

NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – Christmas 2010

Chairman's Chatter

December is always a busy period with entertaining relatives and playing with new toys. This year, instead of chess problems, I felt you deserved something more relaxing. Here you will find some embarrassing moments for our top boards and commentary on one of the most important games of the year.

Merry Christmas and Happy 2011!

Paul Hanks

Favourite Fiddles

The Christmas and New Year period is a time for family festivities, collective reminiscences and looking to the future with renewed hope. We can wallow unashamedly in seasonal traditions that were enjoyed by our forebears and bestowed on successive generations. You know the form - hiding from carol singers, overindulging on roast potatoes and watching "The Great Escape" on television.

At the chessboard, it is no different. Whether induced by alcohol, a heavy meal or some other excess, our attention can wander and we drift into a bad (sometimes hopeless) position. It may seem as though the war is over but there is always a slim possibility we can find a way to tunnel under the wire. Here are a few examples from club members of the times when they got away...

Ron, for instance, claims that he rarely has the opportunity to perpetrate a swindle but even he has slipped away under cover of time trouble.

Peter Barkas v Ron Jones
1993



Black has just recaptured after minor pieces were swapped on d7 and his poor pawn structure give White a slight edge. Moving the white queen to the c file and the advance b4-b5 will put Black under pressure but fortunately, White is too precipitate.

38 Qc3? Qd1+

White has given away a half point because after 39 Kg2, the white king that cannot escape. In this case, a perpetual check follows 39 ... Qe2+ 40 Kh3 Qh5+ etc.

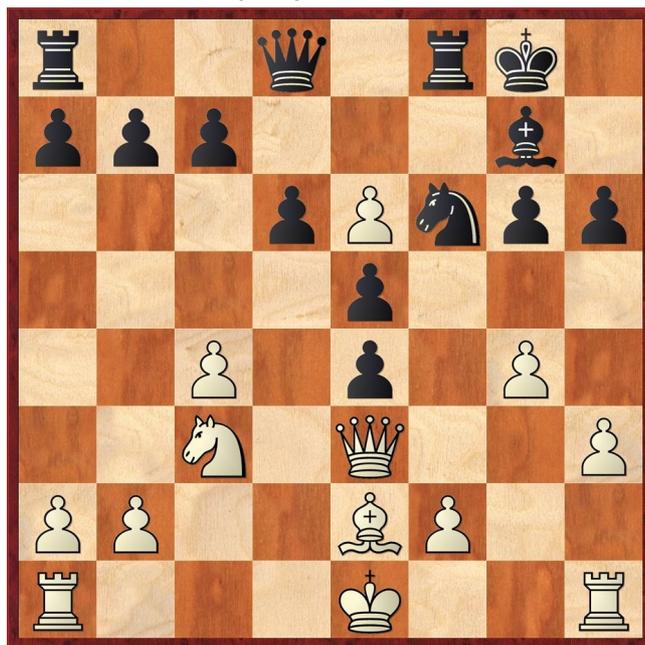
39 Kf2?? Rf7+

Now, White gifts the other half point viz. 40 Kg2 Qf1#, 40 Ke3 Rf3#.

40 Qf3 Rxf3+ 0-1

In the following position, Phil is a pawn down and Fritz's recommendation for Black 16 ... Qe8 threatens the lamb on e6 that has strayed from its flock.

P Turp v P Ribbands
Bury Major Rd 1, 1999



16 ... c6
17 g5 hxg5
18 Qxg5 Kh7

Black's passivity on the kingside has already cost him his advantage. Is he going to make a fatal mistake?

19 Rg1 Qe8
20 e7 Rh8
21 h4 Qf7
22 h5 gxh5
23 Rd1 Bh6??

Yes! 23 ... Qxe7 is met by 24 Rxd6 so 23 ... Rhe8 is probably best but Black is struggling.

24 Qf5+ 1-0

David J Spence (2198) v Chris Ross (2141)
Suffolk v Cambridgeshire, Newmarket 10.03.08

Ordinary development has left White with serious kingside threats. The vulnerability of the h7 square and its defender on f6 caused Chris to squirm. The rest of us can sit back and enjoy this rare experience.



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|----|-------------|------------------|
| 17 | Nxd5 | Bxd5 |
| 18 | Bg5 | g6 |
| 19 | Qh4 | Qd8 |
| 20 | Ng4 | Kg7 |
| 21 | Bh6+ | Kg8 |
| 22 | Bxf8 | Kxf8 |
| 23 | Nxf6 | Bxf6 |
| 24 | Qxh7 | Bxd4 |
| 25 | Rad1 | Qf6 |
| 26 | Kh1 | Bxg2+ 0-1 |

He has got clean away. 27 Kxg2 [27 Kg1 Qxf2#] 27 ... Qxf2+ 28 Kh3 [28 Kh1 Qf3#] 28 ... Qf3+ 29 Kh4 Bf6#.



Francis doesn't swindle, he bluffs!

F Bowers v M Pinner

Fenland Knock-Out, 08.12.10

After an English Attack, White has built a formidable kingside assault while Black has shown sang froid in relying on his meagre defensive resources.

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|----|-------------|-------------|
| 18 | g6 | fxg6 |
| 19 | hxg6 | h6 |
| 20 | Bxc4 | Qxc4 |
| 21 | Rxh6 | |

Here it comes!

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|----|------------|-------------|
| 21 | ... | gxh6 |
| 22 | Qh2 | Rac8 |

In the post-mortem, Martin Pinner pointed out 22 ... Rfc8 which has the same effect on the queenside counterattack and also allows 23 c3 Bf8 24 g7 Bxg7 25 Bxg7 Kxg7 26 Rg1+ Kf7. A computer should spot a mate here but it can find no better than a perpetual check by 27 Qh5+ Ke7 28 Qh4+ Kf7 etc. Kibitzers suggested 26 ... Kh7 but the protection is a mirage. The king has simply gone in the wrong direction. 27 Qh5 Be8 (27 ... Rg8 28 Qf7+ Kh8 29 Rh1) 28 Qg4.

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|----|-----------|-------------|
| 23 | c3 | Rxf4 |
|----|-----------|-------------|

23 ... Qxd4 24 Rxd4 Rxf4 25 Rxb4 gives Black a lot of material for the queen but probably insufficient. The game choice is much worse.

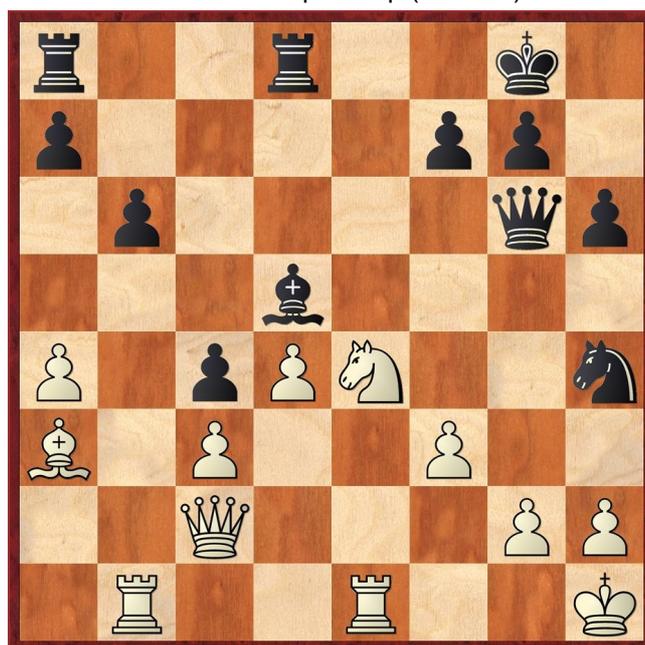
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|----|--------------|-------------|
| 24 | Qxh6 | e5 |
| 25 | Qh7+ | Kf8 |
| 26 | g7+ | Ke8 |
| 27 | g8Q+ | Qxg8 |
| 28 | Qxg8+ | Rf8 |
| 29 | Qg6+ | Kd8 |

If 29 ... Rf7 30 Rh1 Bf6 31 Rh7 Be6 32 Qg8+ Ke7 33 Rxf7+ Bxf7 34 Qxc8

- | | | |
|----|-------------|------------|
| 30 | Bb6+ | 1-0 |
|----|-------------|------------|

S J Wagstyl v P Hanks

School Championship (1/4 final)



My opponent in this schoolboy game was several years younger than me so considerable status was at stake. I had been trying to muster a kingside attack and thought I could use the threat to g2 to pick up the pawn on a4...

27 ... Bc6
28 Be7

Whoops! I am losing a piece and my contemporaries started to smirk at this point. I reckoned that through overconfidence, my opponent would not analyse too far ahead at this point. Thinking deeply, I saw to the end of the game and then blitzing the remaining moves, I managed to create some confusion.

28 Bxa4
29 Qf2 Nxf3
30 Qxf3 Re8
31 Nd6 Rxe7

Suddenly, all the pieces on the board are involved in a global combination. That is, all except the innocent bystander on a4...

32 Qxa8+ Kh7
33 Nxc4 Rxe1+
34 Rxe1 Bc6
35 Qxc6 Qxc6 0-1

Although the intention here is light-hearted, the subject of swindling merits a chapter in the famous book "Chess for Tigers". Simon Webb's advice on the art of being lucky includes

- recognise and accept when you are in a lost position
- use a process of elimination to avoid continuations that give you no hope. This way, you do have a chance however slim
- play fearlessly - you have nothing to lose
- act the part. A confident demeanour will camouflage your plans.

Happy swindling in 2011!

Serious Study

It often takes me ages to crack a chess problem. In that case, the difficulty is finding the correct sequence of moves to reach the objective. And then there are what I shall call "*chess mysteries*" - positions in which you know the continuation but are unsure what has been achieved. Such a situation occurs when reading game annotations by grandmasters and their analysis ends without a significant material surplus or obvious checkmate. Haven't you ever come across the phrase "and wins" or "with advantage" and wondered if you agree?

Here is a case in point from the recent World Championship match. I watched it on the Internet.

V Anand v V Topalov

World Championship, Sofia, 2010

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 d5 4 g3 dxc4 5 Bg2 Bb4+ 6 Bd2 a5 7 Qc2 Bxd2+ 8 Qxd2 c6 9 a4 b5 10 Na3 Bd7 11 Ne5 Nd5 12 e4 Nb4 13 0-0 0-0 14 Rfd1 Be8 15 d5 Qd6 16 Ng4 Qc5 17 Ne3 N8a6 18 dxc6 bxa4 19 Naxc4 Bxc6 20 Rac1 h6 21 Nd6 Qa7 22 Ng4 Rad8



23 Nxe6+

"Now it's over" - Anand in *New in Chess* magazine (see www.newinchess.com).

Sorry Vishy, but I need rather more than this succinct comment. His justification of this sacrifice appears with the game moves below and I presume represent his foresight at this point. In the same position, I should need a lot of evidence before making this move.

In the first place, Anand does not mention what happens if the offer is declined. I can see that 23 ... Kh8 24 Ndx7+ is good for White because 24 ... Rxf7 leaves the rook on d8 hanging but what about 23 ... Kh7? White has regained the Catalan pawn with a continuing initiative and that is probably enough. It took the computer to point out to me that White can combine two tactical motifs - the discovered attack on c6 after e4-e5 and the winning assault on h6 when a white rook arrives on the h file. For example, 23 ... Kh7 24 Rc4 Nc5 (24 ... gxh6 25 e5 f6 (25 ... Bxg2 26 Rh4 mating) 26 Rh4 Qg7 27 Bxc6 Nxc6 28 Qc2+) 25 e5 Bxg2 26 Rh4 when White maintains the material balance and Black still has to tread very carefully.

From here onwards, try to visualise the analysis variations and see if you come to the same conclusion as the World Champion or whether you need further assistance.

23 ... gxh6
24 Qxh6 f6

No comment from Anand as it is logical to muster defensive forces along the second rank but here I should have to dismiss other defences e.g. 24 ... Qe7 25 e5 Bxg2 26 Rc4 Bf3 27 Rdd4 f5 28 exf6 looks conclusive and so it is with 28 ... Qh7 29 Qg5+ Kh8 30 Nf7+ Qxf7 (30 ... Rxf7 31 Rxd8+) 31 Rh4+. Otherwise, 24 ... Nc5 25 Qg5+ Kh7 26 Rxc5 does not help and 24 ... f5 only gives extra possibilities starting 25 Qxe6+.

25 e5

"The equally tempting 25 Bh3 isn't very clear after 25 ... Qe7 26 Rc4 Nc7 (White wins after 26 ... Rxd6 27 Rxd6 Qxd6 28 Qg6 Kh8 29 e5 Qd1+ 30 Bf1)" - Anand.

I can agree with this one! The entry point on e6 is easier to defend with the offside minor pieces.

25 ... Bxg2

More permutations pass without rebuttal. At worst, White comes out a pawn ahead after 25 ... Qg7 or Qh7 when Bxc6 follows the exchange of queens. If 25 ... fxe5 26 Qxe6+ Kh7 (26 ... Kh8 27 Qxe5+ Kg8 28 Rd4 Qg7 29 Qe6+ Kh8 30 Rh4+) 27 Rxc6 Qxf2+ 28 Kh1 Nxc6 29 Be4+ Kg7 (29 ... Kh8 30 Qh6+) 30 Qg6+

26 exf6

"White's moves are not difficult to see" - Anand.

Ummm... I am not as sure-footed as the World Champion. 26 Rc4 looks promising and has been a recurring theme but here, it invites 26 ... Qg7 when the defence is much stronger.

26 ... Rxd6

"On 26 ... Qh7 27 Qg5+ Kh8 28 Rc4 wins" - Anand.

There is a direct threat if Black anticipates Rc1-c4-g4 with 26 ... Bf3. After 27 Qg6+ Kh8 28 f7, a new mating pattern emerges with the threat of 29 Qh6# and 28 ... Rxf7 leads to 29 Nxf7+ Qxf7 30 Rxd8+. How about 26 ... Nd5 when 27 Rc4 can be answered with 27 ... Nxf6? Sadly, it fails to 27 Qg5+ Kh8 28 f7 Rxf7 29 Nxf7+ Qxf7 30 Rd4. White can choose checkmate on the g or h file depending on how Black continues.

27 Rxd6 Be4

"The reason I took some time before the sac, was to see 27 ... Bd5 28 Rc4! Once I saw it, I could go ahead. The line continues 28 ... Bxc4 29 Rd4!! Rxf6 30 Rd8+ Kf7 31 Qh7#" - Anand

I am impressed by this vision particularly as there are many analysis branches before you get this far and the key move 28 Rc4 is hardly obvious. Because Black can delay the inevitable with 29 ... Kf7 in the above line, Fritz prefers 29 Qg6+ to 29 Rd4 with Kh8 30 Rd4 Qh7 31 Rh4 Rf7 32 Rxh7+ Rxh7 33 Qe8#.

28 Rxe6 Nd3

"Also hopeless is 28 ... Qh7 29 Qg5+ Kh8 (29 ... Bg6 30 f7+ Kxf7 31 Re7+ Kg8 32 Rxh7 and wins) 30 Rxe4" - Anand

I am happy that White is now well ahead but the cryptic "and wins" results from only a slight material plus. Actually, White's initiative is still decisive e.g. 32 ... Kxh7 33 Re1 Rf7 34 Qh4+ Kg7 35 Re8 Rf8 36 Qe7+ Rf7 37 Qe5+ Rf6 (37 ... Kh6 38 Rh8+ Bh7 39 h4 Rg7 40 Qf6+ Rg6 41 Qf4+ Kh5 (41 ... Kg7 42 Qf8#) 42 Rxh7+) 38 Re6.

Now go back to the position in the diagram and mull over the variations. Would you have played the sacrifice?

29 Rc2 Qh7 30 f7+ Qxf7 31 Rxe4 Qf5 32 Re7 1-0

"My best game of the match" - Anand

Eye Opener

Chess teaches you never to take anything for granted - even at the top level.

Vladimir Doroshkievich v Vladimir Tukmakov
Russian Championship, Riga 1970

1	c4	e5
2	Nc3	Nc6
3	Nf3	f5
4	d4	e4
5	Bg5	Nf6
6	d5	



A series of captures by pawns on the long diagonal is a common theme. Who comes out in front?

6	...	exf3
7	dx6	fxg2
8	cx7+	Nxd7 0-1