

# NEW ENGLANDER

## Chess Club Update – Christmas 2007

### Chairman's Chatter

Ho, ho, ho! We have now reached that time of year when our thoughts turn to jovial, bearded gentlemen so this month, the "**NEW ENGLANDER**" features a report of Harry's recent sabbatical in the USA. Although you might be expecting a few days of relaxation and overindulgence, I have also taking the liberty of including some problems to try to keep your mental cogs moving over the festive season. Good luck and Merry Christmas!

*Paul Hanks*

### Diary Dates

We start the event calendar in the New Year on **2nd January** with games in the league stage of the Club Championship. Unfortunately, some games have been delayed and the "Pools Panel" may need to sit to decide a provisional outcome to determine the composition of the two divisions. Full details will appear in a separate issue of "**NEW ENGLANDER**". As ever, please confirm arrangements with your opponent.

The other imminent event is the club meal on **16th January**. Please confirm with me as soon as possible whether you wish to attend.

### Result Round-up

Buckden A	3	New England A	2
M Thornton	½	C Ross	½
R McMorran	0	F Bowers	1
P Barkas	1	P Hanks	0
C Norton	½	R Jones	½
T Hazel	1	J Osbourn	0

### Man of the Month

Harry spent the month of October on a talent scouting mission to Santa Monica and reports how different the chess scene is over there. His first encounter was in very laid-back surroundings only a few minutes from the beach. Main Street was a run-down district that is becoming quite trendy but in a crepe bar there, it is possible to play 10 minute blitz games on a Tuesday evening with easy-listening music playing in the background.

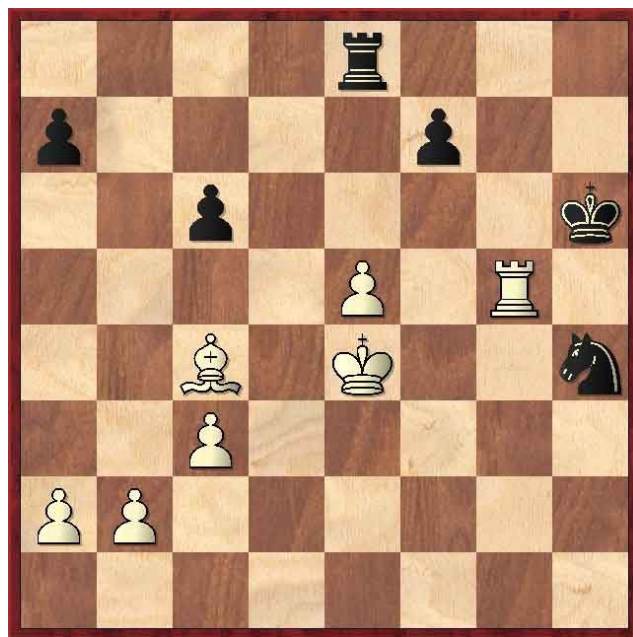
The arrangements for junior chess were most impressive. The local librarian is a chess fanatic and he organises sessions at one or other branches of the library around the city on most days of the week. It is possible to play either in the afternoon or evening and includes public chess lessons and "Youth and Family" chess to encourage the widest participation.

On 6<sup>th</sup> November, the Santa Monica Bay Chess Club hosted a blitz tournament and Harry must have indulged in some arm twisting to obtain an invitation! This competition was sponsored by the Main Street Business Improvement Association and was a four round Swiss event between 16 players.

The highest graded participant was Gregg Small at 2264 but Harry drew Charles Groots (2140) in the first round. Despite the 10 minute time limit, Charles expended nearly 5 of them thinking over move 2 but then proceeded to steamroller Harry. In the second round against Ron Turner (1771), Harry kept it close but was eventually unsuccessful. His best game was against Cameron Lange (1774) in round 3. Cameron is also British coming from Trowbridge in Wiltshire and is in California as a student. Harry succumbed to the clock and kept up his consistent record against Jan Ludwinski (1982) in the final game.

Obviously, the organisation (particularly if someone can combine chess with their full-time job), sponsorship opportunities and encouragement of juniors are paying off in terms of playing strength – as Harry learned to his cost!

I have some painful memories of games against Harry. In the position below, my complacency in the endgame was duly punished. My rook is attacked but can you find the continuation I should have played?

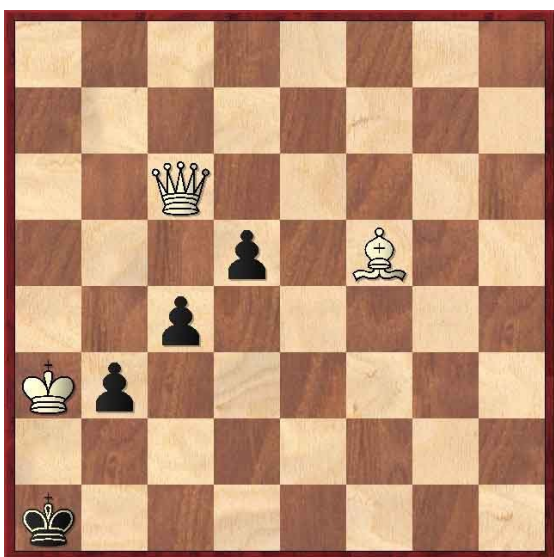
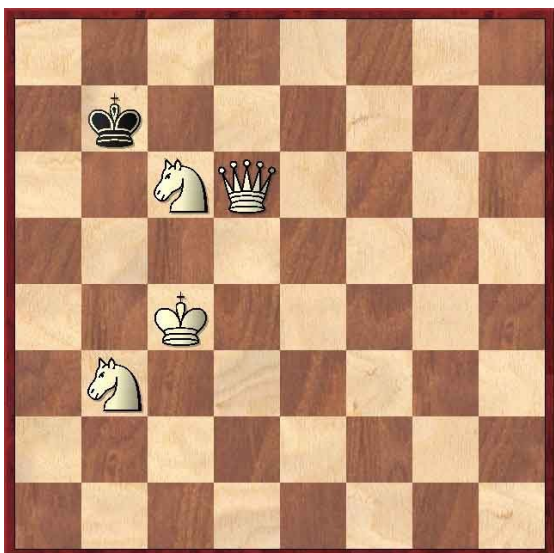
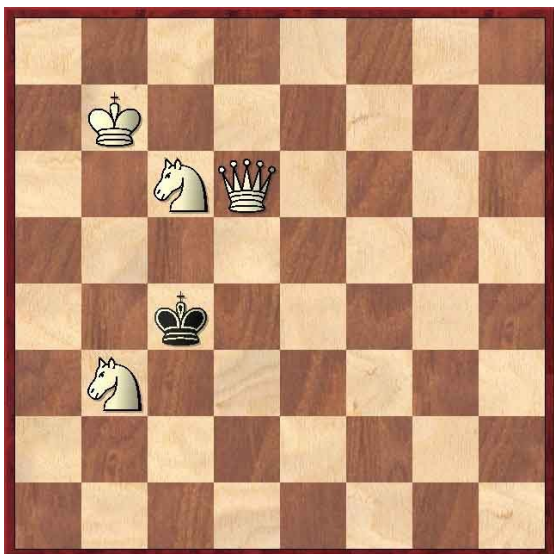


The most obvious win comes after 1 Rh5+ Kxh5 2 Bxf7+ when the passed pawn and Black's restricted, distant knight should prompt resignation. Instead I chose,

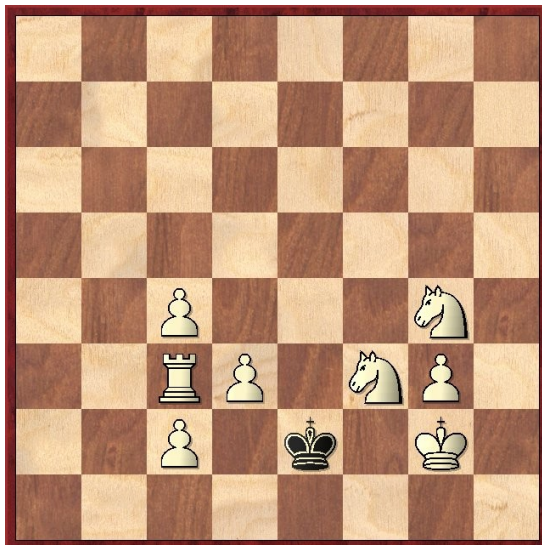
1 Rg4?? f5+ 0-1

## Puzzle Page

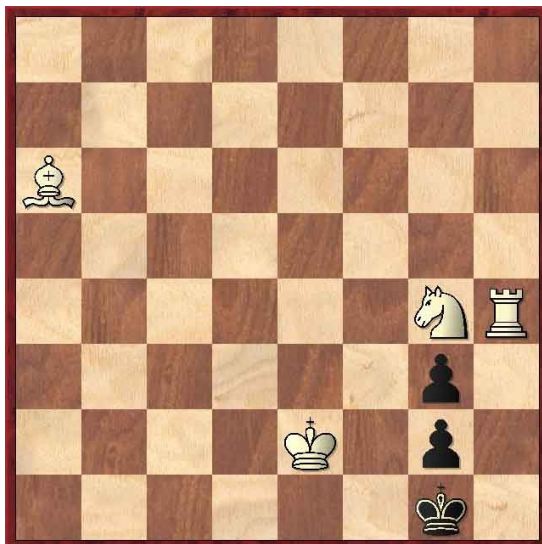
White to play and mate in 2.



White to play and mate in 3.



White to play and mate in 6.



White to play and win.

