

NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – November 2009

Chairman's Chatter

I always enjoy seeing a goodly number of players at the club and I hope you will all want to squeeze a club championship game into every available opportunity. The calendar of events appears in this issue so from now on, participation is the name of the game!

Paul Hanks

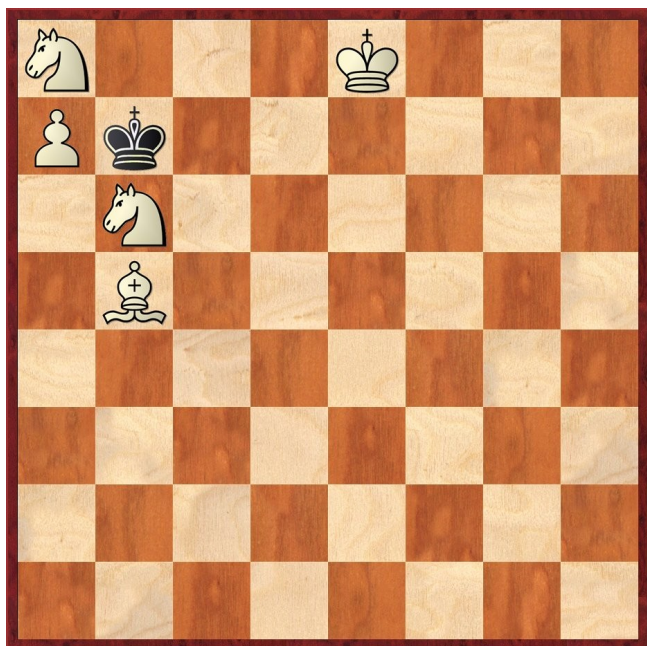
Diary Dates

League matches and club championship rounds alternate during November. We even have the crunch match between our two teams in the 550 competition!

If you have not already done so, there is time until 31st October to enter the County Individual by contacting Marcus Misson on marqives@yahoo.com. Please remember we host the tournament on 25th November so no travel should be involved in the early stages.

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2.



Last Month's solution

Position: 7N/8/4k3/1NR1p3/7Q/1K6/8/8
1 Rd5 Kxd5 [1 ... Kf5 2 Nd4#] 2 Qc4#

Website to Watch

Khanty-Mansiysk in Siberia hosts the 2009 World Cup from November 21st to December 14th. (Please see http://www.ugra-chess.ru/eng/main_e.htm). The early rounds take place over three days with a final of four classical games (10th-13th December) - any necessary play-off will take place on the last day.

The Tal Memorial held in Moscow from 5th to 14th November is a more conventional tournament between the top grandmasters,. It will be followed on 16th to 18th by the World Blitz Championship. The official website is <http://russiachess.org/eng/> but the pages in English look out of date and you may have to navigate in Russian.

Result Round-up

Club Championship : at 14/10/09

Division One	CR	FB	PT	MD	RJ	PH	Total
C Ross	X	1		1			2 / 2
F Bowers	0	X				½	½ / 2
P Turp			X		P P		0 / 0
M Dunkley	0		P	X			0 / 1
R Jones				P		X P	0 / 0
P Hanks			½		P	X	½ / 1

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

Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

New England A	4	St Neots	1
C Ross	1	Default	0
F Bowers	½	S Foster	½
P Hanks	1	C Emery	0
M Dunkley	1	M Pope	0
R Jones	½	M Friday	½

Warboys A	3	New England A	2
C Pickard	½	C Ross	½
M Misson	0	F Bowers	1
J Beck	½	R Jones	½
R Mann	1	J Alster	0
B Duff	1	C Russell	0

Match of the Month

We can kill two birds with one stone with this month's game. Firstly, we will see how Francis scored one of the few points that Hunts and Peterborough managed in the match against Cambridge that opened the new season. Secondly, we continue the last month's theme of putting computer analysis under the microscope.

When Francis volunteered this game, I reckoned it would make a good example to subject to "blunder checking". Furthermore, it suggested a method for testing the probity of computer evaluations that does not appear in the books.

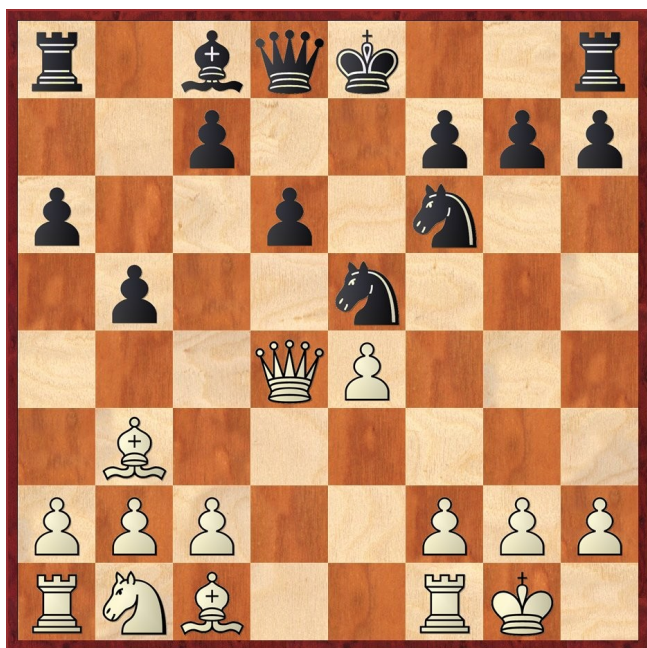
- I conducted a blunder check with a threshold setting to highlight poor play that worsened the position by 0.2 pawns. The results are given below in the paragraphs starting "**Fritz 11**" followed by its position evaluation score, its recommended improvement and the revised score.
- I repeated the blunder check with a threshold of 0.0 pawns. This should reproduce the above with a few extra variations from lesser indiscretions. Obviously, the recommended alternative should be consistent because "best play" must be unique. Sadly, this was not the case and the point of departure from the original scan is given in square brackets.
- Other paragraphs contain annotations generated interactively with the computer and are hopefully obviously human.

F Bowers v R McCorry

Peterborough v Cambridge, 23.09.2009

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 0-0 b5 6 Bb3 Bc5 7 Nxe5 Nxe5 8 d4 Bxd4 9 Qxd4 d6

Fritz 11: Last book move



In fact, the position has a good pedigree with Anand appearing on both sides though neither game called for overexertion on his part.

V Anand (2765) v V Topalov (2725)

Linares, 1997

10 f4 Nc6 11 Qc3 Bb7 12 e5 Ne4 13 Qe3 Na5 14 Nd2 Nxb3 15 cxb3 Nxd2 16 Bxd2 0-0 17 Bc3 Qh4 18 Rae1 Rfe8 19 Qf2 Qxf2+ 20 Rxf2 dxe5 ½ – ½

V Ivanchuk (2700) v V Anand (2715)

Riga, 1995

10 f4 c5 11 Qd1!? Ng6 12 Bd5 Nxd5 13 Qxd5 Rb8 14 Qh5 Bb7 15 Nc3 b4 16 f5 bxc3 17 fxg6 fxg6 18 Qh3 Qe7 19 e5 Rf8 20 Rxf8+ ½ – ½

10 Bg5

This looks very much like a well-known blunder. The position differs from the standard Noah's Ark Trap by a few inconsequential moves and White even had a tempo to avoid the bishop on b3 becoming trapped by the advancing queenside pawns - Ivanchuk and Anand certainly knew!

Fritz is strangely silent at this point. It evaluates the position after Black's 9th move as being in White's favour to the tune of typically 0.4 pawns. After 10 Bg5, it knows Black is winning (the evaluation score is -1.0) but despite varying the settings and version of the software, it still slips beneath the blundercheck radar. Does anyone else find this?

10	...	c5
11	Bxf6	gxf6
12	Bxf7+	

Fritz 11: -2.42 12 Qd5 [12 Qe3] Be6 13 Qb7 c4 14 f4 Ng4 15 h3 Nh6 16 Nc3 Qc8 17 Qb6 Qc5+ 18 Qxc5 dxc5 19 f5 Bd7 20 Nd5 cxb3 21 axb3 0-0-0 22 Nxf6 - 0.68/18

Objectively, Fritz is correct that White is more likely to maintain an inferior game with its preferred line. In practical play, however, you have to consider the benefit of active opportunities.

12	...	Kxf7
13	Qd1	Bg4
14	f3	Be6
15	f4	Nc4
16	f5	Bd7
17	Rf4	Ke7

I do not understand this move. If Black can stifle White on the kingside, the game is effectively over so 17 ... Rg8 18 Qh5+ Kf8 19 Qxh7 Qe7 looks sufficient.

18	Nc3	Bc6
19	Nd5+	Kd7

Fritz gives this as best. Superficially, I expected 19 .. Bxd5 but 20 Qxd5 Nxb2 21 Rg4 looks terrifying because 21 ... Rg8 is met by 22 Qe6+ and 21 ... Qf8 by 22 Qb7+. Perhaps, you need to be Fritz to be confident of 21 ... Kf8 22 Qb7 Rg8.

20	Rg4	Rb8
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Fritz 11: 1.95 20 ... Nxb2 21 Rg7+ Kc8 22 Qh5 Bxd5 23 exd5 Qe8 24 Qf7 [24 Qe8] Qxf7 25 Rxf7 Nc4 26 Rxf6 Kc7 27 a4 b4 28 Rf7+ Kb6 29 Re1 Rhf8 30 Re7 Rxf7 31 Rxf7 -2.33/17

This must be the critical position. White is going to penetrate dangerously because the tactic 20 ... Rg8

21 Rxc8 Qxg8 22 Nxf6 at last justifies the path chosen at move 12. The moved played looks irrelevant when 20 ... Qf8 is available.

21	Rg7+	Kc8
22	Ne7+	Kb7
23	Nxc6+	Kxc6
24	Qd5+	Kb6
25	a4	

After a series of virtually forced moves, White can open a second front and create mating threats.

25	...	Rg8
26	axb5	axb5

Fritz 11: 15.03 26 ... Kxb5 27 Rxa6 Kxa6 [27 ... Nb6] 28 Qxc4+ Kb6 29 Qb3+ Kc6 30 Qa4+ Rb5 31 Rxc8 Qa5 32 Qxa5 Rxa5 33 Rc8+ Kd7 34 Rf8 Ra2 35 Rxf6 Rxb2 36 c3 Ke7 37 Re6+ Kd7 38 Rh6 Rb1+ 39 Kf2 Rb2+ 1.94/20

27	Rga7	Qc8
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Fritz 11: #17 27 ... Rxc7+ 28 Kxc7 Qc8 29 Kf2 Qb7 30 Rxb7+ Rxb7 31 b3 Ne5 [31 ... Ra7] 32 Qxd6+ Nc6 33 Ra8 Rc7 34 Rb8+ Ka6 35 Qxc7 Nxb8 36 Qxb8 Ka5 37 Qd8+ Kb4 38 Qxf6 c4 39 Qd4 h5 15.35/20

28	Qxg8	1-0
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A pretty finishing touch.

Francis was lucky here but he did capitalise on the possibilities in his position. And Fritz? I was fairly disappointed not only with its inability to find some of the turning points but also the variability in its recommended best play. Only one or two moves on from the blunder, it was suggesting different moves depending on the checking criteria. It goes to reinforce the previous conclusion that the human element is still essential.

Eye Opener

How many moves ahead can you see? When asked, Mieses replied "One but it is always the best one!". In a first round game in the Club Championship, there was an interesting example of how your evaluation of a position can change as you increase the depth of your analysis.

F Bowers v P Hanks

Club Championship Round 1, 30.09.2009

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 Qg4 Nf6 5 Qxg7 Rg8 6 Qh6 Rg6 7 Qe3 Nxe4

Black has regained the pawn and obtained a strong central knight with potential tactics due to the pin on c3. Furthermore, it is difficult to dislodge the outpost because 8 f3 fails to the standard continuation 8 ... Qh4+ 9 g3 (9 Kd1 Nf2+; 9 Ke2 Ng3+) Nxc3 10 Qf2 (10 hxg3 Qxh1) when Black can choose at the moment whether or not to play 10 ... Nf5.

8	a3	Ba5
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I was happy that an attempt to win a pawn by 9 b4 Bb6 10 Nxe4 dxe4 11 Qxe4 was illusory because 11 ... Bxd4 12 Rb1 Bc3+ gives Black a good game.

9	Nge2	
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Now get out your telescope. I had to look at 10 f3 again because White has reinforced g3. Is it significant or can it still be ignored?



Over the board, I was happy to see 10 f3 Qh4+ 11 g3 Nxc3 12 Nxc3 Rxc3 13 hxg3 Qxh1 and started to look elsewhere but in the post-match discussion, it became obvious that I should also have considered 13 Qf2 because Black no longer has the escape route ... Nf5 that saved me earlier.

Black looks seriously inconvenienced and then I discovered that 9 ... Nc6 permits 13 ... Qxd4. We only moved the pieces to this position and judged that Black seems to hold an advantage because we could see a) 14 Qxd4 Nxd4 15 hxg3 Nxc2+ and b) 14 Qxg3 Bxc3+ 15 bxc3 Qxc3+ 16 Kf2 Qxa1.

Sadly, even though we are six moves on from the game position, it is not the end of the story. Such a tactical melee brings out the best in computer software and Fritz lost no time in highlighting 17 Qg8+. The hard work is only just starting! Looking at the position before your 9th move, can you judge how serious the counterattack will be eight moves later?

Had I seen this far, I should have been worried. Obviously, Black has to look for better than 17 ... Kd7 18 Qxf7+ Ne7 19 Bh3 when the attack on the king and discovered threats against the black queen are great compensation for the material sacrificed. So, 17 ... Ke7 18 Bg5+ f6 19 Qg7+ Ke8 is given as best play leading to a perpetual check on the 7th and 8th ranks. It looks too dangerous for Black to vary e.g. 19 ... Kd6 20 Qf8+ Kd7 21 Bxf6 but the exposed black king gives an easy draw and means that White can continue the torture without risk by 20 Bxf6 Qxa3 21 Rg1.

A draw would probably result from this line of play but Black has to be extremely careful. This was the actual outcome but by the much more prosaic continuation 9 ... Nc6 10 Bd2 Nxd2 11 Qxd2 Qf6 12 f4 Bd7 13 0-0-0 0-0-0 14 g3 Bb6 15 Bg2 Qe7 16 f5 1/2-1/2

Paul Hanks

Club Championship 2009-10

Please note that the first-named player has WHITE.

Division 1

Round 1		Date : 30th September	
Chris Ross		Mike Dunkley	
Francis Bowers		Paul Hanks	
Phil Turp		Ron Jones	
Round 2		Date : 14th October	
Francis Bowers		Chris Ross	
Mike Dunkley		Phil Turp	
Paul Hanks		Ron Jones	
Round 3		Date : 28th October	
Chris Ross		Phil Turp	
Francis Bowers		Ron Jones	
Mike Dunkley		Paul Hanks	
Round 4		Date : 2nd December	
Ron Jones		Chris Ross	
Phil Turp		Paul Hanks	
Francis Bowers		Mike Dunkley	
Round 5		Date : 6th January	
Paul Hanks		Chris Ross	
Mike Dunkley		Ron Jones	
Francis Bowers		Phil Turp	
Round 6		Date : 27th January	
Chris Ross		Francis Bowers	
Phil Turp		Mike Dunkley	
Ron Jones		Paul Hanks	
Round 7		Date : 3rd February	
Mike Dunkley		Chris Ross	
Paul Hanks		Francis Bowers	
Ron Jones		Phil Turp	
Round 8		Date : 17th February	
Chris Ross		Paul Hanks	
Ron Jones		Mike Dunkley	
Phil Turp		Francis Bowers	
Round 9		Date : 10th March	
Phil Turp		Chris Ross	
Ron Jones		Francis Bowers	
Paul Hanks		Mike Dunkley	
Round 10		Date : 21st April	
Chris Ross		Ron Jones	
Paul Hanks		Phil Turp	
Mike Dunkley		Francis Bowers	

Division 2

Round 1		Date : 30th September	
Alan Brookbanks		Des Lane	
Mahmoud Tarabad		Kaewallya Talnikar	
Norman Wedley		Duncan Sivell	
Chris Russell		Steve Walker	
Harry Currie		Jack Alster	
Round 2		Date : 7th October	
Kaewallya Talnikar		Alan Brookbanks	
Duncan Sivell		Des Lane	
Steve Walker		Mahmoud Tarabad	
Jack Alster		Norman Wedley	
Harry Currie		Chris Russell	
Round 3		Date : 4th November	
Alan Brookbanks		Duncan Sivell	
Kaewallya Talnikar		Steve Walker	
Des Lane		Jack Alster	
Mahmoud Tarabad		Harry Currie	
Norman Wedley		Chris Russell	
Round 4		Date : 18th November	
Steve Walker		Alan Brookbanks	
Jack Alster		Duncan Sivell	
Harry Currie		Kaewallya Talnikar	
Chris Russell		Des Lane	
Norman Wedley		Mahmoud Tarabad	
Round 5		Date : 9th December	
Alan Brookbanks		Jack Alster	
Steve Walker		Harry Currie	
Duncan Sivell		Chris Russell	
Kaewallya Talnikar		Norman Wedley	
Des Lane		Mahmoud Tarabad	
Round 6		Date : 6th January	
Harry Currie		Alan Brookbanks	
Chris Russell		Jack Alster	
Norman Wedley		Steve Walker	
Mahmoud Tarabad		Duncan Sivell	
Des Lane		Kaewallya Talnikar	
Round 7		Date : 27th January	
Alan Brookbanks		Chris Russell	
Harry Currie		Norman Wedley	
Jack Alster		Mahmoud Tarabad	
Steve Walker		Des Lane	
Duncan Sivell		Kaewallya Talnikar	
Round 8		Date : 10th March	
Norman Wedley		Alan Brookbanks	
Mahmoud Tarabad		Chris Russell	
Des Lane		Harry Currie	
Kaewallya Talnikar		Jack Alster	
Duncan Sivell		Steve Walker	
Round 9		Date : 21st April	
Mahmoud Tarabad		Alan Brookbanks	
Norman Wedley		Des Lane	
Chris Russell		Kaewallya Talnikar	
Harry Currie		Duncan Sivell	
Jack Alster		Steve Walker	

New England Chess Club Fixtures 2009-10

		Club Championship	League Match	Internal Event		
Day	Date	All Club	A Team	B Team	550 team 1	550 team 2
Wed	2 Sep	Club AGM	←	←	←	←
Wed	9 Sep	Mini-lightning	←	←	←	←
Wed	16 Sep	County ECM				
		Pboro v Cambs at Warboys	←	←	←	←
Wed	23 Sep					
Wed	30 Sep	Club Champ	Div 1 Rd 1	Div 2 Rd 1	←	←
Wed	7 Oct		H v St Neots	Div 2 Rd 2		
Wed	14 Oct		Div 1 Rd 2	A v Warboys B		
Tues	20 Oct				A v Octavia Hill	
Wed	21 Oct		A v Warboys A			H v Warboys N
Wed	28 Oct		Div 1 Rd 3	H v Spalding		
Wed	4 Nov		H v Pboro	Div 2 Rd 3		
Wed	11 Nov		→	→	H v New Eng 2	A v New Eng 1
Wed	18 Nov		H v Royston	Div 2 Rd 4		
Wed	25 Nov	County Individual	←	←	←	←
Wed	2 Dec		Div 1 Rd 4	A v Buckden B		
Thur	3 Dec	Fenland KO	A v Pboro			
Tues	8 Dec					A v Octavia Hill
Wed	9 Dec		A v Cambridge		H v Warboys N	
Wed	16 Dec	Xmas special	←	←	←	←
Wed	23 Dec	Christmas	No meeting	No meeting	←	←
Wed	30 Dec	New Year	No meeting	No meeting	←	←
Wed	6 Jan	Club Champ	Div 1 Rd 5	Div 2 Rd 5	←	←
w/c	11 Jan	County Individual				
Wed	13 Jan	Handicap	←	←	←	←
Mon	18 Jan		A v St Neots			
Wed	20 Jan		→	→	A v New Eng 2	H v New Eng 1
Sun	24 Jan	County Junior				
Mon	25 Jan			A v Buckden A		
Wed	27 Jan	Club Champ	Div 1 Rd 6	Div 2 Rd 6	←	←
Wed	3 Feb		Div 1 Rd 7	H v Cambs B		
Wed	10 Feb		H v Warboys A	Div 2 Rd 7		
Wed	17 Feb		Div 1 Rd 8	H v Warboys B		
Wed	24 Feb				H v Octavia Hill	
Thur	25 Feb		A v Pboro			
w/c	1 Mar	County Individual				
Wed	3 Mar					A v Warboys N
Tues	9 Mar			A v Spalding		
Wed	10 Mar	Club Champ	Div 1 Rd 9	Div 2 Rd 8	←	←
Wed	17 Mar	Quickplay	←	←	←	←
Sun	21 Mar	Cambs Rapidplay	←	←	←	←
Wed	24 Mar		→	→	A v Warboys N	H v Octavia Hill
Wed	31 Mar		Reserve	H v Buckden B		
Wed	7 Apr		Reserve	H v Buckden A		
Wed	14 Apr		H v Cambs A	Reserve		
Wed	21 Apr	Club Champ	Div 1 Rd 10	Div 2 Rd 9	←	←
Mon	26 Apr		A v Royston			
Wed	28 Apr		Reserve	A v Cambs B		
Wed	5 May	Jamboree				
Wed	12 May	Problem night	←	←	←	←