

NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – August 2009

Chairman's Chatter

Just when you thought you had time to relax in your deck chair, Chris Ross disturbs the peace and quiet by throwing down the gauntlet! Not only has he qualified for the British Championships, he has contributed a rather singular problem for this month. Mate in six! To help you with the solution, he provides a clue - all moves are check. Don't blame me...

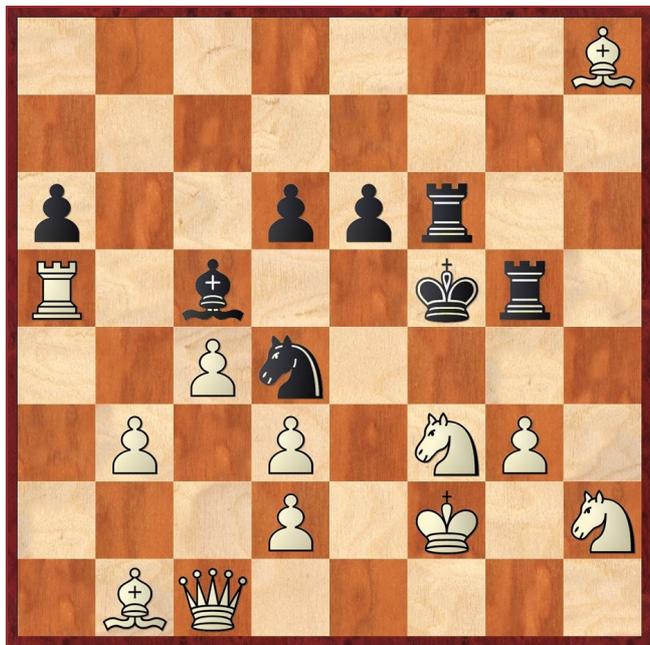
Paul Hanks

Diary Dates

Just another reminder that the club Annual General Meeting will take place at 7-30pm on September 2nd.

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 6.



Last Month's solution

In Forsyth notation : **6K1/8/8/1N6/2B5/4k2N/Q3P3/8**

1 Bf7 Ke4 2 Qe6#

Website to Watch

From 26th July, the British Championships will be in progress until 8th August. The event can be followed on www.britishchess09.com. How greatly Chris Ross's participation will feature is not known but you may pick up some tips for next year's club championship!

Surprisingly, there is another strong tournament on British soil. The Staunton Memorial is at Simpson's in the Strand, London from 8th to 17th August. This event is proud of its heritage and traditional atmosphere but is entering the 21st century with the site <http://howardstaunton.com/hsmt2009/Home.html>

carrying live transmission of play or you may like to consider visiting in person. Play starts at 2-30p.m. except for the last round which begins at noon.

FIDE holds another leg of its Grand Prix that are preliminary qualifiers for the next world championship cycle. It will be in Yerevan from 8th to 24th August and will have links from <http://grandprix.fide.com>.

Eye Opener

Chris Russell should soon be suffering from deja vu. The following game caught my eye and brought back painful memories. The reason is that I fell for a very similar combination in the "500" team competition and Chris was sitting next to me feeling pretty disgusted with my play. I have great sympathy for this point of view but can you spot the trap in the position below?

J Wehner v A Rotstein

2008 from www.chessgames.com

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nc6 5 Nc3 Qc7 6 Be3 a6 7 Qd2 Nf6 8 f3

The Taimanov Variation of the Sicilian Defence. Most master games continue 8 0-0-0 but Morozevich tried the text move in 2007 (combined with 9 0-0-0). He went on to lose!

8 ... Ne5 9 a3 b5 10 Bd3 Bb7 11 0-0 Bc5

Fritz regards the position as dead level but...

12 Nb3



**12 ... Neg4
13 f3 Nfg4 0-1**

White can struggle on with 14 Rf3 Qxh2+ 15 Kf1 Bxe3 16 Rxe3 Qh1+ 17 Ke2 Qxg2+ 18 Kd1 Nxe3+ 19 Qxe3 but the passed pawns should prove decisive.

Match of the Month

Some openings attract bad press. In the French Defence, Lev Psakhis comments, "To be honest, I am not too fond of the Exchange Variation; its supporters will just have to forgive me. If, for whatever reason, you are not prepared for sharp play and are looking for a draw, you will not find a better system than this. Admittedly, by playing in this manner you can easily sour your relations with your opponent for a long time!"

N Chedd v P Hanks

Peterborough v Perkins, 01.03.2000

1	e4	e6
2	d4	d5
3	exd5	exd5

Although the opening has a drawish reputation, I have played some very double-edged games if Black manages to castle long. This probably explains my reluctance to commit my king's position too early.

4	Nf3	Nf6
5	Bd3	Nc6
6	c3	Bg4
7	0-0	Be7
8	h3	Bh5
9	Re1	0-0

By now, I had to give up all thoughts of queenside castling because the Be7 can become a target and b4-b5 comes quickly.

10	Bg5	Ne4
11	Bxe7	Qxe7
12	Qc2	Rae8
13	Nfd2	



I have an admission to make here. White has an obvious threat in f3 but I never noticed it! I was mesmerised by the outpost at e4, my superior development and was only looking to start a kingside attack.

13 ... **f5**

Panic! After playing this move, I suddenly saw the threat and looked furiously for a response. Fortunately, the counterstroke 14 ... Qh4 seems to solve the problem.

14	Nf3	Bxf3
15	gxf3	Qg5+

As White has given up 2 tempi with the manoeuvre of his king's knight and weakened his kingside pawns into the bargain, I was already thinking of sacrificing (perhaps led this way by my previous oversight!).

16 **Kf1**

I also had to look at

a) 16 Kh2 Re6 17 fxe4 Rg6 18 f3 (18 Bf1 Qg1#) Qg3+ 19 Kh1 Qxe1+ etc.

b) 16 Kh1 Ng3+ 17 fxg3 Rxe1+

16 ... **Qh4**

Fritz is happy with this sacrifice but prefers 16 ... Qh5 so that if it is declined, the f3 pawn is en prise. In either event, 17 Kg2 is usefully met by 17 ... Ng5 18 Rh1 Re1!

17	fxe4	Qxh3+
18	Ke2	

18 Kg1 may be better but is still inadequate because the Bd3 is left to its fate e.g. 18 ... Re6 19 Re3 (19 f3 Rg6+ 20 Kf2 Qg2+ 21 Ke3 f4#) Rg6 20 Rg3 Rxg3 21 fxg3 Qxg3 22 Qg2 (22 Kf1 exf4+; 22 Kg1 Rf6)

18 ... **fxe4**



When I visualised this position at move 15, I was rightly convinced the attack was overwhelming. I quickly established that 19 Bb5 fails to 19. ... Rxf2+ and that I would recoup the material invested with passed pawns and open files as interest.

19	Bxe4	Rxe4+
20	Kd1	Qg4+
21	f3	Qxf3+ 0-1