

# NEW ENGLANDER

## Chess Club Update – July 2008

### Chairman's Chatter

Summertime and the living's easy. Or so it goes... For chess players, the lull in league fixtures is an opportunity to sharpen your weapons in readiness for future battles either through the "masterclasses" at the club or by improving the theoretical basis of your repertoire. This month's game aims to show you that hard work on opening preparation can be worthwhile.

*Paul Hanks*

### Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2.



After last month's problem, Chris Ross requested something more challenging. Chris, I hope this fits the bill. For everyone else, you know who to blame!

### Diary Dates

Please note that the venue is hosting a large event and there is unlikely to be any chess on June 25<sup>th</sup>.

### Result Round-up

Quickplay Tournament :14<sup>th</sup> May 2008

1=	C Ross	3.5	5=	D Lane	2
1=	F Bowers	3.5	5=	C Collins	2
3=	S Caraway	3	9=	H Curry	1
3=	P Hanks	3	9=	A Brookbanks	1
5=	P Turp	2	9=	M Tarabad	1
5=	R Jones	2	12	S Walker	0

### Match of the Month

Just prior to this game, I had been reading some fiction set in ancient Rome. After the maligned father had dispatched the baddie, he turned to the hero and said, "To kill a man with a sword, you need speed, strength and ... a real desire to see him dead."

So it is with chess. Good technique in the opening has to be followed by remorseless play to overcome dogged defence.

#### C Watkins v P Hanks

Warboys A v New England A, 16.04.2008

**1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 e5 c5 4 c3 Nc6 5 Nf3 Qb6 6 Bd3 cxd4 7 cxd4 Bd7**

So, the background to this clash. I had never had any joy in previous meetings with Carl but I knew he played the Milner-Barry gambit. For once, I came prepared as you will see from the notes and I had discussed the opening with Chris Ross in the car on the way. He encouraged me to take the pawn and weather the storm. Incidentally, immediate capture of the d pawn is a trap 7 ... Nxd4 8 Nxd4 Qxd4 9 Bb5+.

**8 0-0 Nxd4 9 Nxd4 Qxd4 10 Nc3 a6**

I was beginning to worry at this point. Although I had memorised what I needed to do as Black, I had not paid enough attention to be sure of White's play – a learning point for the future. Was White following the standard line? I continued with my preparation hoping White was too!

**11 Qe2**

This is one of the main departure points from the main line. 11 Re1 is an alternative but after 11 ... Ne7 12 Ne2 Qxe5 13 Bf4 Qf6 14 Qb3 Bc6, White will have to breach a solid position to justify his material investment.

**11 ... Ne7**

**12 Kh1**

After the game, Carl criticised the text move preferring 12 Rd1. In his book, Psakhis gives Black a slight advantage after 12 ... Nc6 13 Bxa6 Qxe5 14 Bxb7 (14 Qxe5 Nxe5 15 Bxb7 Ra7 16 Bxd5 exd5 17 Re1 f6 18 f4 Bc5+ 19 Kh1 d4 Mnatsakanian v Monin, USSR 1979) 14 ... Qxe2 15 Nxe2 Rb8 16 Bxc6 Bxc6

**12 ... Nc6**

**13 f4 Nb4**

**14 Bb1**

"Unfortunate...brings White to the verge of defeat" – Psakhis. He recommends 14 Rd1 Nxd3 15 Rxd3 Qb6 Pirrot v Knaak, Germany 1991 and this is how I intended to proceed.

**14 ... Qc4**

I have now reached the end of my preparation. I knew that queen moves by White allowed Black to have some fun advancing the d pawn such as

15 Qd1 d4 16 Ne4 d3 17 Nc3 Nc2 Vusatiuk v Perun, Kiev 2002

15 Qf3 d4 16 Ne4 d3 17 Bd2 Bc6 18 Re1 Rd8 19 a3 Nc2 Gooris v Barsov, Belgium 1992

**15 Qxc4**

This move receives no mention in the books so this game is our contribution to opening theory!

**15 ... dxc4**



Black has an extra pawn but more importantly, both sides have roughly equal development and without queens, White does not have the rampant initiative he usually enjoys from the gambit.

My thoughts were

a) with the endgame looming, Black can keep his king in the centre as an active piece whereas his counterpart is in a corner

b) Ra1 is out of play and should be kept so

c) I need to be careful in case my pawn structure is shattered and White can develop threats against scattered weaknesses.

**16 a3 Nd5**  
**17 Be4 Bc6**  
**18 f5 Be7**

I only came to this move after rejecting my initial preferences 18 ... Rd8 and 18 ... 0-0-0. They seem to allow the natural 19 Bg5 which releases the queenside and in the latter case, White may eventually penetrate with Rf7. I was worried about exchanges on d5 and White developing counterchances with a passed e pawn e.g. 19 Bxd5 exd5 20 e6 but with 20 ... Rd8, it is Black's pawn majority that should triumph.

**19 f6 gxf6**  
**20 exf6 Nxf6**  
**21 Bxc6+ bxc6**

**22 Rf4 Nd5**  
**23 Rxc4 Kd7**  
**24 Ne4**

The knight outpost is so strong, I was expecting 24 Nxd5 cxd5 25 Rc2 Rhc8.

**24 ... Rhb8**

This move looks a strange but I was pleased to find that Fritz also thinks it's best. Leaving the Ra8 permits some tactics based on the pin down the a file while 25 b4 a5 (threatening 26 ... axb4 27 Rxb4 Rxb4) 26 bxa5 Rxa5 leaves an obvious target on a3.

**25 h3 Rb3**  
**26 Nc5+**

I was happy with this exchange. Look at the scope for the remaining white pieces!

**26 ... Bxc5**  
**27 Rxc5 Rab8**

I oscillated between the text move and 27 ... Rg8. I suppose you should be happy to reach a position with a choice of good moves! The latter is supposed to be stronger but I spotted a drawing opportunity based on the isolation of my a and h pawns. White may be able to attack them repeatedly 28 Ra5 Ra8 29 Ra4 Kd6 30 Rh4 Rh8 (30 ... Nf6 31 Rh6) 31 Ra4 Ra8 etc. and although 28 ... Rbg3 is strong, it required more analysis than my remaining time would allow.

**28 Ra2 e5**  
**29 Rc2 f5**  
**30 Bd2 e4**  
**31 Bc3 Kd6**

A routine move and then I saw 32 Bb4+. If I did not want to retreat with 32 ... Kd7, I thought the white rooks could enter the game dangerously after 32 ... Nxb4 (32 ... R8xb4 33 axb4 Nxb4 34 Rd2+) 33 axb4 R8xb4 34 Rxa6.

**32 Kg1 Nxc3**  
**33 bxc3 f4**  
**34 Kf2 Rg8**

In time pressure, I was thinking of playing it safe with 34 ... Rf8 but as my hand moved towards the board, I spotted this superior move.

**35 c4 Ke5**

Fritz says the immediate 35 ... e3+ is more efficient but most lines transpose.

**36 c5 e3+ 0-1**

The time control has been reached. Carl turned the clocks back, used the extra time to think briefly about the position and fell on his sword. The prospects are indeed grim. For instance,

37 Kf3 (if 37 Kg1 f3 or 37 Kf1 Rb1+ 38 Ke2 Rxc2+ 39 Kd3 Rd1+ 40 Kc3 Rxc2+ 41 Rxc2 f3) 37 ... Rg3+ 38 Ke2 Rxc2+ 39 Kf1 (39 Kd1 Rb1+ 40 Rc1 Rxc1+ 41 Kxc1 Rxa2) 39 ... f3

## Website to Watch

July is the month when national championships start. After the Scottish and Irish events, the British Championships will take place in Liverpool between 27<sup>th</sup> July and 9<sup>th</sup> August as part of the Capital of Culture celebrations. You should follow progress on [www.englishchess.com](http://www.englishchess.com) but comment on various websites is not complimentary about the state of the organisation.

On the world championship scene, the second round of the Grand Prix to decide the challenger in 2011 will take place in Sochi from 30<sup>th</sup> July to 15<sup>th</sup> August. The official site is <http://grandprix.fide.com>. In the previous round, the website did not seem to function until the later rounds so let's hope for better coverage this time.

The prestige congresses are headed by the Politiken Cup taking place from 19<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> July. Their website is [www.politikencup.dk](http://www.politikencup.dk) and you might have fun finding your way about it in Danish!

## Eye Opener

Successful tactics in the opening are usually justified by objective analysis but the present article will look at striking a psychological blow. We have all been surprised over the board and unexpectedly in a critical situation, we find it all too easy to see threats that do not actually exist. Here is an example :

**Hill v Janeway**  
New York 1946

1 e4 Nf6 2 e5 Nd5 3 c4 Nf4 4 d4 Ng6 5 h4 h5 6 Be2 e6 7 Bxh5 Nxh4 8 Qg4 Nf5



The opening has been an offshoot of Alekhine's Defence where, in the main line, the black knight lands on b6. Here, there has been unusual activity on the kingside.

9 Qg6

This must have come as a shock. Black should keep his head and play 9 ... Bb4+ 10 Nc3 Rf8 which maintains equality according to Fritz. The text move relies on the variation 9 ... fxe6 10 Bxg6+ Ke7 11 Bg5#. This continuation must have dissuaded Black from the alternative 9...Nh6 because 10 Bxh6 seems to retain the same threats. It is a complex line because 10 ... Bb4+ 11 Kf1 fxe6 12 Bxg6+ Kf8 13 Bg5 regains the queen but which side do you prefer after 13 ... Rxe6 14 Bxd8? Would you trust your analysis skills and judgement at this range?

Instead, Black reacts weakly.

9 ... Qe7  
10 Bg5 fxe6

10 ... Rg8 was still feasible though White can try 11 Qxf5.

11 Bxg6+ Kd8  
12 Rxe6 1-0

12 ... Qxe6 13 Rxf8 Ke2 14 Re8#