

# NEW ENGLANDER

## Chess Club Update – November 2008

### Chairman's Chatter

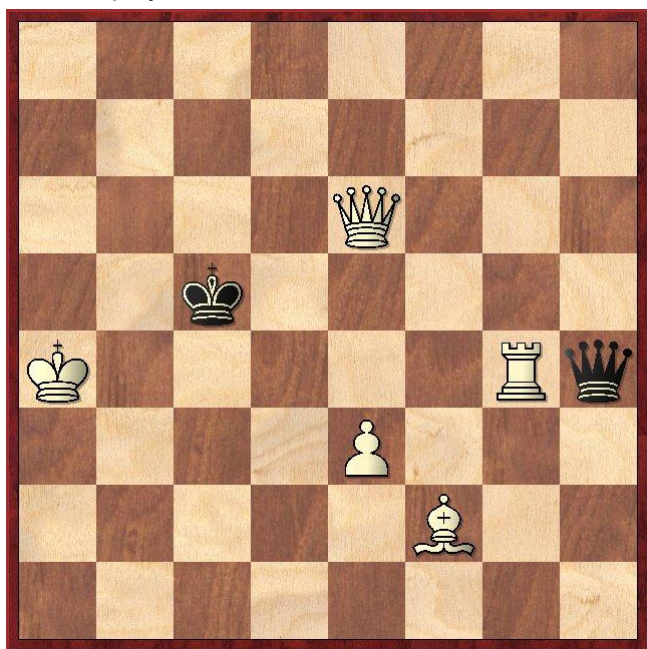
At the AGM, a reasonable request was made for stronger players to mentor other club members. This issue comes as a response and a challenge.

There is a section called Positional Play which will give you the opportunity to test your judgement and compare it against the club champion's. This first part sets the scene and gives a grandmaster game for you to assess. Next month, there will be a follow-up in which the game is annotated and the club's efforts to play at a higher level will be discussed. Obviously, if you do not send in your attempts, there will be nothing to write about. So get analysing!

*Paul Hanks*

### Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2.



Last Month's solution

In Forsyth notation : **k7/Pr6/2K5/8/8/5Q2/7B**

**1 Qb6 Rxb6 2 Kxb6#**  
**1 ... Rxa7 2 Qd8#**  
**1 ... Rc7+ 2 Kxc7#**  
**1 ... R other 2 Qb8#**

### Result Round-up

New England A	3	Warboys A	2
C Ross	1	M Misson	0
F Bowers	½	C Watkins	½
P Turp	0	R Mann	1
P Hanks	1	R Beck	0
S Caraway	½	B Duff	½

Peterborough A	3	New England A	2
A Timoshenko	½	C Ross	½
R Ilett	1	F Bowers	0
R Sayers	1	P Turp	0
A Summers	½	P Hanks	½
M Connolly	0	S Caraway	1

Warboys B	3½	New England B	½
J Beck	½	J Osborne	½
P Clough	1	C Russell	0
P Baddeley	1	A Brookbanks	0
M Onyons	1	Default	0

Mini-Lightning 17/9/08	C	P	S	D	M	H	Total
Chris Ross	X	1	1	1	1	1	5
Paul Hanks	0	X	1	½	1	1	3½
Sam Caraway	0	0	X	1	1	1	3
Des Lane	0	½	0	X	1	1	2½
Mahmoud Tarabad	0	0	0	0	X	1	1
Harry Currie	0	0	0	0	0	X	0

### Club Championship

Division One	S C	F B	C R	R J	P H	P T	Total
S Caraway	X					½	½ / 1
F Bowers		X		1			1 / 1
C Ross			X		½		½ / 1
R Jones		0		X			0 / 1
P Hanks			½		X	1	1½ / 2
P Turp	½				0	X	½ / 2

Division Two	H C	N W	C C	C R	A B	D L	S W	M T	Total
H Currie	X						P	P	0 / 0
N Wedley		X			?		1		1 / 1
C Collins			X	P		0			0 / 1
C Russell			P	X	P				0 / 0
A Brookbanks		?		P	X				0 / 0
D Lane			1			X		1	2 / 2
S Walker	P	0					X		0 / 1
M Tarabad	P					0		X	0 / 1

## Diary Dates

The draw for the club championship is appended to the end of this newsletter. The dates to note are :-

	Division One	Division Two
Round 1	<b>8<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>8<sup>th</sup> October</b>
Round 2	<b>15<sup>th</sup> October</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> October</b>
Round 3	<b>19<sup>th</sup> November</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> November</b>
Round 4	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	<b>26<sup>th</sup> November</b>
Round 5	<b>28<sup>th</sup> January</b>	<b>14<sup>th</sup> January</b>
Round 6	<b>11<sup>th</sup> February</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> February</b>
Round 7	<b>4<sup>th</sup> March</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> March</b>

Please note that the evenings of 10<sup>th</sup> December and 25<sup>th</sup> February are available for game postponements but contestants should clear any backlog as quickly as possible.

Contact details for participants are listed below. *Please let me know if there are any changes.*

<b>Name</b>	<b>Telephone</b>
Paul Hanks	01733 343017
Chris Russell	01733 203653 (H) 01733 582993 (W)
Harry Currie	01733 241189
Francis Bowers	01733 579569
Mahmoud Tarabad	01778 348183 (H) 01733 583261 (W)
Des Lane	01778 345540
Ron Jones	01778 346089
John Osborne	01733 370756
Steve Walker	01733 566303
Norman Wedley	01733 263337
Chris Ross	01480 431962 (H) 07786 064 537 (M)
Phil Turp	01733 252319
Chris Collins	01945 465176
Alan Brookbanks	01733 320787
Samuel Caraway	07908 179076
Jack Alster	01733 563335

## Website to Watch

November sees the Chess Olympiad being staged in Dresden, Germany. It takes place from 12<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> of the month with more than 150 competing teams and can be followed on [www.dresden2008.de/english](http://www.dresden2008.de/english).

In the next stage of the World Championship cycle, previous holder Topalov meets World Cup winner

Kamsky to find a challenger for Anand after his world championship triumph over Kramnik. The 8 game contest takes place from 28<sup>th</sup> November to 18<sup>th</sup> December but [www.chessdom.com/news/topalov-kamsky-dubai](http://www.chessdom.com/news/topalov-kamsky-dubai) reports that the arrangements are in trouble. We have been promised links to live action from <http://en.chessfish.com/live>.

## Eye Opener

During the summer, we practised seeing mating patterns using constructed chess problems. This month's snippet shows how to convert a development advantage with a tactical coup reminiscent of the study positions.

### Lewis v Dayton

USA, 1942

**1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 0-0 Nxe4 5 Re1 d5 6 Bb3 Bc5 7 d4 Nxd4 8 Nxe5 Qf6 9 Bxd5**

How would you finish the game?



**9 ... Qxf2+**

Did anyone suggest 9 ... Qxe5?

**10 Kh1 Qg1+**

**11 Kxg1 Ne2+**

**12 Kf1**

Obviously not 12 Kh1 Nf2#

**12 ... N4g3+**

**13 hxg3 Nxg3#**

This should not encourage you to play the opening as Black has done. The boot can be on the other foot!

### J Buergi v S Wagner

Christmas Open B Zurich, 1996

**1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 0-0 Nxe4 5 Bd5 Nf6 6 Bxc6 bxc6 7 Nxe5 Be7 8 d4 Bb7 9 Re1 0-0 10 c3 Re8**

Black's last move is not good but can you see why?

**11 Qb3 Rb8**

**12 Nxf7 1-0**

## Match of the Month

We may cast a jealous eye at the globe-trotting adventures of our club champion but here is a fantastic result he achieved in Austria – beating an IM with the black pieces is something we can all envy!

### H Groetz (IM 2405) v C Ross (2159)

23rd Schwarzacher Open, Round 8, 23.08.08

**1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 a6 5 Bd3 Bc5 6 Nb3 Ba7 7 Qe2 Nc6 8 Be3 d6 9 f4**

A new move for me. I've never seen this variation before but as opening databases indicate, it is indeed a common enough theme. My reaction is not a good response and one that I won't repeat.

**9 ... e5**

A standard move in this set-up. Black wishes to obtain the e5 outpost and control the dark squares - hence the principle of forcing the bishop exchange with Bc5/Ba7. Although the concept itself is sound, the move is just too early. White can now punish Black for his lack of development.

**10 Nc3 Nf6**

Stopping White from castling queen-side, due to Bg4, but this just encourages White to push his f pawn. The knight was probably best placed on e7.

**11 f5 Nd4?!**

Black is in trouble after this. Yes, it is again a common enough theme but the lack of development in the position is a vital point that can't be overlooked. After the game, the intriguing 11 ... a5 was suggested by my opponent.

**12 Bxd4 exd4**  
**13 Nd5 Nxd5?**

13 ... 0-0 was the only move here. After the text move, White gets a massive lead in development and a tremendous position. Naturally, I had missed White's clever 16th move.

**14 exd5+ Qe7**  
**15 Qxe7+ Kxe7**  
**16 f6+!**

Suddenly, Black is in serious difficulties. Taking on f6 with a pawn will simply shatter his pawn structure. Black has doubled d and f pawns - islands of pawns everywhere - and White can pick them off at will especially with his lead in development. Black has little choice now but grovel.

**16 ... Kxf6**  
**17 0-0+ Ke7**  
**18 Rae1+ Kf8**  
**19 Nd2**

White has sacrificed a pawn for a massive lead in development, complete control of open files and the restriction of the black pieces. In doing this though, he has consumed a lot of time on the clock and this factor will come back and haunt him later. The text move brings the knight back across to the kingside, from where it will exert great pressure. The position is almost, but not quite, untenable for Black now.

**19 ... Bg4**

**20 Ne4**

White gives Black hope. 20 h3 is simple and strong. The black bishop must then choose where to retreat. On h5, it protects f7 whereas on d7, it supports e6 but the d pawn is left fatally weak. The decision would be impossible to make.

**20 ... Rd8**

But now the black rook has come to life. Not brilliantly, but to life it has come.

**21 Rf4 Bc8**

The bishop returns to its best square. It doesn't block the defence of the d pawn and protects the e6 square as Ng5/Ne6+ tactics are in the air.

**22 Ref1**

Black must be careful of 22 Ng5 as 22 .. Rd7?? loses to 23 Ne6+ Kg8 24 Nc5! [threatening Re8 mate} with Nxb7 and Re7 ideas.

**22 ... f5?!**

Too ambitious. 22 f6 is more cautious. However, I just thought that the knight coming into g5 and then e6 was just too strong. I also wanted to stop any cheeky Nxb7+ tactics. Look at the black king though!

**23 g4 g6**  
**24 gxf5 gxf5**  
**25 Ng3 Kg7**

The grovel continues. White is on the verge of winning but he needs to finish it off.

**26 Bxf5 Rhf8**  
**27 Kg2**

Although not bad, it isn't the best. 27 Kh1 to avoid any discovered checks by the advance of the d pawn was best. Incidentally, I didn't want to play d4-d3+ since I wanted the c2 pawn exactly where it is to allow some tactics as actually occur in the game. White had now less than 5 minutes to reach the time control.

**27 ... b5**

Bringing the pawn away from potential attacks and planning Bb6/Ba5 and the re-routing of the black bishop onto an active square.

**28 Re4 Rf7**

And now, a couple of final moments to play.

**29 Bxh7**

This looks good but gives me counter-play! Any exchanges now will be good for white and make his life much easier. Now comes the point of me not pushing d4-d3 discovered checks.

**29 ... Rc7!?**

Apparently, 29 ... Rxf1 30 Kxf1 Kxh7 31 Re7+ Kg6 32 Rxa7 Rh8 is equal. I'm not so sure.

**30 Bf5 Rxc2+**  
**31 Kh3**

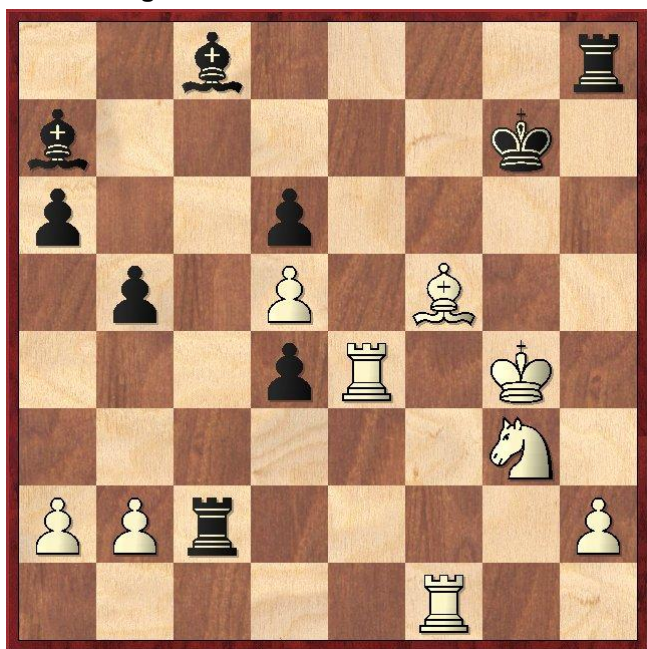
Better was 31 Kh1 Rc7 32 Bxc8 Rdxc8 33 Nf5+ Kg8 34 Rg4+ Kh8 35 Nxd6

**31 ... Rh8+**

And Black's getting active! Suddenly, the black pawn on d4 looks a huge threat and the white king has little

room to run. With minutes left on the clock, White simply didn't have time to figure out the complications.

32 Kg4



32 ... Rcxh2?!

An ambitious, but effective move in my opponent's time trouble. He went for the most logical continuation, which caused him massive problems! Black, however, has now regained his material and got a pawn on the 5th rank. But wait! His bishop on a7 will be left hanging!

33 Re7+?

Amazing. In his time trouble, White just misses that 33 Bxc8 wins, as recapturing will allow Re7+ checks and Rxa7 ideas. White went for the check, as that looked the most dangerous, forgetting that his rook can be attacked afterwards!

33 ... Kf6

34 Rxa7

Again, playing automatically in his time trouble. 34 Rfe1 was worth consideration.

34 ... Rg8+?

Black's making the same types of mistakes as White, going for simple logical moves, the easy-looking ones. The winning variation is 34 ... R8h4+ 35 Kf3 Bxf5 36 Nxf5 Kxf5 37 Kg3+ Ke5 38 Rxa6 d3 and the double rook ending is easy to convert.

35 Kf3 Bxf5

and somehow, after all the tactics, after all the complications, Black is still, still, incredibly lost!! But White had seconds now, seconds on the clock. He thought he saw the win, but got the moves in the wrong order.

36 Nh5+??

An incredible conclusion to a complicated game. The blunder is inexplicable. 36 Ne4+! wins, as there is nowhere for the black king to run. 36 Bxe4 37 Kxe4+ Kg6 38 Rg1+ wins the rook on g8. And after 36 Ne4+ Ke5 37 Re7+ Kxd5 38 Nf6+ wins the rook on g8 too! A

flurry of amazing inaccuracies at the end of a startling game.

36 ... Rxh5  
37 Rxa6 Rh3+  
38 Kf2 Ke5  
39 Rb6 Rh2+  
40 Ke1 Rgg2 0-1

*Chris Ross*

## Positional Play

Most games that appear in "NEW ENGLANDER" are at the tactical end of the spectrum. This combines the advantages of a short, spectacular game with moves that can be confidently explained with the aid of a computer. This month, I hope you will forgive me by looking at the opposite extreme and asking, "How well do I understand positional play?"

I shall try to add method to my madness as follows :-

- every three moves in a grandmaster game, I shall evaluate the position against a range of factors
- the factors I shall use are
  - i. king safety
  - ii. material advantage
  - iii. initiative
  - iv. pawn structure weaknesses
  - v. piece activity and coordination
  - vi. weak squares
  - vii. open files
  - viii. space advantage
- each factor will be scored :
  - 0 = level,
  - 1 = slight advantage,
  - 2 = definite advantage
  - 3 = winning advantage.

A positive number prefers White but if negative, Black is ahead.

- The total score for the factors will constitute a numerical indication of the positional imbalances. The deviation from zero denotes which way I see the tide running (positive if White is ahead, negative if I like Black's position).

I now had to find a suitable game which has few, if any, forced moves due to tactical considerations i.e. it must be "boring"! I have chosen a game played by the prodigy Magnus Carlsen at the recent tournament in Biel. To avoid bias, I shall give it without annotation other than to note the evaluation points (P1, P2, ...)

### Y Pelletier v M Carlsen

Biel, 2008

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 e6 3 c4 b6 4 g3 Ba6 5 b3 Bb4+ 6 Bd2 Be7 7 Bg2 d5 8 cxd5 exd5

9 Nc3 0-0 10 0-0 Bb7 11 Rc1 Nbd7 (P1)

12 Bf4 c6 13 Qc2 Re8 14 Rcd1 Bb4 (P2)

15 Bd2 Rc8 16 Qb2 Qe7 17 Rfe1 Qf8 (P3)

18 Bh3 Rcd8 19 Qc2 h6 20 Nh4 c5 (P4)

21 Nf5 a6 22 Qb2 Bxc3 23 Bxc3 Ne4 (P5)

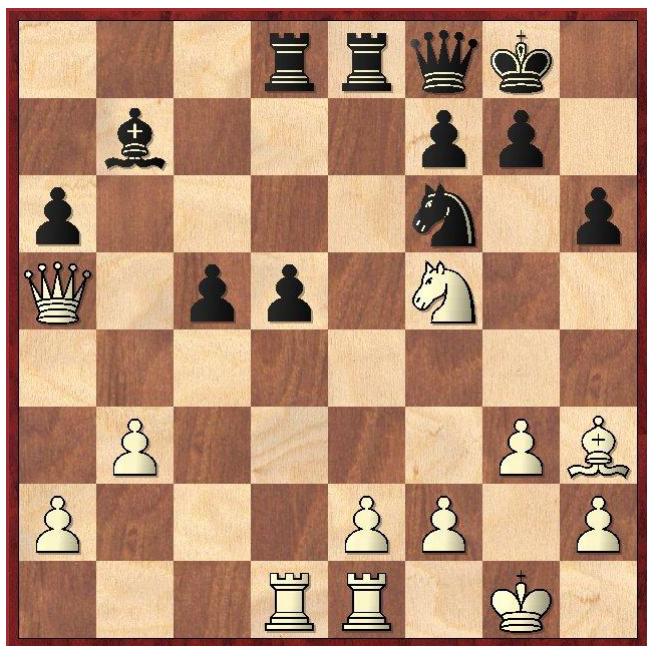
24 dxc5 Nxc3 25 Qxc3 bxc5 26 Qa5 Nf6 (P6)

27 Qb6 Bc8 28 Kg2 Ne4 29 f3 Ng5 (P7)  
 30 g4 h5 31 Rc1 g6 32 Ng3 Nxb3 (P8)  
 33 Kxh3 hxg4+ 34 fxg4 Qh6+ 35 Kg2 Bxg4 (P9)  
 36 Qxc5 Re3 37 Qd4 Qh3+ 38 Kg1 Rxb3+ (P10)  
 39 hxg3 Qxg3+ 40 Kh1 Bf5 (P11)

Here are my evaluations.

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	P8	P9	P10	P11
<b>Total</b>	3	-1	0	-3	-1	-1	-3	-7	-11	-19	-19
King safety	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	-2	-3	-3
Material	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	-1	-1	0	-3
Initiative	0	0	1	-1	1	0	0	-1	-2	-3	-3
Structure	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	-1	-1	-1
Coordination	1	0	0	-1	0	-1	0	-1	-2	-3	-3
Weak squares	0	-1	-1	0	0	1	0	-1	-1	-2	-3
Open files	1	-1	-1	-1	-1	0	-1	0	0	-2	0
Space	1	1	1	0	-1	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-3

So, let's review the game. I liked White's position from the opening with potential pressure down the c file and bishops bearing down on c6 and c7. Pelletier seemed to give up on the idea too easily around P2 when Carlsen play c7-c6. This allowed the subsequent advance to c5 which led to Black's space advantage around P6.



The position oscillated with Black marginally better until P7 (above) when he took control. Interestingly, Carlsen's annotations criticise only one move as I later discovered. White's 27 Qb6? Bc8 is followed by the comment. "Pelletier gets too excited and misses a simple tactic (28 Nxb3+ gxh6 27 Bxc8 Rd6), after which the white pieces are suddenly loose and soon

everything falls apart. Instead 27 Rc1 Ne4 28 Bc8 or 27 Bg2 would have led to a normal position on which Black has a weak pawn pair in the centre but should have sufficient dynamic counterplay" - New in Chess, 2008/6.

Another point to note is how late in the game that king safety becomes important. Often, it is the sole pre-occupation in our games but at a higher level, it only arises when a sufficient positional advantage has been secured.

I believe my simple system correctly identifies the decline in White's game following his mistake. Obviously, a different order of skill would be required to do this over the board but at least, some of the factors to be considered have been highlighted.

Here is the sting in the tail. I have selected a second game and provided a blank table. You now have the opportunity to make a positional evaluation history for yourself. I shall be inviting Chris Ross to give his opinion and ask everyone else to contribute their thoughts. The club member whose profile most closely follows Chris's gets all the glory in a forthcoming newsletter!

### A Shirov v V Ivanchuk

Foros, Round 8, 2008

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 cxd5 Nxd5 5 Bd2 Bg7 6 e4 Nb6 7 Be3 0-0

8 Bb5 Qd6 9 Nge2 c6 10 Bd3 e5 (P1)

11 dxe5 Qxe5 12 Bd4 Qe7 13 Bxg7 Kxg7 (P2)

14 Bc2 Rd8 15 Qc1 Na6 16 0-0 Be6 (P3)

17 Nf4 Bc4 18 Re1 Nb4 19 a3 Nxc2 (P4)

20 Qxc2 Qf6 21 Nce2 Rd7 22 b3 Ba6 (P5)

23 Rad1 Rad8 24 g3 Qe5 25 f3 Kg8 (P6)

26 a4 h5 27 Kf2 Rd6 28 Qc3 Nd7 (P7)

29 Rxd6 Qxd6 30 Rc1 Ne5 31 h4 Qf6 (P8)

32 b4 Rd3 33 Nxd3 Qxf3+ 34 Kg1 Bxd3 (P9)

35 Qxe5 Qe3+ 36 Kh2 Qxe2+ (P10)

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	P8	P9	P10
<b>Total</b>										
King safety										
Material										
Initiative										
Structure										
Coordination										
Weak squares										
Open files										
Space										

**Please send me your tables for analysis in a forthcoming newsletter.**

## Club Championship 2008/9

Please confirm the date of your game with your opponent noting that the first-named player has WHITE.

### Division 1

<b>Round 1</b>		<b>Date : 8<sup>th</sup> October</b>	
S Caraway		P Turp	
F Bowers		Bye 2	
C Ross		P Hanks	
Bye 1		R Jones	
<b>Round 2</b>		<b>Date : 15<sup>th</sup> October</b>	
Bye 2		S Caraway	
P Hanks		P Turp	
R Jones		F Bowers	
Bye 1		C Ross	
<b>Round 3</b>		<b>Date : 19<sup>th</sup> November</b>	
S Caraway		P Hanks	
Bye 2		R Jones	
P Turp		Bye 1	
F Bowers		C Ross	
<b>Round 4</b>		<b>Date : 3<sup>rd</sup> December</b>	
R Jones		S Caraway	
P Hanks		Bye 1	
C Ross		Bye 2	
P Turp		F Bowers	
<b>Round 5</b>		<b>Date : 28<sup>th</sup> January</b>	
S Caraway		Bye 1	
R Jones		C Ross	
F Bowers		P Hanks	
Bye 2		P Turp	
<b>Round 6</b>		<b>Date : 11<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
C Ross		S Caraway	
F Bowers		Bye 1	
P Turp		R Jones	
Bye 2		P Hanks	
<b>Round 7</b>		<b>Date : 4<sup>th</sup> March</b>	
S Caraway		F Bowers	
P Turp		C Ross	
Bye 1		Bye 2	
P Hanks		R Jones	

### Division 2

<b>Round 1</b>		<b>Date : 8<sup>th</sup> October</b>	
H Currie		M Tarabad	
N Wedley		S Walker	
C Collins		D Lane	
C Russell		A Brookbanks	
<b>Round 2</b>		<b>Date : 22<sup>nd</sup> October</b>	
S Walker		H Currie	
D Lane		M Tarabad	
A Brookbanks		N Wedley	
C Russell		C Collins	
<b>Round 3</b>		<b>Date : 12<sup>th</sup> November</b>	
H Currie		D Lane	
S Walker		A Brookbanks	
M Tarabad		C Russell	
N Wedley		C Collins	
<b>Round 4</b>		<b>Date : 26<sup>th</sup> November</b>	
A Brookbanks		H Currie	
D Lane		C Russell	
C Collins		S Walker	
M Tarabad		N Wedley	
<b>Round 5</b>		<b>Date : 14<sup>th</sup> January</b>	
H Currie		C Russell	
A Brookbanks		C Collins	
D Lane		N Wedley	
S Walker		M Tarabad	
<b>Round 6</b>		<b>Date : 4<sup>th</sup> February</b>	
C Collins		H Currie	
N Wedley		C Russell	
M Tarabad		A Brookbanks	
S Walker		D Lane	
<b>Round 7</b>		<b>Date : 4<sup>th</sup> March</b>	
H Currie		N Wedley	
M Tarabad		C Collins	
C Russell		S Walker	
D Lane		A Brookbanks	

**A Shirov v V Ivanchuk**

Foros, Round 8, 2008

**1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 d5 4 cxd5 Nxd5 5 Bd2 Bg7 6 e4 Nb6 7 Be3 0-0**

**8 Bb5 Qd6 9 Nge2 c6 10 Bd3 e5 (P1)**

**11 dxe5 Qxe5 12 Bd4 Qe7 13 Bxg7 Kxg7 (P2)**

**14 Bc2 Rd8 15 Qc1 Na6 16 0-0 Be6 (P3)**

**17 Nf4 Bc4 18 Re1 Nb4 19 a3 Nxc2 (P4)**

**20 Qxc2 Qf6 21 Nce2 Rd7 22 b3 Ba6 (P5)**

**23 Rad1 Rad8 24 g3 Qe5 25 f3 Kg8 (P6)**

**26 a4 h5 27 Kf2 Rd6 28 Qc3 Nd7 (P7)**

**29 Rxd6 Qxd6 30 Rc1 Ne5 31 h4 Qf6 (P8)**

**32 b4 Rd3 33 Nxd3 Qxf3+ 34 Kg1 Bxd3 (P9)**

**35 Qxe5 Qe3+ 36 Kh2 Qxe2+ (P10)**

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	P8	P9	P10
<b>Total</b>										
King safety										
Material										
Initiative										
Structure										
Coordination										
Weak squares										
Open files										
Space										

***Please send me your tables for analysis in a forthcoming newsletter.***