

NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – May 2008

Chairman's Chatter

Congratulations! The Club has its first champion in Chris Ross. He wins Division 1 with $4\frac{1}{2}/5$ and Sam Caraway was the worthy winner of Division 2 with $5\frac{1}{2}/7$. Most of all, thanks to all competitors for making it a credible and hopefully enjoyable event.

Paul Hanks

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2.



Diary Dates

The Jamboree at Warboys on 30th April will be followed by the club Quickplay tournament on May 7th with the summer season starting thereafter.

Result Round-up

New England B		Warboys B	
S Caraway	½	B Duff	½
D Lane	0	J Beck	1
A Brookbanks	0	P Clough	1
H Currie	1	M Onions	0

Spalding		New England B	
J van Gemeren	½	S Caraway	½
J Smith	1	D Lane	0
R Coats	½	H Currie	½
J Pulford	0	M Tarabad	1

Peterborough C		New England B	
D Brown	½	A Brookbanks	½
B PlesanceBrown	0	M Tarabad	1
J Veerdegem	0	H Currie	1
G Evans	½	S Walker	½

Warboys A		New England A	
C Pickard	1	C Ross	0
C Watkins	0	P Hanks	1
M Misson	1	R Jones	0
R Mann	1	J Osborne	0
B Duff	1d	M Ashkettle	0d

Division 1	CR	PH	FB	RJ	CC	JO	Total
Chris Ross	X	½	1	1	1	1	4½
Paul Hanks	½	X	½	1	½	1	3½
Francis Bowers	0	½	X	½	1	1	3
Ron Jones	0	0	½	X	½	½	1½
Chris Collins	0	½	0	½	X	■	1/4
John Osborne	0	0	0	½	■	X	½/4

Division 2	SC	DL	CR	AB	NW	MT	HC	SW	Total
Sam Caraway	X	1	½	1	0	1	1	1	5½
Des Lane	0	X	1	½	1	1	0	1	4½
Chris Russell	½	0	X	0	½	1	1	1	4
Alan B'banks	0	½	1	X	0	0	1	1	3½
Norman Wedley	1	0	½	1	X	1	0	0	3½
Mahmoud T'bad	0	0	0	1	0	X	1	1	3
Harry Currie	0	1	0	0	1	0	X	0	2
Steve Walker	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	X	2

Problem night : 19th March 2008

Pos	Pairing	Rd 1	Rd 2	Total
1=	Alan & Chris Ross	18	14	32

	Francis & Harry	18	14	32
3	Chris Russell	7	11	18
4	Ron & Chris Collins	7	8	15
5	Des & Mahmoud	7	3	10

Match of the Month

The New England Club is in its first season so it may seem strange that this month's contribution harks back fifty years to the Golden Age of chess. The reason is that our bon viveur Jack Alster witnessed one of the momentous tournaments of those times and for the newsletter, I asked him to reminisce...

Portoroz 1958

Ahead of us was a brightly painted wooden structure announcing boldly 'Portoroz 1958 International Chess Championship'. The little seaside resort on the Adriatic coast was doing itself proud and would soon, no doubt, squeeze every dinar out of gullible tourists like ourselves. But in return, we would have the privilege of breathing the same air and walking on the same carpet as the likes of Tal, Petrosian, Olafsson and of course, the 15 year old newly discovered genius – Bobby Fischer.

But there were still absentees : Botvinnik, Smyslov and Spassky – all Russians. The Soviet Union was keeping a tight hold on the World Championship! It would not risk a fight with Fischer just yet! This seems to confirm Fischer's accusation that he would have to face a whole army of Russians to get anywhere. He was right in this. It was a case of one man against a phalanx of Russians. Many of Fischer's thoughts were correct despite his later bizarre behaviour.

He was the talk of the Yugoslav press and had already provided them with a juicy story. His elder sister had chaperoned him on the plane from the USA to Portoroz. On the flight, she had fallen for a Swiss man and left the plane at Zurich to follow her potential lover. Poor Bobby was alone and soon had to face the might of the world's chess. The lad burst into tears and the press had a field day! No, life was hard and yet the young man came 6th out of 21, only 1½ points behind the winner, Tal.

On the day we watched from the front row only 3 feet from the action, he was playing Petrosian, the defensive genius. This canny Armenian was practically unbeatable. He covered himself time and again; you faced not one brick wall but three. He started with the safe 1 c4, Fischer replied with Nf6 and on and on these titans struggled. The game was adjourned to the next day. Meanwhile, I looked round. There was Tal with his piercing eyes, Olafsson with his Icelandic smoothness, Bronstein (who should have been World Champion) – a gnome but terrifyingly brilliant. (I saw him again in London where he 'walked' through our top county players.)

We went outside into the lovely Adriatic air. The stars sparkled and at 2a.m. the cafes were still open. And

there was a very large head with a shock of enormous hair. There was a buzz around him – it was Bent Larsen who, so a bystander told me, was almost world standard at bridge. No wonder he only came 16th at chess!

Here is the game I watched :-

T Petrosian v R J Fischer

Portoroz Interzonal Round 13, 1958

1 c4 Nf6 2 Nc3 g6 3 g3 Bg7 4 Bg2 0–0 5 Nf3 d6 6 0–0 Nc6 7 d3 Nh5 8 d4

Two years earlier, Petrosian had lost to Vasiukov playing 8 Rb1 f5 9 Qc2 a5 10 a3 f4

8 ... e5 9 d5

An early attempt to force the pace comes to nothing e.g. 9 dxe5 dxe5 10 Qxd8 Rxd8 11 Nd5 Rd7 12 Bh3 f5 13 g4 Nf6! 14 gxf5 (14 Nxf6+ Bxf6 15 gxf5 gxf5 16 Bxf5? Rg7+—) 14 ... Nxd5 15 cxd5 Rxd5

9 ... Ne7 10 e4 f5

Boleslavsky was a specialist in King Indian-type positions and in the preceding USSR Championship, he had already played the superior continuation 10 ... c5! 11 Ne1 Kh8 12 Nd3 f5 13 Rb1 Nf6= against Petrosian. That said, the text move is thematic.

11 exf5 gxf5

Do you have faith in computer evaluations of such positions? For instance, do you prefer the assorted pieces or the queen after 11 ... Nxf5 12 g4 Nd4 13 gxh5 Bg4 14 Nxd4! Bxd1 15 Ne6? Fritz gives White the advantage and similarly for 11 ... Bxf5 12 Ng5 Qd7 13 Ne6! Bxe6 14 dxe6 Qxe6 15 Bxb7 Rab8 16 Bg2 Qxc4 17 Nd5!±

12 Nxe5 Nxc3 13 hxc3 Bxe5?

13 ... dxe5 14 c5 is unclear but probably more in Fischer's style than Petrosian's.

14 f4! Bg7 15 Be3 Bd7 16 Bd4 Ng6 17 Re1? Rf7?

Black misses 17 ... Bxd4+ 18 Qxd4 h5!= with h5-h4 to follow. 17 Bf3 would have prevented this.

18 Bf3! Qf8 19 Kf2 Re8 20 Rxe8 Qxe8 21 Bxg7 Rxg7 22 Qd4 b6 23 Rh1

23 b4! and then c4-c5 with a queenside initiative.

23 ... a5 24 Nd1 Qf8 25 Ne3

White could try the tactical shot 25 Bh5! Re7? 26 Bxg6 hxg6 27 Rh8+ winning.

25 ... Rf7 26 b3 Qg7 27 Qxg7+ Kxg7 28 a3 Rf8 29 Be2 Ne7 30 Bd3 h6 31 Rh5 Be8 32 Rh2

Despite reaching the endgame and White have better piece activity, Black's position is not without resources. 32 Nxf5+ Nxf5 33 Rxf5 Rh8!—+ when Bg6 will trap the rook and likewise 32 Rxf5 Rh8!—+

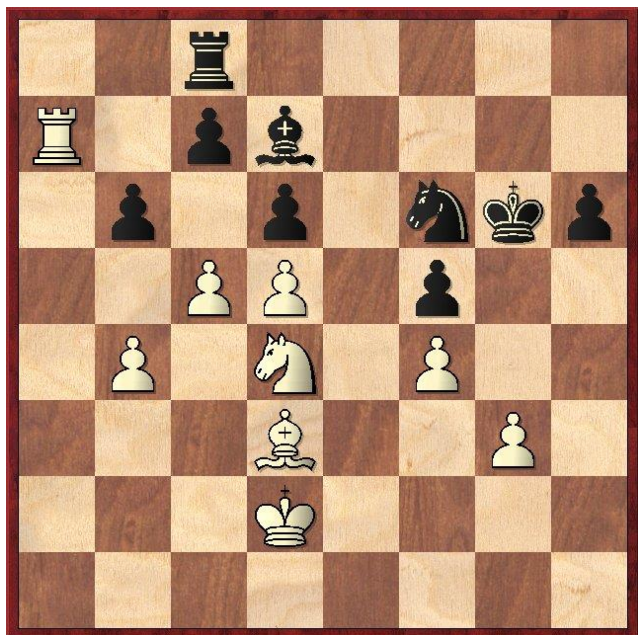
32 ... Bd7 33 Rh1 Rh8 34 Nc2! Kf6 35 Nd4 Kg7 36 Be2 Ng8?

White is trying to improve the position of his pieces but Black could be more resilient with 36 ... Ra8 37 Bh5 Rc8 38 Re1 Kf6 39 Ne6 c6=. The text move removes the prospect of the black rook intervening on the queenside and leaves a target on f5.

37 b4! Nf6 38 Bd3! axb4

38 ... Ne4+ 39 Bxe4 fxe4 40 bxa5 bxa5 (40 ... Ra8 41 axb6 cxb6 42 Rb1+-) 41 Rb1 with Rb7 afterwards should win; 38 ... Kg6 39 bxa5 bxa5 40 Rb1+- etc.

39 axb4 Kg6 40 Ra1! Ng4+ 41 Ke2 Re8+ 42 Kd2 Nf6 43 Ra6 Rb8 44 Ra7 Rc8 45 c5!



45 ... bxc5

Obviously not 45 ... Nxd5? 46 c6 winning.

46 bxc5 dxc5 47 Nf3! Kf7!

You've guessed it! 47 ... Nxd5? 48 Ne5+

48 Ne5+ Ke7 49 Nxd7 Nxd7 50 Bxf5 Rf8! 51 g4

51 Bxd7 draws 51 ... Kxd7 52 Ke3 (52 Ra6 Rg8) 52 ... Kd6 53 Ra6+ Kxd5 54 Rxh6 Re8+ 55 Kf3 c4

51 ... Kd6?

Black is fighting to stay alive but 51 ... Nf6! 52 Be6 Nxd5! 53 Bxd5 Rxf4= (53 ... Rdb8=) was simpler.

52 Bxd7!+- Kxd7 53 Ke3 Re8+ 54 Kf3 Kd6 55 Ra6+ Kxd5 56 Rxh6 c4 57 Rh1?

Petrosian maintains that White lets the victory slip at this point. The correct line is 57 Rh7 c6 (57 ... c5 58 Rd7+ Ke6 59 Rd1 Rb8 60 g5? (60 f5+! Ke5 61 Re1+ Kd4 (61 ... Kf6 62 Kf4 c3 63 g5+ Kg7 64 g6 c2 65 Kg5 Rb1 66 f6+-) 62 g5 c3 63 f6 c2 64. Rc1! (64 f7? Rb1!)=) 64 ... Ke5 65 Kg4!+-) 60 ... c3 61 Kg4 (61 Rc1 Kf5 62 Rxc3 c4! 63 Rxc4 Rb3+=) 61 ... Rb4 62 Re1+ Kf7 63 Kf5 c2 64 Rc1 Rc4 65 g6+ Kg7 66 Kg5 Rc3=) 58 Rd7+ Kc5 59 Rd1 c3 60 g5 Kc4 61 g6 c2 62 Rc1 Kc3 63 f5 Rg8 64 Kf4 Kd2 65 Rxc2+ Kxc2 66 Kg5 c5 67 f6 c4 68 f7 Rxc6+ 69 Kxc6 c3 70 f8Q+-). It all rests on a single tempo!

57 ... c3 58 g5 c5 59 Rd1+

Other tries are no better. 59 g6 Rg8 60 f5 Ke5 61 Kg4 Kf6 62 Rc1 c4 63 Rxc3 Rc8!+=; 59 Kg4 Re2! 60 g6 Ke4! 61 Kg5 Rg2+ 62 Kf6 Kxf4=

59 ... Kc4 60 g6 c2 61 Rc1

After 61 Rg1 Rd8 62 Rc1 is the only move. 62 g7? Rg8! with the idea Rxc7 will actually turn the tables.

61 ... Kd3 62 f5 Rg8! 63 Kf4 Kd2 64 Rxc2+ Kxc2 65 Kg5 c4 66 f6 c3 67 f7 1/2-1/2

The continuation 67 ... Rxc6+ (67 ... Rc8 68 g7 Kb1 69 f8Q Rxf8 70 gxf8Q c2=) 68 Kxc6 Kb1 69 f8Q c2 is a standard draw.

Dr Jack Alster

Website to Watch

May must be when grandmasters go on holiday. There does not seem to be a tournament during the month involving the top players or where there is a reasonable chance of seeing some on-line action. Sorry!

Eye-Opener

Last month, Chris Ross was recalling his heyday when he could sacrifice his queen as a carefree youth. In those far-off days, no-one would respond to 1 e4 with 1... d5. It was called the Centre Counter Defence and regarded as vaguely unsound. More recently, it has gained popularity as the Scandinavian Defence and it occurred recently when Francis Bowers took on Ray Ilett so you need to be prepared to confront it.

After 2 exd5, much depends on whether Black exposes his queen with 2 ... Qxd5 or plays more circumspectly with 2 ... Nf6. The former gives White natural developing options that can lead to an early tactical advantage. For instance,

J Mieses v Oehqvist Nuremburg 1895

1 e4		d5
2 exd5	Qxd5	
3 Nc3	Qd8	
4 d4		Nc6
5 Nf3	Bg4	
6 d5		Ne5

So far it has all looked very plausible but ...



7 Nxe5

Bxd1

8 Bb5+

c6

9 dxc6

Qc7

9 ... Qb6 10 cxb7+ Kd8 (10 ... Qxb5 11 bxa8Q+) 11
bxa8Q+ Kc7 12 Nd5+; 9 ... a6 10 c7+ axb5 11 cxd8+
Rxd8 12 Nxd1

10

cxb7+

Kd8

11

Nxf7#