

NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – November 2010

Chairman's Chatter

Light the blue touch paper and whoosh! In the past month, results have come thick and fast as recorded here. As ever, I am delighted to see everyone turn up and joining in the competitions. May it continue throughout the season!

Paul Hanks

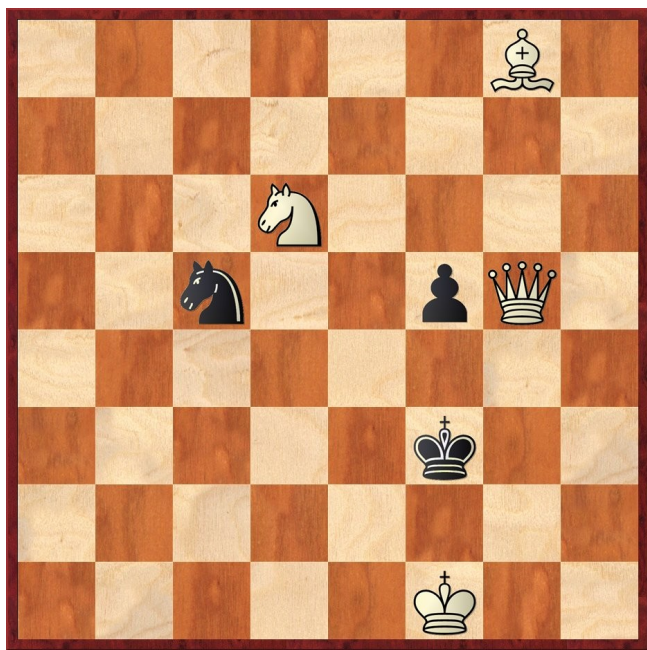
Diary Dates

The County Championship will take place over the weekend of 20-21 November at Parkway Sport & Leisure. Please contact Francis Bowers for an entry form.

Do not forget that £25 subscriptions are due and should be paid to Chris Russell as soon as possible.

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2.



Last Month's solution

Position: 8/7K/8/8/3n4/8/R2QN3/qk6

1 Kg6 Qxa2 2 Qc1# [1 ... Qc3 2 Nxc3#; 1 ... Qb2 2 Qxb2#; 1 ... N any 2 Qc2#]

Website to Watch

Until 6th November, 60+ year-olds will be battling for the 20th World Senior Championship. If some of you want to watch these youngsters play, the top 50 boards will be live on www.arcoworldchess.com.

The main event of the month is the Tal Memorial in Moscow from 4th to 11th November which will appear on the website <http://russiachess.org>.

Result Round-up

Mini-Lightning : 29th September 2010

	CR	AB	CJR	RJ	NW	MT	Tot	Pos
C Ross	X	1	1	1	1	1	5	1
A Brookbanks	0	X	1	1	1	0	3	2
C Russell	0	0	X	½	1	1	2½	3=
R Jones	0	0	½	X	1	1	2½	3=
N Wedley	0	0	0	0	X	1	1	5=
M Tarabad	0	1	0	0	0	X	1	5=

	FB	PT	DL	SG	SW	PS	HC	Tot	Pos
F Bowers	X	1	1	1	1	1	1	6	1
P Turp	0	X	1	1	1	1	1	5	2
D Lane	0	0	X	½	1	1	1	3½	3
S Sitaram	0	0	½	X	0	1	1	2½	4
S Walker	0	0	0	1	X	0	1	2	5=
P Spencer	0	0	0	0	1	X	0	2	5=
H Currie	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	0	7

Play-Off

F Bowers 1 - 0 C Ross

Cambridgeshire "550" Competition

New England 1	2	New England 2	2
P Hanks	½	S Caraway	½
D Lane	0	P Turp	1
A Brookbanks	1	H Currie	0
P Spencer	½	S Sitaram	½

Godmanchester	2½	New England 1	1½
M Vigor	0	P Hanks	1
A Rankin	½	C J Russell	½
J Wright	1	A Brookbanks	0
J Griffiths	1	P Spencer	0

Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

Peterborough	½	New England A	4½
A Timosenko	0	C Ross	1
P Walker	0	F Bowers	1
R Ilett	0	P Hanks	1
M Connolly	½	R Jones	½
J Verdegem	0	D Lane	1

Spalding	2½	New England B	1½
D Carew	½	R Jones	½
J M Smith	1	D Lane	0
F Robinson	1	A Brookbanks	0
J Pulford	0	P Spencer	1

Buckden B	1	New England B	3
A Young	0	R Jones	1
C Hamilton	0	D Lane	1
C Money	1	A Brookbanks	0
B Taylor	0	M Tarabad	1

Club Championship : at 25/10/10

Division One	CR	SC	FB	PT	PH	Total
C Ross	X	1				1 / 1
S Caraway	0	X ½				½ / 2
F Bowers		½ X	½			1 / 2
P Turp			½ X			½ / 1
P Hanks					X	0 / 0

Division Two	RJ	CR	AB	DL	NW	SW	JA	Total
R Jones	X				1			1 / 1
C Russell		X						0 / 0
A Brookbanks			X				P	0 / 0
D Lane				X		1		1 / 1
N Wedley	0				X			0 / 1
S Walker				0		X		0 / 1
J Alster			P				X	0 / 0

Division Three	MT	DS	KT	HC	SS	PS	Total
M Tarabad	X		P				0 / 0
D Sivell		X				P	0 / 0
K Talnikar		P	X				0 / 0
H Currie				X	0		0 / 1
S Sitaram				1	X		1 / 1
P Spencer			P			X	0 / 0

Match of the Month

Hallowe'en is upon us so Chris Russell invites us to judge whether every move here is a trick or a treat.

The bogeyman cometh!

This is the first of what I hope will be a series of articles on the frailties of the casual woodpusher like me rather than any aspiring grandmasters out there! For most of us, chess is all about beating your opponent not playing a perfect game of chess. If your strategic skill and theoretical knowledge is really not that deep, you need to be a bit more pragmatic!

I frequently hear it said by this type of player that somebody is their *nemesis* or *bogeyman*. If you think about it (and I just have), this comment is really an insult dressed up as a compliment. What they really mean is that they should have won when they lost against this opponent – or at very least have a better long term average. I can see that I have one or two players that might just come into this category – but I am not going to insult them (again!) since they might

just be reading this article. So instead, here follows a very frustrating game that I really should have won!

Des Lane v Chris Russell

Division 2, Perkins Club Championship; 26.11.08

1 c4

The English (sigh!). This has a reputation for some dull positional chess whereas I prefer dynamic positions that offer the chance for combinations and tactics. Des, it seems is already playing the man!

1 ... e5 2 Nc3 Nf6 3 Nf3 Nc6 4 d3 d5 5 cxd5 Nxd5 6 Bd2 Be6?!

Already gearing up for a queenside attack. More usual is 6 ... Be7 or maybe 6 ... Bb4. But 6 ... h6 first seemed very slow and I did not figure Des would want to play 7 Ng5 at this stage...

7 Ng5

Wrong!

7 ... Qd7

I could have opted for 7 ... Nxc3 8 bxc3 Bc8 9 Qb3 Qf6 etc. but this seems to lead to an awkward game. Already I was depressed!

8 Nxe6 Qxe6
9 Qb3

9 g3 looks better to me – the white bishop is now buried.

9 ... 0-0-0

Predictable Russell play – pieces out in a hurry! At this point the game is pretty level. Des, however, now has a rush of blood to head and gifts me the game in 2 moves!

10 0-0-0??

I had expected 10 Nxd5 followed by the exchange of queens. I think Des wants to speed up his development - castling to the kingside will cost 3 tempi but this move leads to a firestorm against his king – just what (I assume) he wanted to avoid!

10 ... Nd4

Fairly easy to see – it leaves only 2 squares for the queen (c4 is better) but Des chooses the wrong one.

11 Qa4??

Wrong! Now Des is in real trouble. Actually I have some sympathy here as both Qa4 and Qc4 invite Nb6, and Qa4 *appears* to hold the threat of Qxa7

11 ... Kb8?!

Also wrong! I had no need to worry about Qxa7 at all. 11 ... Nb6 12 Qxa7 Nc6 wins the queen! Fritz recommends 11 ... Nb6 12 Qa5 Nc6 13 Qb5 Bb4 14 Na4 Rd5 15 Nxb6+ axb6 16 Qa4 Ra5 17 Qc2 Nd4 18 Bxb4 Nxc2 19 Bxa5 bxa5 20 Kxc2 Qxa2 with an effectively won position for Black. This depth of analysis is way beyond my over-the-board calculation ability. Plus 11 ... Kb8 is perfectly safe – it just allows White to save his queen with Re1 to create a bolthole.

12 e3?!

Des does not take the opportunity! 12 Re1, Nxd5 or even Qc4 are better moves

12 ... Nb6
 13 Qa5 Nc6
 14 Qb5 Bb4

14 ... Nb4 15 f4 Nxa2+ is also good according to Fritz

15 d4 exd4
 16 exd4 Rxd4
 17 Re1

All straightforward enough but, determined not to lose the advantage, I slowed down and took 7 minutes on what is a pretty obvious move...

17 ... Qd6

If I am honest, I was really choosing between this and Qf6. Bottom line is both are playable. 17 ... Qxa2!? can also be played but it is nowhere near as good.

18 Qe2?!

Another mistake, and now the game really should be lost. 18 Be3 would have kept it alive a while longer, but it is getting difficult to find good moves for White. Still this move extracts the queen from immediate danger and looks to generate some back row threats so it is easy to see the attraction.

18 ... Nc4?

Fritz says that Na4 and Rd8 are much better, but I was still worried about Be3. I should not have been...

19 Be3



The critical position. Here I sat and pondered for a whole 10 minutes, convinced that I had a won position. As it turns out I did – I only had to play on a little further.

19 ... Bxc3!

At least, after all that time, I came up with the right move! 19 ... Nxe3 20 fxe3 Bxc3 21 bxc3 Re4 leaves White in a mess, but the game is not over.

20 bxc3?!

I was expecting 20 Bxd4 Qxd4 21 bxc3 Qxc3+ 22 Qc2 Qxe1+ ... but was puzzled over what to do next – 9 minutes this time, except now I came up with ...

20 ... Nxe3??

Awful! Naturally I had seen 20 ... Qa3+ 21 Kb1 but what was the follow-up? Both knight and rook are threatened and I also have to be careful about back rank mates... What had I missed? 21 ... Qxc3! with the threat of 22 ... Na3 mate is decisive (e.g. 22 Bc1 Nd2+ 23 Qxd2 Rb4+ 24 Qb2 Rxb2 25 Bxb2 Qxe1+ etc.) Actually after the text move, I am still ahead but I am massively down on time...

21 cxd4 Nf5
 22 Qb2 Nfxd4
 23 Rd1

23 h4 followed by Rh3 develops the second rook faster.

23 ... Qc5+

23 ... Rd8 is much better.

24 Kb1 Re8

24 ... Rd8 is still better!

25 Bd3 Nb4
 26 Rc1?!

Not the best. Fritz recommends 26 Bxh7.

26 ... Qd6?!

Neither is this! 26 ... Nxd3 27 Rxc5 Nxb2 28 Kxb2 is clearly better. I only have 10 minutes left now.

27 Bc4??

Des's generosity knows no bounds! Actually this is not true, but he is missing stuff through also moving quickly to run me out of time.

27 ... Nbc2?!

and I missed it! 27 ... Qg6+! 28 Ka1 Nbc2+ 29 Rxc2 Nxc2+ 30 Kb1 Na3+ 31 Ka1 Nxc4 winning.

28 Rhd1??

Still trying to give me the game!

28 ... Na3+
 29 Ka1 Ndc2+
 30 Rxc2 Qxd1+
 31 Rc1 Qd6?!

I miss the last chance! 31 ... Re1! 32 Bxf7 (best according to Fritz) Qxc1+ 33 Qxc1 Rxc1+ 34 Kb2 Rc2+ 35 Kxa3 Rxf2 with a won game!

32 Bb3 Nb5 1-0

Out of time! Black's flag fell.

Is there anything to learn from all this? Probably not from the time scramble at the end, but it is easy to conclude that a 'won game' is only won if you can finish it off. In this case I was a clear pawn up when my flag fell (e.g. 33 Bxf7 Rd8 34 Qxb5 Qf6+ 35 Qb2 Qxf7 etc.) but had been unable to find the 'killer blow'. Whilst this frequently looks obvious in hindsight, the best move can be hard to find over the board under time pressure. Sometimes you just have to go with your gut feelings. After all, at our level of chess, there is always the chance that if you miss one opportunity there is a fair chance that you will get another!

Chris Russell