

# NEW ENGLANDER

## Chess Club Update – June 2009

### Chairman's Chatter

For the second season, New England were runners-up in the end-of-season jamboree. This success was based on fine contributions of 2½/3 by Chris Ross and a perfect 3/3 by Alan Brookbanks. Just as important, though, is the fact that our club was the only one to support the tournament by sending two teams. If we wish the chess scene to flourish locally, we need to ensure that these events are vibrant, competitive and enjoyable. We certainly played our part and I should like to thank all participants.

In similar vein, this issue contains our playing record in the County leagues. Many people contributed to the overall effort and I hope they enjoyed the packed calendar of events throughout the season.

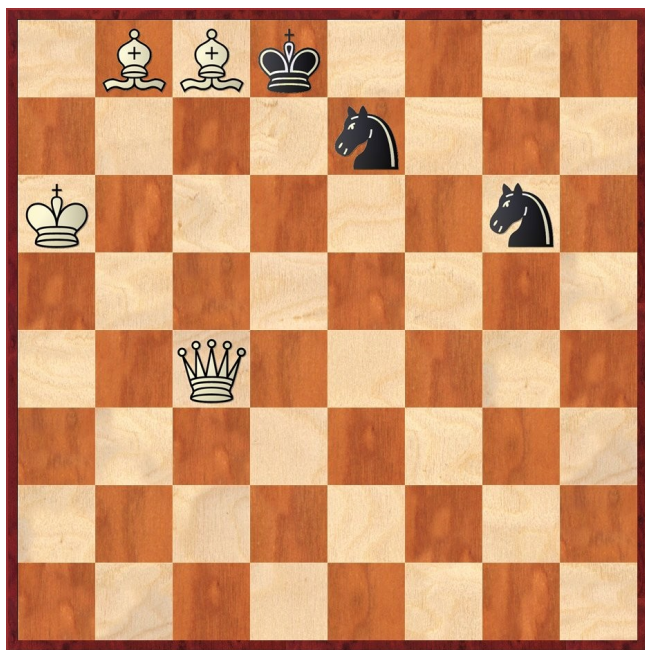
*Paul Hanks*

### Diary Dates

The Cambridgeshire Chess Association holds its Annual General Meeting at Warboys on 3rd June from 7-30p.m. For our club, no formal events are planned for June so club nights will optionally involve tuition sessions starting at approximately 8p.m. and lasting for one hour. This will leave the remainder of the evening for casual games.

### Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2.



Last Month's solution

In Forsyth notation : 8/8/8/1K2B3/8/4R3/kN6

1 Nd2 Kb2/a2 2 Nb3#

### Result Round-up

New England B	½	St Neots B	3½
R Jones	½	M Pope	½
D Lane	0	S Foster	1
S Walker	0	C Emery	1
H Currie	0	M Friday	1

### "500" Team Competition

Warboys A	3	New England A	1
J Beck	1	P Hanks	0
B Duff	½	C Russell	½
P Clough	½	A Brookbanks	½
P Baddesley	1	C Collins	0

New England B	½	Warboys A	3½
F Bowers	½	J Beck	½
D Lane	0	B Duff	1
M Ingram	0	P Clough	1
M Tarabad	0	P Baddesley	1

New England A	2½	New England B	2½
P Hanks	½	F Bowers	½
A Brookbanks	0	D Lane	1
C Collins	1	M Ingram	0
J Alster	1	S Walker	0
H Currie	0	P Turp	1

### League Jamboree : 13th May 2009

Team	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Total
Linton	4	3½	1½	9
Peterborough	2	2	3	7
New England I	1½	2	3½	7
St Neots	1½	1½	3	6
Warboys	1½	2	2	5½
Godmanchester	1	3	1	5
New England II	2½	0	0	2½

### Quickplay tournament : 20th May 2009

No	Player	Rd 1		Rd 2		Rd 3		Rd 4	
		Opp	Pts	Opp	Pts	Opp	Pts	Opp	Pts
1	Chris Ross	7	1	8	2	3	3	2	3½
2	Francis Bowers	12	1	4	2	7	3	1	3½
3	Mike Dunkley	11	1	6	2	1	2	4	2½
4	Des Lane	5	1	2	1	9	2	3	2½
5	Steve Walker	4	0	12	1	6	1	9	2
6	Alan Brookbanks	9	1	3	1	5	2	7	2
7	Harry Currie	1	0	10	1	2	1	6	2
8	Paul Hanks	-	-	1	0	12	1	10	2
9	Mahmoud Tarabad	6	0		1	4	1	5	1
10	James Low	-	-	7	0	11	1	8	1
11	Luke Wilkinson	3	0	9	0	10	0	12	-
12	June Clement	2	0	5	0	8	0	11	-

Division 1	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Games	Points
Peterborough A	12	10	1	1	43½	21
Cambridge A	12	7	3	2	40	17
Warboys A	12	7	3	2	37	17
New England A	12	6	2	4	32½	14
St Neots A	12	4	1	7	23	9
Buckden A	12	2	0	10	18	4
Peterborough B	12	1	0	11	16	2

A Team	Pboro 6 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Warboys A 1 <sup>st</sup> Oct	Pboro A 9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Cams A 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	St Neots 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Buckden A 26 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Pboro B 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Warboys A 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Cams A 4 <sup>th</sup> Feb	St Neots A 16 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Buckden A 2 <sup>nd</sup> Mar	Pboro A 11 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Pboro B 1 <sup>st</sup> Apr	Score	Appearances
	Chris Ross	½	1	½		½	1	½	½	½	1	1	0	1	8
Francis Bowers	½	½	0	0	½	1	1	0	0	½	1	0	½	5½	13
Ron Jones	0			0	1						0	½	1d	2½	6
John Osborne	0			0										0	2
Phil Turp		0	0			½	1	1	0	0	1	1		4½	8
Sam Caraway	0	½	1	0	1	1	1	0	1d				1	6½	10
Alan Brookbanks										0				0	1
Paul Hanks	0	1	½	0	1	0	½	1	1	0	1	½	0	6½	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3½</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2½</b>	<b>2½</b>	<b>1½</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3½</b>	<b>33½</b>	

Division 2	Played	Won	Drawn	Lost	Games	Points
Cambridge B	10	8	0	2	25½	16
Warboys B	10	6	0	4	23½	12
St Neots B	10	5	2	3	21	12
Spalding	10	4	3	3	20½	11
Buckden B	10	2	2	6	14½	6
New England B	10	1	1	8	15	3

B Team	Warboys B 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	St Neots B 10 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Cams B 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Buckden B 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Spalding 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Warboys B 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Cams B 18 <sup>th</sup> Mar	St Neots B 25 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Buckden B 8 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Spalding 21 <sup>st</sup> Apr	Score	Appearances
	John Osborne	½	½									1
Ron Jones			0	1	0	0	½	½	1	1	4	8
Harry Currie		0	0	0		1	½	0		0	1½	7
Chris Russell	0			½							½	2
Mahmoud Tarabad		1					0				1	2
Alan Brookbanks	0			0		½	½		1	0	2	6
Jack Alster			½		½				1		2	3
Des Lane			½		1	0		0	½	½	2½	6
Steve Walker								0			0	1
Kaewallya Talnikar		½			0						½	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>½</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1½</b>	<b>1½</b>	<b>1½</b>	<b>1½</b>	<b>½</b>	<b>3½</b>	<b>1½</b>	<b>15</b>	

For more information about County tournaments, please see <http://www.cambschess.org.uk/>

## Match of the Month

The mantle of club champion is obviously forcing Chris to perform at his best. He submitted two games for the newsletter from the most recent round of the 4NCL tournament. One of these is given below with the annotations explaining his positional thinking.

**C Ross (2197) v T Lunn (2066)**

Braille Chess Association v Icen, Daventry 02.05.09

**1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 g6 4 Bxc6**

OK, let's start here and consider the rationale of this move - the whole game hinges on this single positional move and the plan that is formed.

1 White gives up his light-squared bishop. He wants to head for a good knight v bad bishop game where he hopes to restrict the black light-squared bishop and to find excellent outposts for his knights. In this regard, the pawn structure is extremely important: White must put pawns on light squares to hinder the bishop and the white knights need weak squares to occupy.

2 White shatters the black pawn structure. This will mean that both of the black doubled c pawns are a target. As c5 is at the front, that is the easier point to hit.

Following this positional logic, the game can almost play itself.

**4 ... dxc6 5 h3**

Normally, "pawn-to-rook-3" moves aren't necessary but here, it is a positional ploy to restrict the bishop on c8.

**5 ... Nf6 6 d3 Bg7 7 Nc3 Nd7**

A common enough manoeuvre. Black intends to stick a knight on the d4 square, which is an excellent outpost for that piece. Naturally, it takes 5 moves to get there, which gives White plenty of time to neutralize its effect.

<b>8</b>	<b>Be3</b>	<b>e5</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Qd2</b>	<b>Qe7</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>O-O</b>	<b>Nf8</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Bh6</b>	

A new idea for me, inspired by the great Anand himself. Previously, I have played Nh2, Ne2, a3 and b3. All perfectly good enough plans but, as Anand has demonstrated, White might as well get rid of the dark-squared bishop immediately. So, I decided to emulate the great man himself.

<b>11</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>Ne6</b>
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Black may do best to take on h6, as the white queen will be somewhat out of play there. It depends on where Black wants to castle. It is possible on the queenside, but dangerous!

<b>12</b>	<b>Bxg7</b>	<b>Nxg7</b>
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Fianchettoed knights can't be a good idea, but it has been seen before!

<b>13</b>	<b>Ne2</b>	<b>O-O</b>
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Black has to stop White from getting in f2-f4 at all costs and attempt to take over the control of the dark

squares, as was shown in Anand v Ivanchuk, Prague 2002 which was drawn after 50 moves following :  
13 ... f6 14 Nh2 g5 15 a3 a5 16 c3 O-O 17 Ng4 Bxg4 18 hxg4 h5 19 b4 axb4 20 axb4 cxb4 21 cxb4 hxg4 22 Ng3 Ne6 23 Nf5 Qd7 24 Qe2 Nd4 25 Qxg4 Nxf5 26 exf5 Rad8 27 Ra3 Kg7 28 d4

<b>14</b>	<b>a3</b>
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Playing across the board demonstrates that White can instigate activity on whichever side he wishes - the hallmark of a good position.

But another "pawn-to-rook-3" move? What's its purpose this time?

OK, it is to avoid the pawn being en prise to a future Be6 by Black. Also, it is preparing the push b2-b4, thereby targeting the vulnerable c5 pawn. Yes, this may undouble the pawns, but by doing this, I open up the a file for my rook, leaving the pawn on a7 very weak indeed and more importantly, I am preventing the black pawn majority from advancing advantageously. White may even have a "minority" attack, if Black isn't careful.

There were other ways to play this, but there are so many possibilities for White to play effectively and logically, all ideas must be good for him, as long as they conform to his game-plan, as illustrated above.

<b>14</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>Rd8?</b>
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A weak move that contributes nothing to Black's play. The idea is to facilitate a c5-c4 push, ridding himself of his bad pawn and giving White a backward d pawn. This would be good for Black but the one-move threat can be easily avoided. Meanwhile, the rook moves away from the kingside where it is needed for defensive purposes. There is no future on the d file so Black should concentrate on freeing up his pieces. The pawn on e5 is attacked and the consolidating f7-f6 is a perfectly acceptable response, allowing a future g6-g5 blockading move if desired.

<b>15</b>	<b>Qc3</b>
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Removing the queen from the d file, preventing c5-c4 and also hitting e5 which is now attacked twice. More importantly, there is more pressure on the c5 pawn.

<b>15</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>f6</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>Nh2</b>	<b>Ne6</b>

Black has some incredibly difficult decisions to make now. Should he deter an advance on the kingside with 16.. g5? I'm not sure. The f5 square then becomes an outpost for a white knight but getting there via g3 or g4/e3 may allow simple exchanges. The question is then to whether the f4 square could be used by Black for his knight. Would White exchange it, or play h3-h4 and g2-g3 somehow? This would certainly make White pause for thought, but in the meantime, he could continue his operations on the queenside unhindered.

<b>17</b>	<b>f4</b>
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This is just about forced. If Black has spurned the chance to prevent the move, White should certainly play it. Pieces are exchanged and tactics now become relevant, with the increasing exposure to both kings.

White has less to fear due to a considerable lead in development and better piece play.

17 ... **exf4**  
 18 **Nxf4** **Nxf4**  
 19 **Rxf4** **Rf8**

Meekly defending. I had more concerns about 19 ... f5 and the possibility of Black blockading with g6-g5 and f5-f4 and the position becoming very unbalanced. If I was forced to take this with 20 exf5, there are ideas of Qe3+, Bxf5 and it was incredibly difficult to figure out which was the more important file - the f file (if so, would I be forced into g2-g4 to evict the bishop) or the open e file which wouldn't be easy to control with my poorly positioned rook on f4. Black may be able to swap everything off and hope to hold the ending.

20 **Raf1** **Kg7**

Again, too passive. Putting the king on the long diagonal is too risky. Black had to take the risk and open up with f6-f5 and try to get his bishop into the game by forcing exchanges on f5. The black king is exposed but I don't think Qb3+ or similar tactics help White all that much.

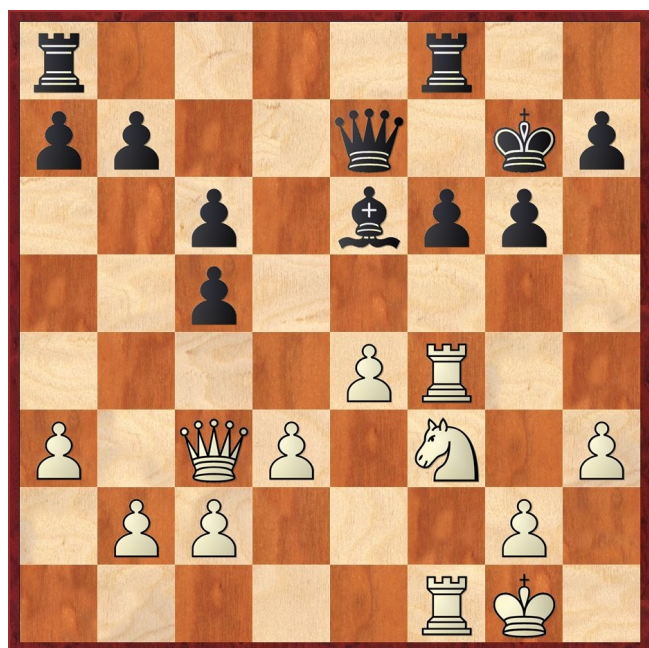
21 **Nf3**

Bringing the knight back into the game. Putting it on g4 allows its exchange which goes against White's strategy. The move played allows White to begin operations on the king-side (g6-g5 is prevented as Nxc5 is possible due to the f6 pawn being pinned - another disadvantage of Kg7).

21 ... **Be6**

Black seems to be completing his development now. White still holds an advantage but it is not as discernible as before. White must continue to play on both sides of the board and distract Black from which flank is to be the focus of play.

Another factor here is that the position has opened up and exchanges, especially of the heavy pieces, seems inevitable.



White's next move must have come as a bit of a shock for Black!

22 **h4!**

A multifaceted move with a couple of specific purposes. Principally, it intends to open lines on the king-side. The idea of h4-h5xg6 with Rh4 attacking down the open h file is particularly worrying for Black. Also, the rook on f4 is secured from any attacks with g6-g5 and the blockading of the dark squares.

The pawn also secures the g5 square, making f6-f5 less effective, since the white knight can settle on the nice outpost g5.

Finally, in preparation for the endgame, the pawn stands on a dark square to prevent it from eventually being attacked by that "bad bishop".

22 ... **h6**

A concession. Black wishes to stop any kingside thrust by White (as g6-g5 is now possible after h4-h5), but the g6 pawn has been weakened immediately and the f5 square could potentially follow suit, especially if the pawn on g6 has been lured away.

OK, having made a move on the kingside, time for the queenside again!

23 **b4**

Black must have been scrabbling around, wondering on which side of the board he should be concentrating, as White is happily switching from one to another. The other positional aspect of the doubled c5 pawn comes under attack. With the queen on c3, the pawn is now actually en prise.

23 ... **b6?**

After this move, Black is positionally lost. Black didn't like 23 ... cxb4 24 axb4. With Ra1 imminent, a7-a6 would permit Ra5, with domination of the 5th rank and the dark-squares, when he didn't think he would have much play.

As played though, he just allows exchanges and permits White to enter the ending that he so sought.

24 **bxc5** **Qxc5+**  
 25 **Qxc5** **bxc5**  
 26 **e5**

Time to put those pawns on dark-squares and make that bishop as miserable as possible. The 4th rank is cleared for the rook's escape (g6-g5 was threatened). Also, the white knight needs pathways into the centre and queenside to exploit those doubled, weak pawns on the c file. Naturally, rook exchanges will only favour White.

26 ... **f5**  
 27 **Ra4** **Rfb8**  
 28 **Nd2** **g5**

Black tries to break out. 28 ... Rb2 is only illusory activity as 29 Rc1 secures the c2 pawn, before Nc4 evicts the rook. Note that the exchange of the knight for the bishop isn't a disaster now, since the rook ending is always good for White, with the black pawns being so weak.

29 **hxg5** **hxg5**

**30 Nc4 Kg6**

30... a5 may have been an attempt to stop the rook from forcing more defensive moves after Ra6/Ra5. The a5 pawn may be immune from capture. White would have to probe with Nd6 and get g2-g4 in at some point and create an outpost on e4.

**31 Ra6 Bd5  
32 Ne3 Rb6  
33 Ra5**

Good enough to win a pawn. The computer prefers 33 Rxb6 axb6 34 Rxf5 but I think any method is good enough to convert this ending.

**33 ... Be6**

33 ... Rb5? 34 Rxb5 and the bishop on d5 drops off.

**34 Rxc5 Rc8  
35 Rc3 Rb5  
36 d4 f4  
37 Nc4 Rc7  
38 Nd6 Rb2**

38 ... Rd5 put up more resistance.

**39 g3**

More breaking up of the pawn chain and destroying all the cover for the black king. This also frees up any possible mating ideas black had on the g2 square or down the h file. More importantly, the f file must become open now and allow the white rooks to deliver the coup de grace.

**39 ... Bh3**

39 ... Rh7 40 gxf4 gxf4 41 Rxf4 Rb1+ 42 Rf1 Rh1+ 43 Kxh1 Rxf1+ 44 Kh2 brings nothing for Black.

**40 Re1 fxg3  
41 Rxg3 Rh7**

If the bishop moves away, the rook steps back onto the f file with decisive affect. The f6 square is the entry square for the white rook.

**42 e6 Kf6**

The passed pawn can't be stopped now.

**43 Rf3+ Ke7  
44 Rf7+**

The computer wants to play it the other way, but either was good enough. I took the easy option, wanting an immediate resignation from my opponent. 44 Nc8+ Kd8 45 Rxh3 and the pawn crashes through.

**44 ... Kxd6  
45 Rxh7 Bxe6  
46 Rh6 1-0**

*Chris Ross*

## Website to Watch

The most important chess event during June takes place in the Crimea from 7th to 20th June. It is the Aerosvit tournament at Foros and is advertised as bringing together twelve top players including Carlsen, Svidler, Ivanchuk and Shirov. The organisation (including the official website) is not well advertised so more information should be sought from [www.ukrchess.org.ua](http://www.ukrchess.org.ua).

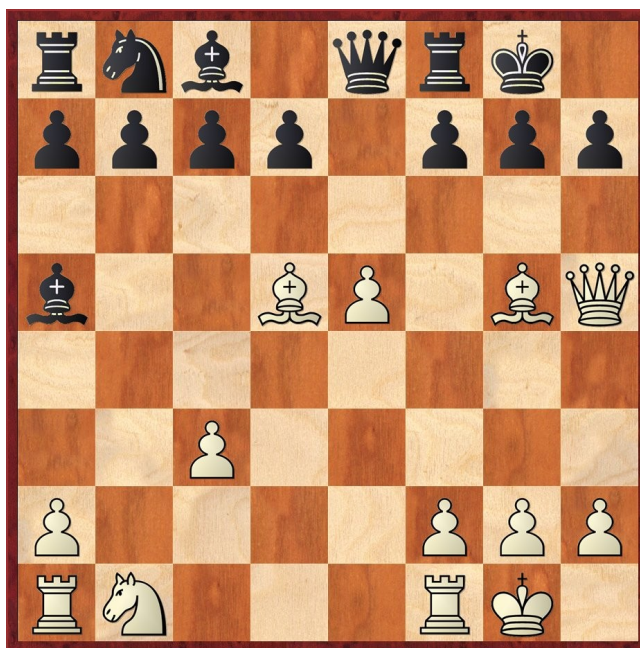
## Eye Opener

Top players sometimes come up against weak opposition and spare their blushes by recording the game as against "NN". It presages an open game in which rapid development allows the superior tactical skills of the grandmaster to come to the fore. Such games are both amusing and can be instructive if you treat them as exercises in finding the flaw in the play by the weaker party.

In the example below, where should you look for an improvement?

### Horowitz v NN New York, 1939

<b>1</b>	<b>e4</b>	<b>e5</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Bc4</b>	<b>Nf6</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>d4</b>	<b>exd4</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Nf3</b>	<b>Bb4+</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>c3</b>	<b>dx3</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>0-0</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>e5</b>	<b>Ne4</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Bd5</b>	<b>Nc5</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>bxc3</b>	<b>Ba5</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Ng5</b>	<b>Ne6</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Qh5</b>	<b>Nxg5</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Bxg5</b>	<b>Qe8</b>



**13 Bf6**

13 ... gxf6 14 Be4; 13 ... g6 14 Qh6

**13 ... h6  
14 Qg6 1-0**

So, does 11 ... h6 hold the position?