

NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – September 2011

Chairman's Chatter

The Club AGM is not perhaps the most glamorous event but the business transacted will set the framework for the season. By 10th September, we need to inform the County Association about the teams we intend to enter into the leagues as well as decide the format for our internal competitions and approve any changes to club income and spending. Please do your best to attend.

Paul Hanks

Diary Dates

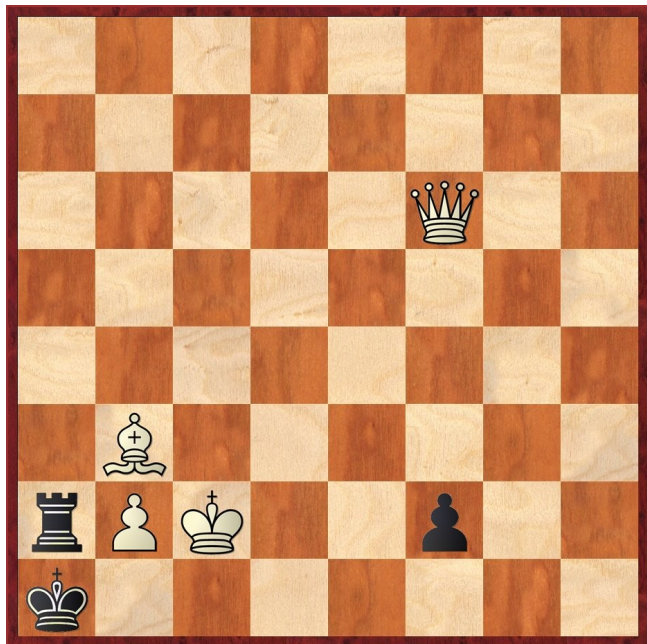
The Club AGM will be held on 7th September ahead of the County Executive Committee meeting on 15th at which the League competitions are formulated.

The first competitive fixture of the season is traditionally the North v South match between the two population centres in the County. This is scheduled for 22nd September at Godmanchester. The team captains will be issuing invitations but please be prepared - they are normally short of volunteers!

Don't forget that there will be a second Rapidplay in Cambridgeshire held on 9th October at Whittlesford.

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2.



Last Month's solution

Position: 8/8/B7/KP5q/1NkPP1R1/4Qp/4b3/8

1 e5 Qxe5 2 dxe5# [1 ... Qe8 2 d5#; 1 ... Bd3 2 Qxd3#; 1 ... other 2 b6#]

Match of the Month

I hope you all enjoyed following Chris at the British Championships. His notes are collected below :-

98th British Championships, Sheffield 25.07- 05.08.11

Actually, I had a rather slow start to the championship. In round 1, playing an International Master of some standing, I stood better and was holding him comfortably for nearly 5 hours. Towards the end though, I got slightly complacent and didn't repeat the position accurately enough. This allowed a swift counterattack which proved to be my undoing.

Chris Ross (2234) v Richard Pert (2459)
Round 1; 25.07.11

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 Bb5+ Nd7 4 0-0 a6 5 Bxd7+ Bxd7 6 d4 cxd4 7 Qxd4 Rc8 8 Nc3 e5 9 Qd3 h6 10 Nd2 Be6 11 Nd5 Nf6 12 c4 Be7 13 Nb3 Nxd5 14 cxd5 Bd7 15 Qg3 Bg5 16 Bxg5 hxg5 17 Rfc1 g6 18 Rxc8 Bxc8 19 Rc1 Kf8 20 Qc3 Kg7 21 Nd2 Qf6 22 Qe3 Rd8 23 Qc3 g4 24 Nf1 Qg5 25 Qe3 Qh4 26 Qc3 Qf6 27 Qe3 Bd7 28 Rc7 Bb5 29 Rxb7 Rc8 30 g3 Qf3 31 h4 Bxf1 32 Kxf1 Rc1+ 0 - 1

In round 2, I came across an up-and-coming lad, a 15-year old with a bright future in many people's opinion. I took the black bits and had to fend off a very furious attack as my young aggressive opponent tried to put me to the sword. Sheer experience and a strong nerve allowed me to hold him off and some careful counter-punching let me grab a pawn to enter a complicated endgame. To be fair though, my young opponent held his nerve, clung on desperately and was mightily relieved to hold me to the draw.

So, 0.5/2 currently - down on what I was really looking for and yet again, I am not on the top digital boards.

Jude Lenier (2065) v Chris Ross (2234)
Round 2; 26.07.11

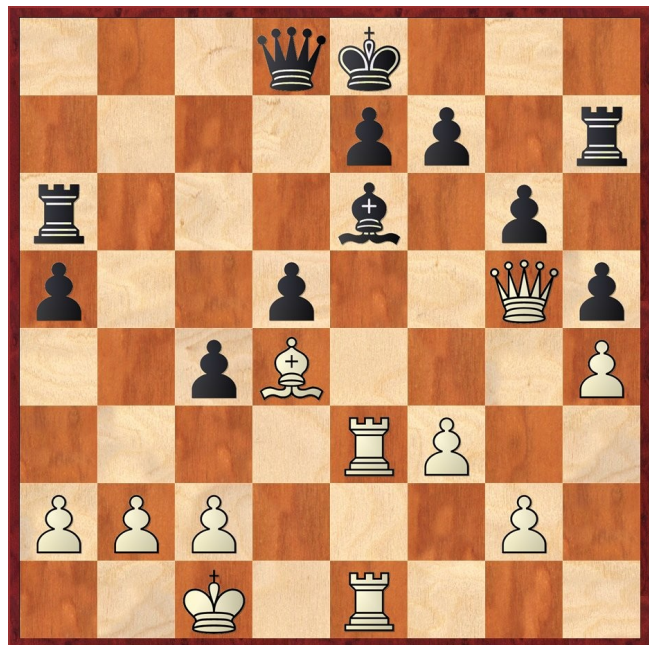
1 e4 e6 2 d3 d5 3 Nd2 c5 4 Ngf3 Nc6 5 Be2 Nf6 6 c3 Qc7 7 0-0 Be7 8 Re1 0-0 9 Bf1 b5 10 a3 a5 11 e5 Nd7 12 d4 Qb6 13 Bd3 cxd4 14 cxd4 b4 15 Nf1 Ba6 16 Bb1 Rfc8 17 Ng3 Nf8 18 h4 bxa3 19 bxa3 Rab8 20 Nh5 Ng6 21 Qd2 Qd8 22 g3 Rb3 23 Kg2 Qb6 24 Nxc7 Rxf3 25 Kxf3 Qxd4 26 Nh5 Qxd2 27 Bxd2 Nd4+ 28 Kg2 Nb3 29 Ra2 Nxd2 30 Rxd2 Bxa3 31 Rc2 Rxc2 32 Bxc2 Bb4 33 Rc1 Nxe5 34 Nf6+ Kg7 35 Ne8+ Kf8 36 Nf6 Kg7 37 Ne8+ Kf8 38 Nf6 h6 39 f4 Nc4 40 Nd7+ Ke7 41 Ne5 Bd2 42 Nxc4 Bxc1 43 Nxa5 f6 44 Nc6+ Kd6 45 Nd8 e5 46 Nf7+ Ke6 47 Nxh6 exf4 48 Nf5 fxg3 49 h5 Kf7 50 Kxg3 Bb2 51 h6 Kg6 52 Ne7+ Kxh6 53 Nxd5 Kg5 54 Nxf6 Bxf6 55 Kf3 1/2 - 1/2

I had a nice win in round 3 with White and made an interesting pawn sacrifice too. We both got into time

trouble and I was down to 6 seconds by move 25 with 15 moves to make! Thankfully, I was gaining an increment of 30 seconds per move, so could just about manage it! My opponent mostly defended well but crumbled in the complications. Good job then he resigned 4 moves later... So, this puts me on 50%, which is absolutely fine in this sort of company.

Chris Ross (2234) v Liam Rabbitte (2034)
Round 3; 27.07.11

1 e4 c6 2 d4 g6 3 Nc3 d6 4 Be3 Bg7 5 Qd2 Nd7 6 h4 h5 7 f3 Ngf6 8 Nh3 b5 9 0-0-0 Nb6 10 Bd3 Nc4 11 Bxc4 bxc4 12 e5 Nd5 13 Nxd5 cxd5 14 Nf4 dxe5 15 dxe5 Bxe5 16 Bd4 Bxf4 17 Qxf4 Rh7 18 Rhe1 Be6 19 Re3 a5 20 Rde1 Ra6 21 Qg5



21 ... Kd7 22 Bc3 Rd6 23 Qf4 f6 24 Qd4 Qc7 25 a3 Bg8 26 f4 Be6 27 Rxe6 Rxe6 28 Qxd5+ Rd6 29 Qg8 1 - 0

I have to play yet another junior, my third in a row and this time, the son of a Grandmaster and International Master. I had a hard-fought draw. Despite having an advantage, eventually winning a pawn, I couldn't quite convert it and he clung on doggedly to scrape a draw.

Peter Lalic (1978) v Chris Ross (2234)
Round 4; 28.07.11

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 c4 Nc6 4 Nc3 Nf6 5 Be2 a6 6 0-0 Qc7 7 d4 cxd4 8 Nxd4 Bb4 9 Bg5 Bxc3 10 Bxf6 gxf6 11 bxc3 Ne5 12 Qd2 h5 13 Qf4 Ke7 14 Rae1 d6 15 Kh1 Bd7 16 Qc1 Rag8 17 f4 Nxc4 18 Bxc4 Qxc4 19 e5 Bc6 20 Rf2 h4 21 Qa3 Qc5 22 Qxc5 dxc5 23 Nxc6+ bxc6 24 Rb2 Rb8 25 Reb1 Rxb2 26 Rxb2 fxe5 27 fxe5 Rd8 28 Kg1 Rd5 29 Rb7+ Kd8 30 Rxf7 Rxe5 31 Ra7 Re3 32 Rxa6 Rxc3 33 Rxc6 Kd7 34 Ra6 c4 35 Kf2 Rc1 36 h3 Rc3 37 Ke2 Rg3 38 Kf2 Rg8 39 Ra4 Rc8 40 Ke2 Kd6 41 Kd2 Rg8 42 Rxc4 Rxc4 43 Ke1 Rxa2 44 Rxh4 Ke5 45 Rb4 Kf5 46 h4 e5 47 Rc4 e4 48 Rb4 Kf4 49 Rb3 Rh2 50 h5 Rxh5 51 Ke2 Rh2+ 52 Ke1 Rg2 53 Ra3 Rb2 54 Rc3 e3 55 Rc8 Rb1+ 56 Ke2 Rb2+ 57 Ke1 Rb1+ 58 Ke2 Rb2+ 1/2 - 1/2

Yesterday, I took the white bits against, yup, yet another junior. Inspired play and a neat positional grind brought another excellent win, bringing me up to 3/5 ... which puts me back on the digital boards!

Chris Ross (2234) v William Jones (2121)
Round 5; 29.07.11

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 Bb5+ Nc6 4 0-0 Bd7 5 Re1 Nf6 6 c3 a6 7 Bf1 Bg4 8 d3 e6 9 Nbd2 d5 10 h3 Bh5 11 Qc2 Be7 12 a3 0-0 13 g4 Bg6 14 Nh4 dxe4 15 Nxc6 hxc6 16 dxe4 Nd7 17 Nf3 b5 18 Bf4 Qb6 19 Rad1 Rad8 20 b4 a5 21 Qe2 c4 22 Qb2 Qb7 23 Bg2 axb4 24 axb4 Nb6 25 Ne5 Ra8 26 Nxc6 Qxc6 27 Ra1 Rfd8 28 Qc2 Rxa1 29 Rxa1 Na4 30 e5 Qc8 31 Be4 Rd7 32 Be3 Qb8 33 Rxa4 bxa4 34 Qxa4 Rd8 35 Qa5 g5 36 Kg2 g6 37 Ba7 Qc8 38 b5 Rd2 39 Be3 Rb2 40 b6 Bd8 41 Qa7 Kg7 42 b7 Qc7 43 Bc5 Be7 44 Bxe7 Qxe5 45 Bf3 Kh6 46 Bb4 1 - 0

In round 6, I play my good friend and teammate for York, IM Richard Palliser. I drew in short order, having reached equality in a very theoretical position.

Richard Palliser (2454) v Chris Ross (2234)
Round 6; 02.08.11

1 d4 e6 2 c4 Nf6 3 Nf3 d5 4 Nc3 Be7 5 Bg5 Nbd7 6 e3 h6 7 Bh4 0-0 8 Rc1 c6 9 Bd3 dxc4 10 Bxc4 Nd5 11 Bxe7 Qxe7 12 0-0 Nxc3 13 Rxc3 c5 14 Qe2 b6 15 Rd1 Bb7 16 Ba6 cxd4 17 Rxd4 1/2 - 1/2

On the second Monday, I am drawn against my first Grandmaster, Daniel Gormally ELO rated at 2519. Interestingly enough, he is not having a great championship, having already lost to a weaker player than me and drawn a very obscure game, when he blundered a pawn for absolutely nothing and his opponent should clearly have played on. Having the white bits, I am approaching the contest with relish. I have never taken any points off a GM and I feel that this could be the occasion.

Chris Ross (2234) v Daniel Gormally (2519)
Round 7; 01.08.11

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 Bb5+ Nd7 4 d4 Ngf6 5 Nc3 cxd4 6 Qxd4 e5 7 Qd3 h6 8 Be3 Be7 9 0-0 a6 10 Bc4 b5 11 Bd5 Rb8 12 Ba7 Nxd5 13 Nxd5 Rb7 14 Be3 Nf6 15 Nxe7 Qxe7 16 Bd2 0-0 17 Bb4 Rd8 18 Rad1 Bg4 19 Rfe1 Nh5 20 Qa3 Qe6 21 h3 Bxf3 22 Qxf3 Nf6 23 Qb3 d5 24 exd5 Rxd5 25 Rxd5 Nxd5 26 Bc3 f6 27 a4 Qc6 28 Rd1 Rd7 29 axb5 axb5 30 Rd3 Kh7 31 Bd2 e4 32 Rd4 f5 33 c3 Kh8 34 Qd1 Qe6 35 Qe2 Rb7 36 Bc1 Nf6 37 Bf4 Nd5 38 Bc1 Kh7 39 Qd1 Nf6 40 Bf4 Re7 41 Rd8 g5 42 Bd6 Rf7 43 Qd4 Kg6 44 Be5 Rd7 45 Rxd7 Nxd7 46 Bd6 f4 47 Bc5 h5 48 b3 e3 49 Kf1 Qf5 50 Qd6+ Nf6 51 Ke1 Qb1+ 52 Qd1 Qxd1+ 53 Kxd1 Ne4 54 Bd4 Nxf2+ 55 Ke2 Ne4 56 c4 b4 57 Kd3 Kf5 58 c5 Ng3 59 c6 Ke6 60 Bc5 h4 61 c7 Kd7 62 Be7 g4 63 Bxh4 Nf5 64 Bg5 f3 65 Bxe3 Nxe3 66 gxf3 gxh3 0 - 1

Well. I just, and only just, lost out to the Grandmaster. Having played excellently to hold him (a 7 hour slog), I eventually succumbed in the 30-second increment scramble and blundered into a lost king and pawn ending. 65 gxf3 is a draw due to 65 ... gxh3 66 Bf4 covering the queening square and protecting c7, with

the idea of stepping backwards and forwards with Kd3/Ke2. Very annoying but I guess he's a Grandmaster because he can grind out these wins.

I am still on 50%, which is still a perfectly good score. If I can win in the next round, I may have chance to get back onto the top boards. In the event, another two rounds trotted by with relative success.

As you will discover, my attacking prowess in round 8 is somewhat left of the mark though I had many winning chances! The computer naturally finds many tactical combinations which I failed to do over-the-board. But the hard-fought draw followed by a neat, quick-fire victory has given me 5/9 - still above that elusive 50% target with two games remaining.

James Jackson (2157) v Chris Ross (2234)
Round 8; 02.08.11

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nc6 5 Nc3 Qc7 6 Be3 a6 7 Be2 Nf6 8 0-0 Bb4 9 Na4 Bd6 10 Nxc6 bxc6 11 Nb6 Rb8 12 Nxc8 Rxc8 13 g3 Rb8 14 b3 Nxe4 15 Bxa6 h5 16 Bd3 Nc3 17 Qe1 Nd5 18 Bd4 h4 19 c4 Nb4 20 Bb1 c5 21 Bxg7 Rg8 22 Bc3 hxg3 23 hxg3 Bxg3 24 Kh1 Bf4 25 Be4 Ke7 26 Rg1 Be5 27 Rg2 Rxg2 28 Kxg2 Rg8+ 29 Kf1 Bxc3 30 Qxc3 Qh2 31 a3 Rg1+ 32 Ke2 Rxa1 33 Qxa1 Na6 34 Qc3 Qh5+ 35 Bf3 Qf5 36 b4 cxb4 37 axb4 Qb1 38 b5 Nc5 39 Ke3 d6 40 Qa3 Qc2 41 b6 Qb1 42 Qa7+ Kf6 43 Bg2 Qd3+ 44 Kf4 e5+ 45 Kg4 Qf5+ 46 Kg3 Qf4+ 47 Kh3 Ne6 48 Bd5 Qf5+ 49 Kg3 Qg5+ 50 Kh2 Qh5+ 51 Kg1 Qg4+ 52 Kh2 Qh4+ 53 Kg1 Qg4+ 54 Kh2 Qh4+ 55 Kg1 Qg4+ 56 Kh2 1/2 - 1/2

Round 9 saw a well-prepared line of the Slav defence, obtaining the bishop pair fairly rapidly. That eventually told, as I neatly exchanged into a king-and-pawn ending with a zugzwang forcing Black's resignation.

Chris Ross (2234) v Peter Shaw (2162)
Round 9; 03.08.11

1 d4 d5 2 c4 c6 3 Nf3 Nf6 4 e3 Bg4 5 h3 Bxf3 6 Qxf3 e6 7 Nc3 Nbd7 8 Bd3 Bb4 9 0-0 0-0 10 Rd1 Qe7 11 Qe2 Rad8 12 Bd2 Rfe8 13 Rac1 e5 14 cxd5 cxd5 15 a3 Bd6 16 Nb5 e4 17 Bb1 a6 18 Nxd6 Qxd6 19 Bb4 Qb8 20 Rd2 Rc8 21 Rdc2 Nb6 22 Ba2 Rxc2 23 Rxc2 Rc8 24 Be7 Nfd7 25 a4 Rxc2 26 Qxc2 Qc8 27 Qxc8+ Nxc8 28 Bd8 Ndb6 29 Bxb6 Nxb6 30 a5 Nc4 31 Bxc4 dxc4 32 Kf1 f5 33 Ke2 Kf7 34 Kd2 Ke6 35 Kc3 Kd5 36 h4 g6 37 Kb4 h6 38 g3 g5 39 hxg5 40 Kc3 1 - 0

The long hours are starting to catch up with me though...over 6 hours a day of such intense concentration is testing on the grey matter! Next, I play a FIDE Master who is no easy opponent.

Maria Yurenok (2090) v Chris Ross (2234)
Round 10; 04.08.11

1 d4 e6 2 c4 Nf6 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 Qc2 c5 5 dxc5 Na6 6 a3 Bxc3+ 7 Qxc3 Nxc5 8 b4 Nce4 9 Qb2 d5 10 c5 d4 11 e3 e5 12 Bb5+ Bd7 13 Bxd7+ Qxd7 14 Nf3 dxe3 15 Bxe3 Ng4 16 0-0 Qe6 17 Qe2 0-0 18 h3 Ngf6 19 Ng5 Nng5 20 Bxg5 Nd5 21 Qc4 f6 22 Be3 Rfd8 23 Rad1 Kf7 24 Bc1 Nc7 25 Qe4 b6 26 Qb7 Rd7 27 Rxd7+ Qxd7 28 Be3 bxc5 29 Bxc5 Rd8 30 Qxa7 Ra8 31 Qb7 Rxa3 32 Rc1 Rd3 33 Bb6 Nb5 34

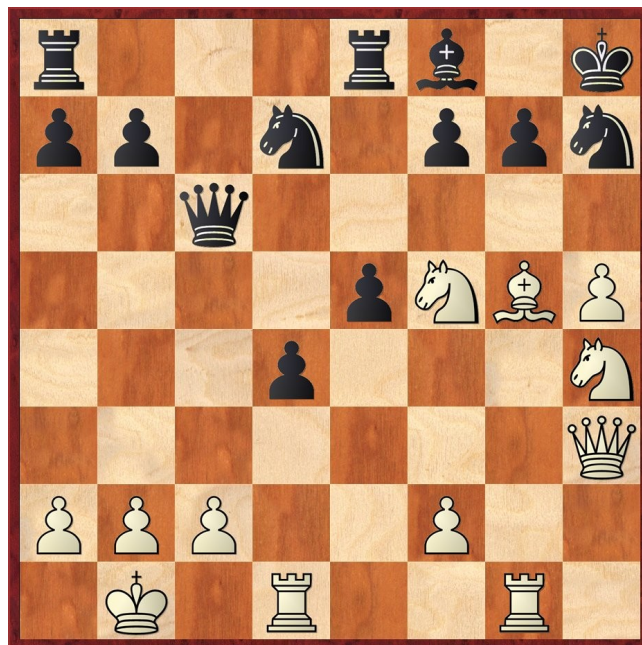
Qxd7+ Rxd7 35 Kf1 Ke6 36 Ke2 f5 37 g3 g6 38 h4 Rd5 39 Rc8 Rd7 40 Re8+ Kd5 41 Rc8 Ke6 42 Re8+ Kd5 43 Rc8 1/2 - 1/2

You all find me a rather relieved bunny today! I managed to play pretty awfully in round 10. All the hours having eventually caught up with me and falling meekly into my opponent's preparations. Having decided to play a slightly trappy opening, I was surprised by her ability to cope with the complications! I considered her as a quiet-playing stylist and was bemused to find that at several occasions during the game, I was on the verge of having my position collapse entirely! I'm unsure to what saved me, whether a mixture of luck, her having too much respect or, as she commented in the post-mortem analysis, she didn't see the winning plans! Drawing with me though spoils her chance of getting an International Master norm though... poor thing!

Anyway, I have now reached that elusive 50% mark, having now obtained 5.5/10 - no matter of the result of the final round. I do play an International Master, Dietmar Kolbus, a former resident of Germany. He's had a few wobbly moments in this tournament and I have White, so I anticipate a good game.

Chris Ross (2234) v Dietmar Kolbus (2335)
Round 11; 05.08.11

1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 Nd2 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Bf5 5 Ng3 Bg6 6 h4 h6 7 Nf3 Nd7 8 h5 Bh7 9 Bd3 Bxd3 10 Qxd3 e6 11 Bd2 Ngf6 12 Qe2 Be7 13 0-0-0 0-0 14 Nf1 c5 15 g4 cxd4 16 g5 hxg5 17 Bxg5 Qa5 18 Kb1 Rfe8 19 Rg1 e5 20 Ng3 Bf8 21 Nf5 Kh8 22 N3h4 Qa6 23 Qf3 Qc6 24 Qh3 Nh7



25 Ng6+ fxg6 26 hxg6 Qxg6 27 Bh6 Qxg1 28 Rxg1 gxh6 29 Nh4 Ndf6 30 Ng6+ Kg7 31 Nxe5+ Ng5 32 f4 Rxe5 33 fxe5 Ng8 34 Qd7+ Be7 35 Qxd4 b6 36 a3 Rd8 37 Qa4 a5 38 Qc6 Kh8 39 Rh1 Kg7 40 Rg1 Kh8 41 Rf1 Bc5 42 c3 Rd2 43 Qg6 Rd7 44 e6 Rg7 45 Qf5 Ne7 46 Qe5 Ng6 47 Qd5 Kh7 48 Rh1 Ne7 49 Qd3+ Ng6 50 Qf5 Be7 51 Rd1 h5 52 Ka2 Kh6 53 b4

axb4 54 axb4 h4 55 Kb3 Rg8 56 Qf2 Rb8 57 Qe3 Bf6 58 Rf1 Be7 59 Rf5 b5 60 Rd5 h3 61 Qg3 Rb6 62 Qg4 Rb8 63 Qg3 Rb6 64 Qg4 Rb8 65 Qg3 ½ - ½

A final round hard-fought battle, where I played extremely aggressively against a renowned International Master. It saw me not quite finish him off in a kingside attack, leaving me with an extremely complicated, intricate and almost impossible endgame position, queen down for 3 minor pieces! Careful manoeuvres amid very complex play saw me cling on and after nearly 7 hours play, a repetition of the position resulted in the agreed draw. Naturally, 35 Qxb7 would make the win a lot easier for me but this was difficult to accept in the time scramble, as I perceived that I could pick up the queenside pawns at will - erroneously as it turned out!

This gave me 6/11, which is slightly higher than my targeted 50%. This is a very satisfactory performance in one of the most challenging championships that ever graced our land. I am more than happy with the outcome. Sure, there were times when I could have found a better finesse but once, I should have lost very convincingly. With no losses with Black, 3 wins as White, two losses to titled players, and a very credible draw against an International Master, this indicates a very good performance indeed, especially when I was not losing in any of the games, with the exception of my poor performance in round 10.

A final play-off today saw Micky Adams take 1st place and I don't know precisely where he is in the world rankings but certainly in the top 20! Overall, I played to my strength and have gained a few rating points. This can only be a platform towards that FIDE Master title that I am currently striving for.

Chris Ross

Website to Watch

Most of the big guns remain in action at the FIDE World Cup in Khantiy-Mansiysk until 20th September. and can be followed on <http://chess.ugrasport.com>.

Starting on 25th September is the Bilbao Final Chess Masters (previously known as the Grand Slam). Surprising the first half of this tournament is due to take place in Sao Paulo and a later phase in Spain. It features the world's three highest ranked players and three "also-rans" - Nakamura, Ivanchuk and Vallejo Pons! See www.bilbaofinalmasters.com.

Eye Opener

Most of us are understandably rusty as the start of the new season approaches so what is better than a training game to blow away the cobwebs? Sadly, my attempt degenerated into a lottery of an unexpected kind. I hope you enjoy this miniature - not only am I crushed without mercy but it is a textbook example of exploiting inferior play (mine, of course!)

P Hanks v Fritz 11

Training game, 23.08.2011

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 Nc3 Bg7 4 e4 d6 5 Be2

Here is my strategic experiment. In the King's Indian Defence, I think White should challenge Black's structure with a big centre but the Four Pawn's Attack (5 f4) and the Saemisch variation (5 f3) give Black an early lead in piece development. My concept is

- a) keep the king's knight at home to permit the f pawn to advance when the white pieces are better placed
- b) preserve the bishop on e3 against Nf6-g4.

5 ... 0-0 6 Be3 c6 7 h3

This looks like a beginner's move but Karpov has tried it on move 5 before 6 Nf3. At worst, it can only transpose...

7 ... d5 8 e5 Ne4 9 Nxe4 dxe4

Black reacts vigorously to immobilise the knight on g1. Suddenly, I realised I am deprived of its control in the centre, I cannot castle and the rook will be out of the game for some time. Instead, I have a target on e4.

10 Qc2 Na6

Aha! My intended 11 Qxe4 is rebuffed by 11 ... Bf5 12 Qf4 Nb4 when the weak white king is being exposed.

11 a3

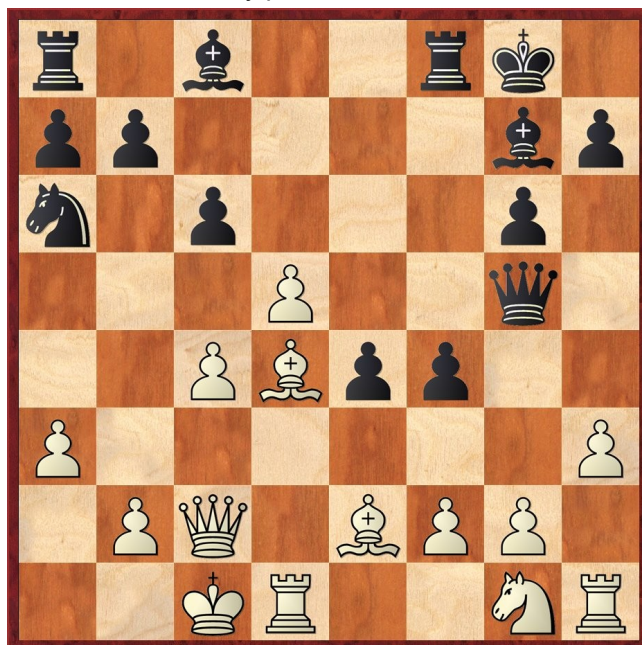
For the alternative, 11 0-0-0 Qa5 12 Qxe4 Bf5 looks a good pawn sacrifice e.g. 13 Qf4 Nb4 with Na2 mating threats.

11 ... f5 12 exf6 exf6 13 0-0-0 f5 14 d5

14 g3 is a last chance to grovel.

14 ... f4 15 Bd4 Qg5

I didn't look at this and certainly didn't like the look of it!. It takes advantage of the undefended g2 pawn -another defect in my plan.



So now the lottery. Pay your £1 and decide which piece I am going to lose!

16 Bg4 Bxd4 17 Rxd4 f3+ 18 Kb1 fxg2 19 Rh2 Qe5 20 Bxc8 Raxc8 0-1