

NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – June 2011

Chairman's Chatter

The big news is that the club has won its first title in Cambridgeshire League! Entering the final match, the team only had to avoid a 5-0 whitewash to clinch victory but equally, the opposition Royston had the incentive to fight to the death even in drawn positions. A tense finish to the season but thankfully, we were successful. Well done to Francis and the team.

As the club championship draws to a close, we have already congratulated Chris Ross on another convincing win. To this, we must add Ron Jones who has dominated the second division but in the third, it has been much closer with Sailesh Sitaram justifying his promise by a half point.

Paul Hanks

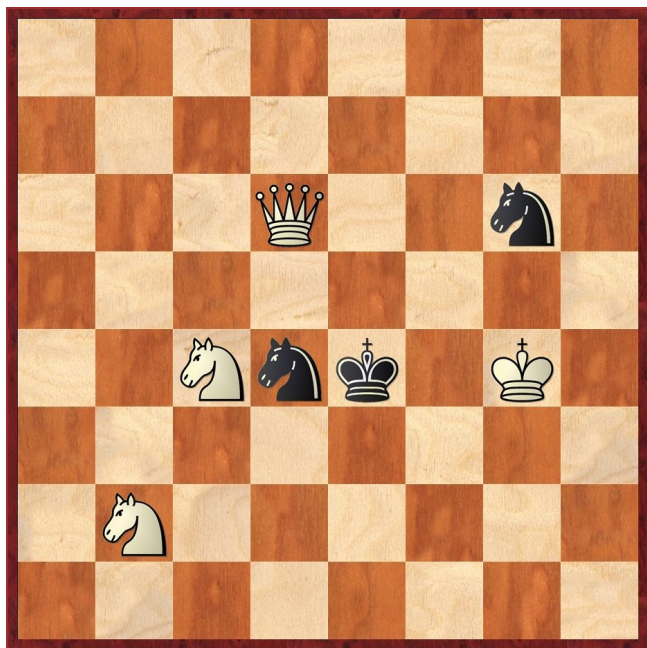
Diary Dates

From 1st June, the normal masterclass tuition will be available at the start of the club evenings.

On the administrative front, the Cambridgeshire County Chess Association holds its AGM at the Godmanchester Comrades' Club on 16th June. Details of a County Individual Blitz tournament due at the end of the month have yet to be announced.

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2.



Last Month's solution

Position: 6bn/7n/1Q6/7k/6R1/6K1/8/8

1 Qb1 Ng5 2 Rh4# [1 ... Bd5 2 Qxh7#; 1 ... Ng6 2 Qxg6#; 1 ... other 2 Qh1#]

Website to Watch

The Bazna Kings tournament runs from 11th to 22nd June in Romania and had managed to attract sufficient sponsorship to afford Magnus Carlsen. The games can be followed on www.turneulregilor.com.

Result Round-up

Club Championship : at 25/05/11

Division One	CR	FB	PH	PT	SC	Total
C Ross	X	½ 1	1 ½	1 1	1 1	7
F Bowers	0 ½	X	1 0	½ ½	1 ½	4
P Hanks	½ 0	1 0	X	½ _d 1	0 1	4
P Turp	0 0	½ ½	0 ½ _d	X	1 ½	3
S Caraway	0 0	½ 0	0 1	½ 0	X	2

Division Two	RJ	DL	SW	AB	CR	NW	Total
R Jones	X	1 1	½ ½	1 1	2 1	1 1	8 / 9
D Lane	0	X	1 1	1 _d 0	2 _d 1	0	6 / 9
S Walker	½ 0	0 0	X	0 1 _d	2 _d ½	1	5
A Brookbanks	0 ½	1 0 _d	0 _d 1	X	1 ½	1	5
C Russell	0	0 _d 0 _d	1	X	2	3	3
N Wedley	0 0	1 0	0 ½	0 ½	0	X	2

Division Three	SS	PS	MT	HC	DS	Total
S Sitaram	X	0 1	1 1	1 1		5
P Spencer	1 0	X	1 ½	1 1	1	4½
M Tarabad	0 0	½ 0	X	1 0		1½
H Currie	0 0	0 0	0 1	X		1
D Sivell		0			X	0 / 1

Fenland Plate : Final 27th April 2011

New England 2	½	Warboys	3½
P Turp	½	M Misson	½
R Jones	0	B Duff	1
D Lane	0	R Mann	1
M Tarabad	0	C Watkins	1

Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

Royston	4	New England A	1
P Kemp	½	C Ross	½
N Hutchinson	1	F Bowers	0
K Clark	1	P Turp	0
P Rice	1	I Ramdewar	0
M Pinner	½	R Jones	½

Division One		P	W	D	L	Pts	Games
1	New England A	10	8	0	2	16	33½
2	Royston	10	7	2	1	16	31½
3	Warboys A	10	5	1	4	11	25
4	Cambridge	10	5	0	5	10	26½
5	Peterborough	10	3	0	7	6	25½
6	St Neots	10	0	1	9	1	8

Division Two		P	W	D	L	Pts	Games
1	Buckden A	8	5	2	1	12	21
2	Warboys B	8	2	3	3	7	16
3	New England B	8	3	1	4	7	15½
4	Spalding	8	2	3	3	7	14½
5	Buckden B	8	3	1	4	7	13

Team "550" Competition

	South Division	North Division
1	Cambridge Rowers	New England 1
2	Royston	New England 2
3	Warboys S	Warboys N
4	Cambridge Punters	Godmanchester
5	St Neots	-

County Jamboree : 12th May 2011

Pos	Team	Pts
1	Linton	9½
2	New England A	9
3	Warboys A	8
4	St Neots	6
5	Cambridge	5½
6=	Royston	4½
	New England B	4½
8	Godmanchester Comrades	4
9	Warboys B	3

Club Handicap : 4th May 2011

Player	Rd 1		Rd 2		Rd 3		Rd 4		Rd 5		Pts	SOS
	Opp	Res	Opp	Res	Opp	Res	Opp	Res	Opp	Res		
1 F Bowers	14	1	5	1	4	1	2	1	3	0	4	14
2 P Turp	9	1	11	1	5	1	1	0	8	1	4	14
3 I Ramdewar	10	1	4	0	6	½	7	1	1	1	3½	
4 S Walker	12	1	3	1	1	0	11	1	5	0	3	13½
5 S Sitaram	13	1	1	0	2	0	12	1	4	1	3	13
6 C Ross	11	0	7	1	3	½	8	0	13	1	2½	11
7 A Brookbanks	8	½	6	0	14	1	3	0	11	1	2½	11
8 R Jones	7	½	14	½	12	1	6	1	2	0	2½	10½
9 D Lane	2	0	10	1	11	0	13	½	14	1	2½	10
10 M Tarabad	3	0	9	0	13	½	14	1	12	1	2½	8½
11 N Wedley	6	1	2	0	9	1	4	0	7	0	2	
12 H Currie	4	0	13	1	8	0	5	0	10	0	1	12
13 C Russell	5	0	12	0	10	½	9	½	6	0	1	11½
14 S Wozniak	1	0	8	½	7	0	10	0	9	0	½	

Rapidplay : 25th May 2011

Player	Rd 1		Rd 2		Rd 3		Rd 4		Pts
	Opp	Res	Opp	Res	Opp	Res	Opp	Res	
1 C Ross	4	1	9	1	3	1	2	1	4
2 S Sitaram	10	1	7	1	6	1	1	0	3
3 F Bowers	8	1	5	1	1	0	7	1	3
4 D Lane	1	0	8	1	7	½	6	1	2½
5 S Wozniak	6	½	3	0	8	1	9	1	2½
6 H Currie	5	½	10	1	2	0	4	0	1½
7 S Walker	9	1	2	0	4	½	3	0	1½
8 M Tarabad	3	0	4	0	5	0	10	1	
9 R Jones	7	0	1	0	10	1	5	0	1
10 N Wedley	2	0	6	0	9	0	8	0	0

Match of the Month

Des is totally invincible - we all know because he has told us so often! Whilst not entirely the case, his reminiscences against grandmaster opposition go to show that the exception proves the rule...

If you can believe Wikipedia, Jim Plaskett is the brother of the inventor of cricket's snickometer but he deserves an entry in his own right for his impressive chess exploits. He became a grandmaster in 1985, won the British Championship at Eastbourne in 1990 and reached his peak ELO rating of 2529 in 2000. So why was he playing for Bourne in the early nineties?

He was a friend of club stalwart Ray Ferrer who persuaded him to appear for the club in the Hunts and Peterborough league. His class quickly became evident when he blew away the rabbit on top board for Perkins with the black pieces in a mere 20 moves [though the subsequent darts game was much closer - editor].

Unfortunately, having a strong player to smash the opposition from other clubs had a drawback when it came to the internal club game.

J Plaskett v G D Lane

Bourne A v Bourne B, 06.04.1992

1 d4 e6 2 Nf3 d5 3 c4 Nf6 4 Nc3 Be7 5 Bf4 0-0 6 e3 c5 7 dxc5

I wasn't expecting this move but if he hadn't taken, I would probably have played cxd4 soon and I was thinking of dxc4 for myself.

7 ... Bxc5 8 Qc2 Bb4

This game was played in 1992 and has followed a fairly classical main line of the Queen's Gambit Declined until I tried an offbeat novelty which moved the same piece several times in the opening. Among the games that followed in our footsteps (and presumably the players must have studied my moves) have been Topalov v Kramnik, Wijk aan Zee 2007 and Carlsen v Ivanchuk, Bilbao 2008. There, Black preferred to continue with 8 ... Nc6 and as Nigel Short writes in *New in Chess* magazine "it has the merit of developing a piece which counts for something even in the 21st century".

Maybe I should have played 8 ... Qa5 to deter 9 a3 and 10 b4 with 10 ... Bxb4 and 11 ... Qxa1+.

9 a3 Bxc3+ 10 Qxc3 Ne4 11 Qc2 f5

I was worried about trouble on the light squares after White's Bf1-d3. My poor bishop on c8 hasn't moved and cannot mount a challenge but I probably had time for the superior Nb8-d7-f6.

12 cxd5 Qa5+

Immediate recapture was better.

13 b4 Qxd5 14 Bc4 Qd8 15 Rd1 Qe7

By now, my neglect of developing the queenside pieces is too serious. Computers would like White to continue 16 h4 which was also popular with Kasparov in similar lines.

16 Nd4 Kh8 17 f3 e5 18 Bxe5 Qxe5 19 fxe4 fxe4 20 Rf1 Rxf1+

Fritz thinks White has given away much of his advantage if Black had found 20 ... Nd7.

21 Kxf1 Bg4

This fails because White can exploit the back rank mate threat. 21 ... Qxh2 was tempting to start checking the white king but may suffer as in the game. From now on, I felt like Canute facing massive waves of attack.

22 Nf3 Qc7 23 Ng5 Bxd1 24 Qxe4 g6 1-0

I was aware that I needed to get my queenside pieces into play but never seemed to get the opportunity. I was determined to put in a better showing when colours were reversed.

G D Lane v J Plaskett

1 c4 Nf6 2 Nc3 e5 3 g3 Bb4 4 Bg2 0-0 5 Nf3 Re8 6 0-0 e4 7 Ne1 Bxc3 8 dxc3 h6 9 Nc2 Nc6 10 Ne3

OK, you've noticed! This time, I have moved the knight four times in 10 moves but the centre will remain closed while my control of d5 prevents Black advancing his centre pawn by two squares.

10 ... d6 11 b3 Re5 12 f3

Black has designs to test the strength of the fianchetto formation with kingside piece activity particularly as the defensive knight has been displaced. Fortunately, White can target the pawn on e4 to gain counterplay.

12 ... Bd7 13 Qc2 exf3 14 exf3 Qe7 15 Qd3 Re8

Chess games can pivot on simple things and here, my GM opponent has latched on to a threat down the open e file to complete his development first.

16 Re1 d5

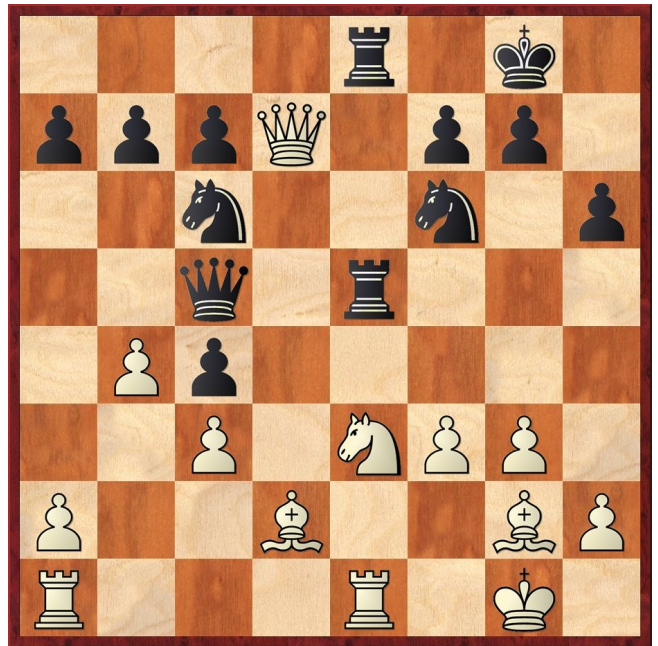
Steinitz's principle is that with better development, you must start an attack. The pin against the rook on e1 (that I made for myself!) weakens my hold on d5 and Jim accepts the invitation to advance.

17 Bd2 Qc5

Black is building an impressive position with great pressure on e3 but it is largely cosmetic. With 18 f4, my sights can be trained on d5 again with gain of tempo and a series of exchanges starting 18 ... dxc4 19 Qxc4 Qxc4 would equalise the position.

18 b4 dxc4 19 Qxd7

19 bxc5 cxd3 leaves Black with an extra pawn, better coordination and weaknesses to target on the queenside.



19 ... Qxe3+

Dare I criticise a grandmaster? Black's reaction looks automatic to avoid losing a piece (e.g. 19 ... Nxd7 20 bxc5) but could Jim have played 19 ... Qb6? My queen is rather short of squares and would be lost after 19 ... Qb6 20 Qh3 Rh5.

20 Rxe3 Nxd7 21 Rae1 Rxe3 22 Rxe3 Rd8 23 Re1 Nb6 24 Re2 Rd3

The bishop pair partly compensates for the material deficit though none of the minor pieces is very active. Do we have a "bad knight v bad bishop" ending?

25 f4 f5 26 Bf1 Kf8 27 Be1 a5 28 Rc2 Rd1 29 Kf2 axb4 30 cxb4 Nd4

Black is gaining pace quicker than White so great care is needed to have hope of survival. Maybe 31 Rd2 to expel the invading pieces would have been better. There are tactics to calculate 31 Rd2 Rxe1 32 Kxe1 Nf3+ 33 Kd1 Nxd2 34 Kxd2 Nd5 35 b5 c3+ 36 Kd3 c2 37 Kd2 (37 Kxc2?? Ne3+) 37 ... Ne3 38 Bd3 g6 39 Bxc2 Nf1+ but the position has greatly clarified.

31 Rc3 Nb5 32 Rc2 Rb1

My queenside pawns are unhealthy and 32 ... Ra1 was an alternative to consider.

33 Bxc4

No, no, no... The advanced pawn will cause trouble but this is not the way to eliminate it. I was moving too quickly and played the worst possible move. Perhaps 33 a4 Nxa4 34 Rxc4.

33 ... Na3 34 Bb3 Nxc2 0-1

Jim Plaskett is not a grandmaster for nothing and considering the grading gap between us, I felt I had played quite well.

Des Lane

Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

A Team	Royston 8th Dec	Cambs B 16th Feb	Peterborough 14th Oct	Warboys A 27th Oct	Royston 24th Nov	Cambridge A 1st Dec	St Neots 5th Jan	Peterborough 9th Feb	Warboys A 23rd Feb	St Neots 14th Mar	Cambridge A 13th Apr	Royston 9th May	Score	Appearances
	Chris Ross	1	0	1	1	½	1	1d	½	1	1	1	½	9½
Francis Bowers	1	½	1	½	½	0	1d	1		1	1	0	7½	11
Ron Jones			½						½			½	1½	3
I Ramdewar									1	1		0	2	3
Phil Turp				1	½	½	1d	½		1	0	0	4½	8
S Caraway	0	½		½	0	1	1d	½	0		0		3½	9
Paul Hanks	1	0	1	1	0	1	1d	½	½	1	1		8	11
Des Lane			1										1	1
Total	3	1	4½	4	1½	3½	5d	3	3	5	3	1	33½ + 4	
B Team	Cambridge 3rd Nov	Warboys 27th Apr	Spalding 12th Oct	Buckden B 20th Oct	Warboys B 24th Nov	Spalding 19th Jan	Buckden A 28th Feb	Buckden B 2nd Mar	Warboys B 6th Apr	Buckden A 20th Apr			Score	Appearances
	Ron Jones	0	0	½	1	½	½	½	1	1			5½	10
Ishan Ramdewar									0				0	1
Mahmoud Tarabad	1	0		1	1		0	0	0	0			3	8
Alan Brookbanks			0	0	1	½	0	1		1d			3½	7
Sailesh Sitaram						½				1d			1½	2
Des Lane	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1				3	9
Phil Turp	0	½	1										1½	3
Total	2	½	1½	3	2½	1½	½	1½	2	3			15½ + 2½	