

NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – January 2008

Chairman's Chatter

Happy New Year! No doubt, you are now agonising over your resolution for 2008. What will it be? A target score in the next stage of the Club Championship outlined later in this issue of the "NEW ENGLANDER"? Or sweet revenge over some opponents in the Cambridgeshire leagues?

My ambition is to improve the standard of play throughout the club. To this end, I believe we should assist each other more. If you find an interesting website, discover an important game on your database or see an article on an opening that a colleague plays, please use the medium of the "NEW ENGLANDER" to pass on the information. Perhaps your New Year's resolution should be to make regular contributions....

Paul Hanks

Website to Watch

From 11th - 27th January, a very strong tournament will be held at Wijk aan Zee in Holland. Participants include most of the world's elite players (Anand, Ivanchuk, Kramnik, Topalov, Leko, Gelfand, Aronian, Mamedyarov, Polgar, Adams and four others with an average ELO grade of 2741). The games can be followed on <http://www.coruschess.com>

Diary Dates

The Club Championship has advanced to the league stage and the draw is appended to this newsletter. The dates for the rounds are included in the tables along with your opponent. There are about 3 evenings in the fixture list which should not have a match for your team and are therefore available for any postponements. Please confirm arrangements with your opponent.

Result Round-up

Handicap Competition - 5th December 2007

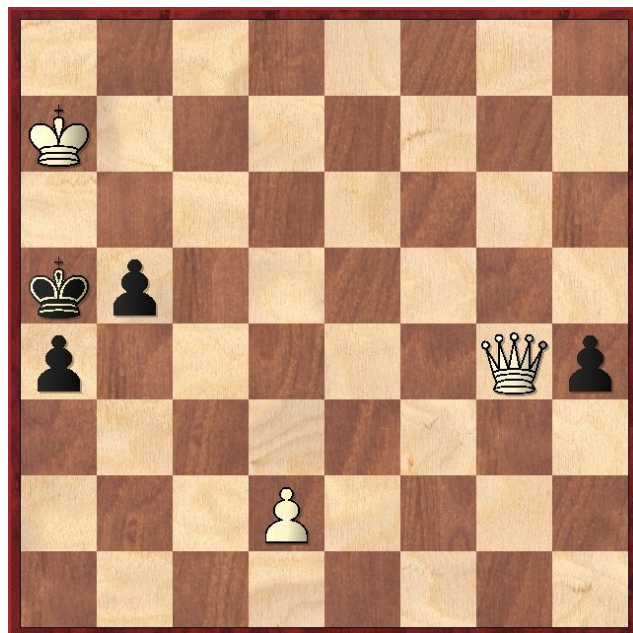
5/5 J Alster
3½ F Bowers, P Hanks
3 C Ross, S Caraway, M Ingram
2 H Currie, A Brookbanks, R Jones, C Collins
1 C Russell
0 J Osbourn

Christmas Spectacular – 12th December 2007

5 S Caraway
4½ A Brookbanks
4 F Bowers
3½ J Alster
3 R Jones, D Lane
1 M Tarabad, H Currie

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2.

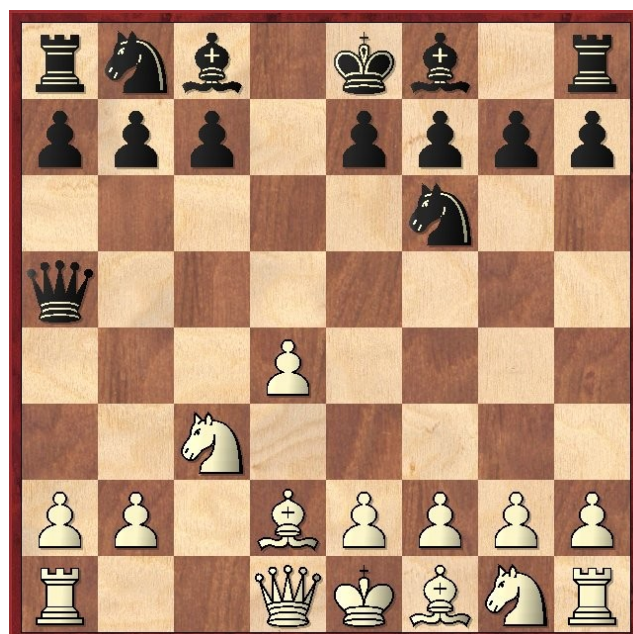


Eye-Opener

I recently found I was unaware of some tactical possibilities in the opening. It went as follows :-

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 d5 3 cxd5 Qxd5 4 Nc3 Qa5 5 f3 e5

and White struggled for any advantage. Fritz gives **5 Nf3** as best but on the www.chessgames.com database, there is a game with **5 Bd2**



The point is that the natural move **5 ... Bf5** is met by **6 e4 Bg6 7 Nd5** trapping the queen and if **5 ... Qb6 6 Nf3 Qxb2 7 Rb1 Qa3 8 Nb5** with Nxc7+ to follow.

Match of the Month

The thought of “ringing out the old and ringing in the new” made me look through my store cupboard of past annotations and brought to mind the following game.

P Hanks v J Walden

Hunts & Pboro v Northants

Around 1984, two enterprising players, Frank Cockerill and Peter Walker, published “Pawn Exchange” with the grandiose subtitle “The National Magazine of the Peterborough Chess Club”. I was asked for a contribution to the third edition and when I complained about not having played a sufficiently interesting game, they suggested this effort from an earlier County match. I was horrified to find it billed as the Game of the Month!

The interest comes from the fact that the original annotations came before the computer age and I can therefore see how well my analysis stands up to the scrutiny of heartless machines... I include my earlier thoughts in italics.

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	g6
3	Nc3	d5
4	cxd5	Nxd5
5	e4	Nxc3
6	bxc3	c5
7	Bc4	Nc6
8	Qf3	

Frank allowed himself an editorial comment that the position reminded him of the Monkey’s Bum variation of the Pirc Defence. How unkind! By delaying Bg7, Black has removed the natural 0-0 as a defence to this simple threat and has to weaken the black squares around his king position.

8	...	e6
9	Ne2	Bg7
10	0-0	cxd4
11	cxd4	

At the time, I reckoned accepting the QP would allow White to make mischief with Black’s uncastled king e.g. 11 ... Nxd4 12 Nxd4 Bxd4 13 Rd1 Qb6 (13 ... Qf6 14 Bb5+ Kf8 15 Bh6+ Kg8 [15 ... Ke7 16 Qa3+] 16 Qxf6 Bxf6 17 e5 Be7 18 Rac1 with a very satisfactory position though Fritz improves with 16 Rxd4 Qxd4 17 Rd1) 14 Qd3!? Bxa1 15 Bb5+ Kf8 16 Ba3+ Kg8 17 Rxa1 with compensation for the exchange. Naturally, Fritz points out that 16 ... Kg7 prevents the KR from becoming blocked and therefore prefers 16 Bh6+ since 16 ... Bg7 is met by 17 Qc3!, 16 ... Kg8 17 Qd8 mates and 16 ... Ke7 17 Qa3+ Kf8 18 Qf3+ is a perpetual check. It agrees that 14 Qd3!? deserves the punctuation and gives White a slight edge after 14 Bb5+. My judgement would have been OK but for Fritz surprisingly recommending 11 ... Bxd4. I never considered this because of the apparent weakening of the dark squares.

11	...	0-0
12	Ba3	Re8

13	Rad1	Qa5
14	Bd6	b5
15	Bb3	Bb7
16	Qf4	

A move to discourage Rad8 and to open the third rank for the rook.

16	...	Rac8
17	Rd3	Nd8
18	Ng3	Qb6
19	Nh5	



What happens after 19 ... gxh5? A good question! My analysis went 20 Rg3 and none of the replies seemed to counter 21 Rxg7+ Kxg7 22 Qg5+ Kh8 23 Be5+ mating e.g.

a) 20 ... Qxd4 21 Be5 Qxe4 22 Rxg7+ Kf8 23 Qf6 (intending 24 Rg8+)

b) 20 ... f5 21 Rxg7+ (the simple Qe5 is far stronger) Kxg7 22 Qg5+ Kf7 23 Qxf5+ (Qxh5+!) Kg7 (overlooking Kg8) 24 Be5+ Kg8 25 Qg5+ mating

c) 20 ... f6 21 Qxf6 Rc7 22 Be5 Ree7 23 Rxg7+ Rxg7 24 Qxd8+

d) 20 ... Bxe4 21 Rxg7 Kxg7 22 Qg5+ (22 Be5+ may give Black more chance to go wrong e.g. 22 ... Kf8 23 Bf6 Re7 24 Qxe4) Bg6 23 Be5+ Kf8 24 Bf6 Re7 25 Bxe7 with the initiative at the cost of a pawn.

Three of the four lines have stood the test and the other was actually better than anticipated! My opponent declines the sacrifice and quickly succumbs.

19	...	Bxe4
20	Nxg7	Bxd3
21	Nxe8	Qc6
22	Nf6+	Kg7
23	Ng4	Nb7
24	Qf6+	1-0

Unfortunately, “Pawn Exchange” never reached its fourth edition. I hope this game wasn’t to blame!

Club Championship

Here is the draw for the divisional stage of the Club Championship. I have separated the entrants into two divisions based on their showings in the preliminary rounds and given the White pieces preferentially to those with the better score from the initial stage, Please note that the first-named player has **WHITE**.

Division 1

Round 1		Date : 2 nd January	
C Ross		R Jones	
F Bowers		C Collins	
J Osbourn		P Hanks	
Round 2		Date : 9 th January	
C Collins		C Ross	
R Jones		P Hanks	
F Bowers		J Osbourn	
Round 3		Date : 23 rd January	
C Ross		J Osbourn	
P Hanks		F Bowers	
C Collins		R Jones	
Round 4		Date : 20 th February	
C Ross		P Hanks	
C Collins		J Osbourn	
R Jones		F Bowers	
Round 5		Date : 26 th March	
F Bowers		C Ross	
J Osbourn		R Jones	
P Hanks		C Collins	

Division 2

Round 1		Date : 2 nd January	
M Tarabad		Bye	
S Walker		C Russell	
H Currie		M Ingram	
N Wedley		A Brookbanks	
Round 2		Date : 23 rd January	
C Russell		M Tarabad	
M Ingram		Bye	
A Brookbanks		S Walker	
N Wedley		H Currie	
Round 3		Date : 30 th January	
M Tarabad		M Ingram	
C Russell		A Brookbanks	
Bye		N Wedley	
S Walker		H Currie	
Round 4		Date : 13 th February	
A Brookbanks		M Tarabad	
M Ingram		N Wedley	
H Currie		C Russell	
S Walker		Bye	
Round 5		Date : 20 th February	
M Tarabad		N Wedley	
A Brookbanks		H Currie	
M Ingram		S Walker	
Bye		C Russell	
Round 6		Date : 5 th March	
H Currie		M Tarabad	
S Walker		N Wedley	
Bye		A Brookbanks	
C Russell		M Ingram	
Round 7		Date : 26 th March	
M Tarabad		S Walker	
H Currie		Bye	
N Wedley		C Russell	
M Ingram		A Brookbanks	