Bf5+ 25 Kxb2 Nc4+ where I end up a bishop for a pawn ahead.

23 Rxd6 Bf5

With a complicated position. Fritz likes 23 ... Bg4 24 Rd3 Rc8 25 e4 Bf6+ 26 Kb1 Nc4 27 Nd4 Rd8 28 f3 Rxd4 29 Rxd4 Bxd4 30 ffg4 which looks good for Black.

24 Nd4 Bxd4

Fritz preferred to kick the white king around with 24 ... Bb2+ 25 Kd1 Bg4+ 26 Kc2 Rc8+ 27 Kd3 Rc3+ 28 Ke4 Nc4 29 Rd5 Kf6 30 Rd8 g5 31 Kd5 Bh5 32 h4 Bf7+ 33 Kc6 (33 Ke4 Nd2#) g4 34 Kb7 Ra3 35 Nc6 Rxa2 etc., holding onto the advantage by keeping the rook h1 in total passivity.

25 exd4??

Norman now has the higher blunder count! Breaking the pawn chain is definitely a mistake. 25 Rxd4 Rc8+ 26 Kd1 Rc2 keeps the Ra1 tied up, but the game is still in the balance.

25 ... Rc8+
26 Kd1 Nc4
27 Rd5 Nb2+?!

Looks good but just isn't - I can instead kill the game off. After 27 ... Bg4+! the white king has no good moves

- 28 f3 Bxf3 29 gxf3 Ne3+ 30 Kd2 Nxd5 wins
- 28 Kc1/2 Ne3+ wins.
- 28 Ke1 Re8+ 29 Re5 (29 Kf1?? Nd2+ and mates) 29 ... Nxe5 is winning.

28 Ke2 Rc2+
29 Kf3

Best. 29 Ke1?? and 29 Kf1?? lead to forced mates. 29 Ke3 is playable though.

29 ... Rc3+

Also best. Fritz says that 29 ... Nd3 leads to a long endgame after 30 Ra1 Rxf2+ 31 Ke3 Rxc2+ 32 Rxf5 gxf5 33 Kxd3 Rxh2 but I am looking for something a bit quicker.

30 Ke2

...and now I can put us both out of our misery with

30 ... Rc2+?!

and a draw by repetition!

If I had the stomach for it, the game should have continued with 30 ... Nd3 31 Kd2 Ra3 32 Ra1 Nf4, etc. but at this point we both felt that we had dodged a bullet! So a draw was probably the right result.

Chris Russell

Eye Opener

D Howell v A Ashton
British Rapidplay, Halifax, 2008

1 e4 e5
2 Nf3 Nc6
3 Bc4 Nf6
4 d3 Bc5

This is just about as basic an opening as you can find. As the Berlin Defence has made the Ruy Lopez so boring these days, the Giuoco Piano has become quite fashionable.

5 c3 a6
6 Bb3 Ba7
7 h3 d6
8 Nbd2 0-0
9 Nf1

When grandmasters annotate their games in this opening, they often warn darkly of the subtlety of different move orders. We shall probably never plumb these depths without buying a book from Francis! Here, for instance, White has delayed castling to deploy his queen's knight as quickly as possible.

9 ... d5

This is traditionally the equalising move and the computer is still more than happy with Black's play. He has given away a few tempi (e.g. d7-d6-d5) which can only be excused by White's reticence with his queenside pieces.

10 Qe2 dxe4
11 dxe4 Qe7

12 Ng3

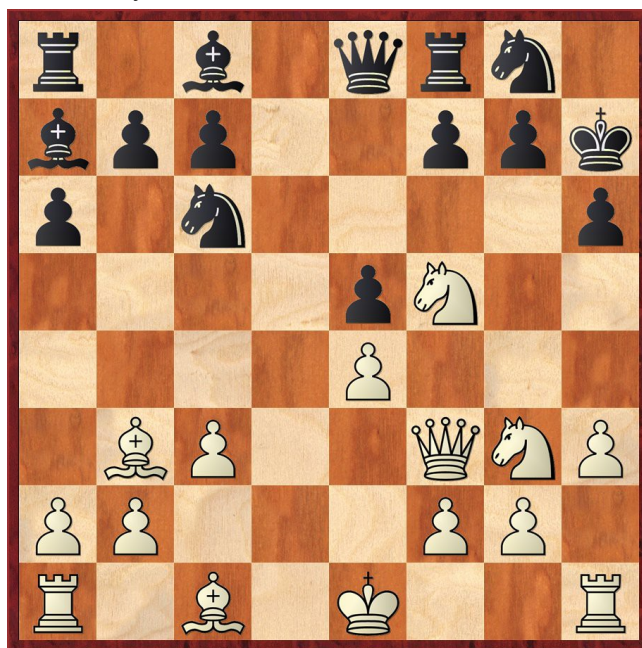
12 Bg5 may look more positive but after 12 ... h6 13 Bxf6 Qxf6 nothing has been achieved. White sensibly keeps pieces on the board and tries to build his concentration on the kingside. In this regard, the bishop on c1 eyes the h6 pawn and can be left on its home square.

12 ... h6

In view of a previous comment, straightforward development with 12 ... Be6 may be advisable.

13 Nh4 Kh7
14 Nhf5 Qe8
15 Qf3 Ng8

Black has to cope with a threat e.g. 15 ... Na5 16 Nxe6 gxe6 17 Qxf6 with extra material and an attack. Black can defend with 17 ... Qc6 but White is winning comfortably.



16 Nxc7 Kxc7

After 16 ... Qe7 17 N3f5 Bxf5 18 Nxf5 Qf6 19 h4 with Bc1-g5 and 0-0-0 to follow is not a good position to hold at a quick time limit.

17 Nh5+ 1-0

Simplicity to the end. White mates by 17 ... Kg6 (17 ... Kh7/8 18 Qg3) 18 Qg3+ Kxh5 19 Bd1+.