

NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – October 2008

Chairman's Chatter

On September 3rd, we held a well-attended AGM and the highlights were :-

- the club has a balance of £90. For 2008-9, subscription rates would include membership of the New England Club and Institute
 - Under 65 : £24 p.a.
 - Over 65 : £20 p.a.

Monies should be paid to Harry Currie by 15th October. Purchase of trophies will be considered with any surplus.

- the club will enter 2 league teams as last year with two teams also competing in the "500" competition (maximum total grading of the four boards being 500). The emphasis of the new teams is to provide match play for all members of the club.
- the committee was re-elected as last year with Phil Turp and Chris Russell volunteering to select the squads and captain the teams in the "500" competition.
- internal events are to be held as last year but a renewed attempt will be made to arrange a challenge match
- a club meal will be held on a convenient night
- members considered rising travelling expenses and would review the matter again next year if the policy of gentlemen's agreements on cost sharing was not thought to be working
- additional training through mentoring would be welcomed and the stronger players were amenable
- a call was made for contributions to the newsletter.

Paul Hanks

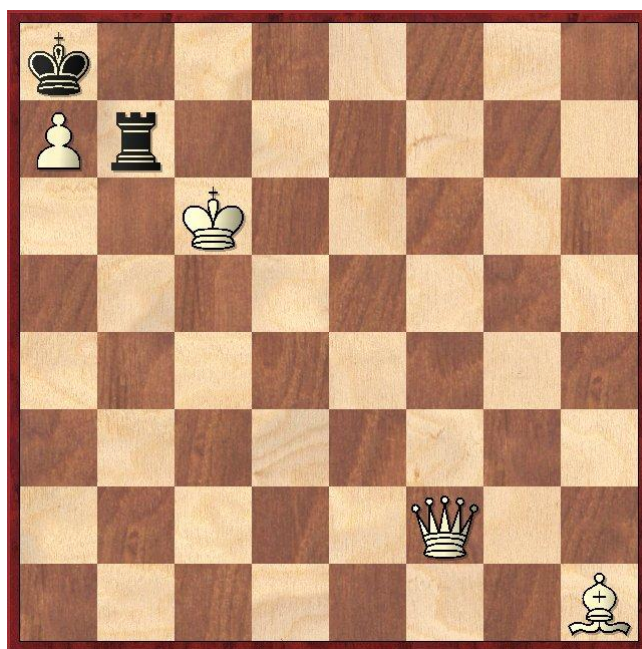
Diary Dates

If you have not already done so, please contact Paul Hanks as soon as possible and let him know if you wish to participate in the Club Championship this year. Seven rounds have been scheduled starting 8th October with the aim of finishing on 4th March and the draw will be announced shortly.

The Executive Committee of the Cambridgeshire Chess Association met on 10th September to determine the composition of the leagues and formalise other events being held throughout the season. The fixture lists were issued recently by the league secretary and club events have been worked round the matches as far as possible. Please see the attached schedule.

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2.



Last Month's solution

In Forsyth notation : **3R4/bk6/8/8/P7/8/6KB/5Q2**

1 Ra8 Kxa8/Bb6 2 Qf3#
1 ... B other 2 Qa6#
1 ... K other 2 Qb5#

Website to Watch

October is a good month for chess.

At the top of the list is the Anand v Kramnik world championship match in Bonn, Germany. The twelve match games for a prize fund of €1.5M take place from 14th October to 2nd November starting at 3pm CET. Tickets are €35/day or the action can be followed on www.uep-worldchess.com.

What are the other grandmaster doing in this period? Well, from 16th to 24th October, the European Club Cup will be held in Kallithea in Greece. At least, 85 teams have entered and the strength of some of them will make your eyes water. Yerevan, for instance, are fielding Magnus Carlsen on board 2! The website for this event is <http://ecc2008.chessdom.com>.

It may be worth mentioning that Heraklion in Crete hosts the XIIIth Olympiad for Blind and Visually Impaired Chess Players from 18th to 29th October. Whether this is a chess event or just a holiday destination remains to be seen. The official website is <http://ibca-info.org> but you may prefer to watch www.braillechess.org.uk for reports on the sun, sea and chess.

Match of the Month

At the European Individual Championship in Plovdiv, the organisers ran a beauty contest among the competitors to find the King and Queen of the tournament. With WGM Anna Sharevich from Belarus topping the journalists' poll, the resulting photo-opportunities did raise the profile of the women's event but I think such sideshows are an admission that the main event is not sufficiently interesting (which was not true in this case).

Recently, I conducted an informal survey of club members to rank the pulling power of chess stars from the past 50 years. Which one would you be most willing to pay to see?

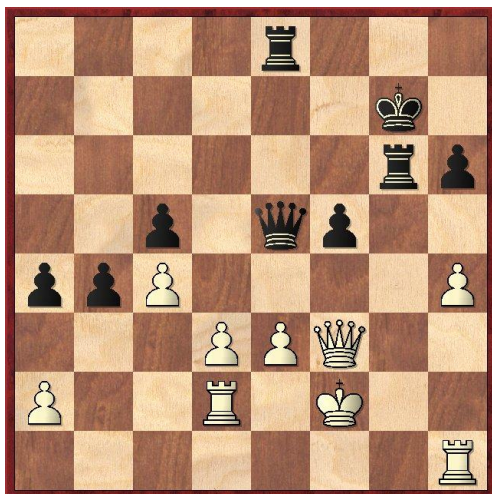
The votes were spread widely. I expected players famed for their tactical fireworks to dominate but positional players like Karpov and even Petrosian received support. Also, most world champions were mentioned (Kramnik was a notable absentee) and only Ivanchuk and Morozevich among the also-rans broke into this select company.

But how well do you know the grandmasters? Here are some positions they reached and your task is to find the game continuation that led to a rapid win. In the the best traditions of beauty contests, they will of course be revealed in reverse order :-

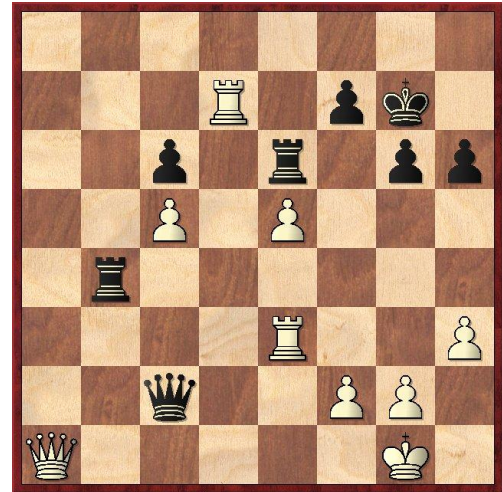
5th Anatoly Karpov (White to move)



4th Boris Spassky (Black to move)



3rd Viktor Korchnoi (White to move)



The top two were Mikhail Tal and Bobby Fischer. This is perhaps not surprising and fortunately, they did meet several times over the board. At the Bled/Zagreb Candidates Matches in 1959, the early encounters went the way of the Russian and the game I have chosen comes from the following year when USA and USSR squared up at the Leipzig Olympiad.

R J Fischer v M Tal
Leipzig Olympiad, 1960

- | | | |
|---|------------|------------|
| 1 | e4 | e6 |
| 2 | d4 | d5 |
| 3 | Nc3 | Bb4 |
| 4 | e5 | c5 |
| 5 | a3 | Ba5 |

Tal's choice of opening (French Defence, Winawer Variation) comes in response to some unconvincing displays by Fischer. Later, Tal wrote "Black, in the French, has to play with great accuracy and this is a quality which I never had a great measure of, neither now nor in my earlier days." Indeed, Black's unusual last move is considered dubious.

- | | | |
|----|-------------|--------------|
| 6 | b4 | cxd4 |
| 7 | Qg4 | Ne7 |
| 8 | bxa5 | dxcc3 |
| 9 | Qxg7 | Rg8 |
| 10 | Qxh7 | Nbc6 |
| 11 | Nf3 | Qc7 |
| 12 | Bb5 | Bd7 |

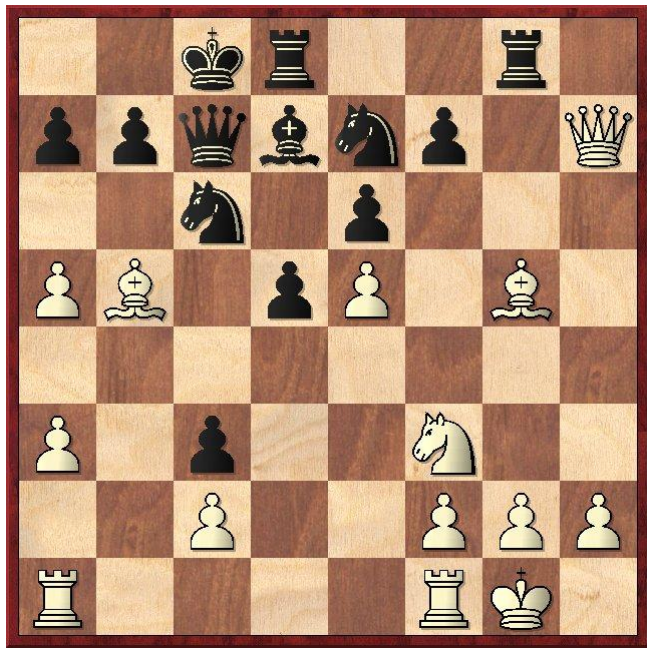
Fischer remarks "12 ... Rg2? 13 Kf1 Rg8 14 Rg1 Rg1 15 Kg1 and Black's king remains hemmed in the centre while White merely marches his h pawn to victory."

- | | | |
|----|------------|--------------|
| 13 | 0-0 | 0-0-0 |
| 14 | Bg5 | |

Fischer admits he underestimated Tal's reply and prefers 14 Bc6 at this point. His analysis runs

- A) 14 ... Qc6 15 Bg5 d4 16 h4
- B) 14 ... Nc6 15 Re1 followed by Bg5 and h4 with a decisive bind
- C) 14 ... Bc6 15 Qf7 d4 16 Qe6 Bd7 17 Qe7 Rg2 18 Kg2 Bh3 19 Kh3 Qe7 20 Bg5 and White soon consolidates to victory.

You may like to pit your judgement against Fischer's!



14 ... **Nxe5**

Now if 15 Be7 Nf3 16 Kh1 Rh8, White originally intended 15 Bd7 but 15 ... Rd7 16 Ne5 (16 Be7 Nf3 17 Kh1 Qh2) Qe5 17 Be7 Rh8 when Black regains the piece with greater activity.

15 **Nxe5** **Bxb5**

This is the serious winning attempt. The alternative 15 ... Qe5 16 Be7 Rh8 17 Rfe1 (17 Rae1 Qb8!) leads to exchanges which slightly favour White.

16 **Nxf7** **Bxf1**
 17 **Nxd8** **Rxg5**
 18 **Nxe6**

Who is going to obtain a material advantage here?

18 ... **Rxg2+**
 19 **Kh1**

If 19 Kf1 Rh2 20 Qf7 (20 Nc7 Rh7 wins a piece) Rh1 with a winning attack e.g. 21 Ke2 Qc4 22 Kf3 (22 Ke3 Qe4#) Rh3 23 Kg2 Qg4 etc.

19 ... **Qe5**
 20 **Rxf1** **Qxe6**
 21 **Kxg2** **Qg4+** $\frac{1}{2}-\frac{1}{2}$

A few issues ago, I lamented the trend for opening theory to quash your opponent's activity rather than aiming for positive attacking play. Here, the two players were unafraid of a bare-knuckle fight and provided a treat for the chess public that is rare nowadays.

Solutions

- Karpov v Gurevich, Reggio Emilia 1991
1 Qe5 1-0
- Korchnoi v Spassky, Kiev (m/3) 1968
1 ... f4 2 ef4 Qd4 3 Kf1 h5 0-1
- Korchnoi v Kraidman, Beer-Sheva 1978
1 Rf3 Rb1 2 Kh2 g5 3 Qa8 Qe4 4 Rdf7 Kg6 Qg8 Kh5
6 R7f5 Qe1 7 Rg5 1-0

Eye Opener

Thinking of Chris Ross on the beach in Crete may bring to mind the saying that there is nothing new under the sun.

Recently, I came across an example of how combinations appear in different forms. Two games arising from the Najdorf variation of the Sicilian Defence could have had similar conclusions - one as the main line, the other as a variation. In the first, the motif is obvious and Black can be blamed for poor play. In the second, however, the extra complexity conceals the danger and we should applaud White for seeing the possibility.

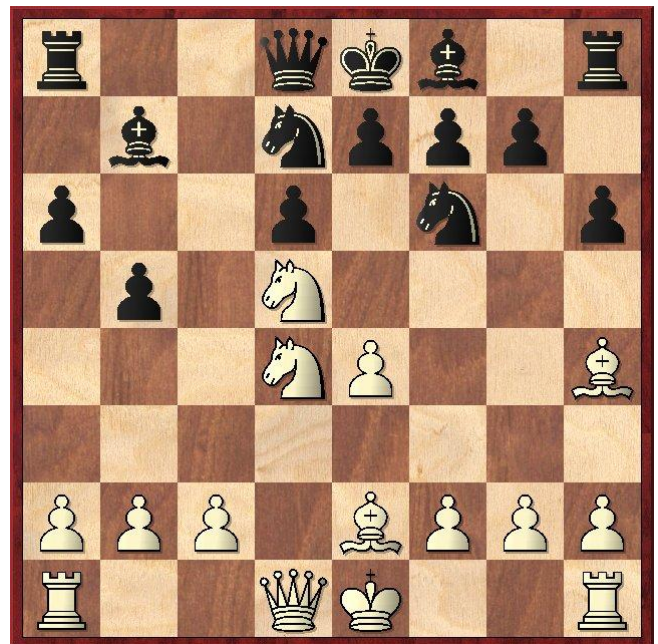
Galinas v Sanchez
 New Jersey 1975

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Be3 Nbd7 7 Bc4 b5 8 Bd5 Nd5 9 Nd5 e6 10 Nc6 Qh4 11 Nc7#

Armed with this knowledge, you should have no trouble understanding the sequel and better still, identifying the common thread to Black's opening debacle.

Waserski v Godes
 Sverdlovsk 1975

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6
 6 **Bg5** **Nbd7**
 7 **Be2** **h6**
 8 **Bh4** **b5**
 9 **Nd5** **Bb7**



10 **Ne6**

1-0

New England Chess Club Fixtures 2008-9

Day	Date	All Club	A Team	B Team	500 A team	500 B team
Wed	17 Sep	Mini-lightning	←	←	←	←
		Pboro v Cambs at				
Wed	24 Sep	Warboys	←	←	←	←
Wed	1 Oct	-	H v Warboys A		-	-
			Division One	Division Two		
Wed	8 Oct	Club Championship	Rd 1	Rd 1	-	-
Thurs	9 Oct	-	A v Pboro A	-	-	-
Wed	15 Oct	-	Div 1 Rd 2	A v Warboys B	-	-
Wed	22 Oct	-	A v Cambs A	Div 2 Rd 2	-	-
Wed	29 Oct	-	-	-	H v Spalding	H v Pboro
		County Champion				
Wed	5 Nov	at New England	←	←	←	←
Thurs	6 Nov	Fenland KO	A v Pboro	←	←	←
Mon	10 Nov	-	-	A v St Neots B	-	-
Wed	12 Nov	-	H v St Neots A	Div 2 Rd 3	-	-
Wed	19 Nov	-	Div 1 Rd 3	H v Cambs B	-	-
Wed	26 Nov	-	H v Buckden A	Div 2 Rd 4	-	-
Wed	3 Dec	-	Div 1 Rd 4	A v Buckden B	-	-
		County Champion				
Wed	10 Dec	at Cambridge	Div 1 Postp'mt	Div 2 Postp'mt	←	←
Wed	17 Dec	Xmas special	←	←	←	←
Wed	24 Dec	Christmas Eve	No meeting	No meeting	←	←
Wed	31 Dec	New Year's Eve	No meeting	No meeting	←	←
Wed	7 Jan	Problem night	←	←	←	←
Thurs	8 Jan	-	A v Pboro B	-	-	-
Wed	14 Jan	-	A v Warboys A	Div 2 Rd 5	-	-
Wed	21 Jan	Club meal	←	←	←	←
		County Champion				
Thurs	22 Jan	at Peterborough	-	-	-	-
Wed	28 Jan	-	Div 1 Rd 5	H v Spalding		
Tues	3 Feb	-	-	-		A v Spalding
Wed	4 Feb	-	H v Cambs A	Div 2 Rd 6	-	-
Wed	11 Feb	-	Div 1 Rd 6	H v Warboys B	-	-
Mon	16 Feb	-	A v St Neots	-	-	-
		Handicap				
Wed	18 Feb	tournament	←	←	←	←
		County Champion				
Wed	25 Feb	at Warboys	Div 1 Postp'mt	Div 2 Postp'mt		
Mon	2 Mar	-	A v Buckden A	-	-	-
		Club Championship				
Wed	4 Mar		Div 1 Rd 7	Div 2 Rd 7	-	-
Wed	11 Mar	-	H v Pboro A		-	-
Wed	18 Mar	-	-	A v Cambs B	A v Warboys	-
Wed	25 Mar	-	-	H v St Neots B	-	-
Wed	1 Apr	-	H v Pboro B		-	-
Wed	8 Apr	-		H v Buckden B	-	-
Wed	15 Apr	-	-	-	H v New Eng B	A v New Eng A
Tues	21 Apr	-	-	A v Spalding	-	-
Wed	22 Apr	-			-	H v Warboys
Wed	29 Apr	Challenge match	←	←	←	←
Thurs	30 Apr	-	-	-	A v Pboro	-
		Quickplay				
Wed	6 May	tournament	←	←	←	←
Wed	13 May	Jamboree	←	←	←	←