

NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – December 2011

Chairman's Chatter

November must have been our busiest month ever! We had no less than 9 matches in the leagues, cup and Team 550 competitions while also squeezing in games in the club ladder and championship. Phew!

Paul Hanks

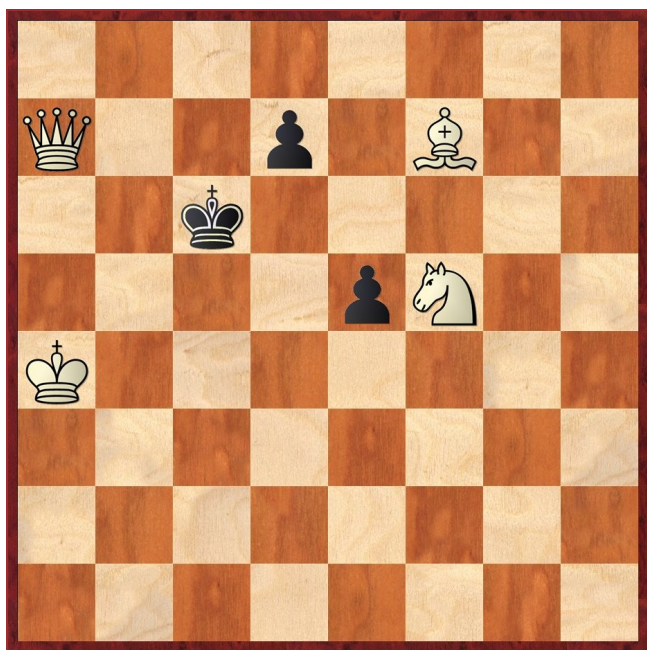
Website to Watch

The third London Chess Classic will take place from 3rd to 12th December at Olympia with Anand, Carlsen, Aronian, Kramnik... You can see the games live at www.londonchessclassic.com/live.classic.htm if you can't get there in person.

Diary Dates

The Xmas Special will be on 21st December. Let's hope the weather is not as arctic as it was last year.

Puzzle Problem



Last Month's solution

Position: 2n5/3p1Q2/1r6/3p1p2/2p1k1p1/2R3PN/2Npp1nK/B7

1 Rf3 Kxf3 2 Qxd5# [1 ... Ne3 2 Rxe3#; 1 ... gxf3 2 Nf2#; 1 ... other 2 Qxf5# or Ng5#]

Result Round-up

Fenland Knock-Out

New England A	1½	Cambs Boffins	2½
F Bowers	½	P Fallon	½
P Hanks	0	C Davison	1
S Caraway	½	J Daugman	½
M Dunkley	½	S Pride	½

New England A	3	New England B	1
F Bowers	1	R Jones	0
P Hanks	1	S Sitaram	0
S Caraway	1	D Lane	0
J Parker	0	I Garrett	1

Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

New England A	1½	Royston	3½
C Ross	0	D Coleman	1
P Hanks	½	N Hutchinson	½
P Turp	0	K Clark	1
S Caraway	0	P Kemp	1
M Dunkley	1	A Stehl	1

Buckden	2½	New England A	2½
P Barkas	0	P Hanks	1
S Foster	1	M Dunkley	0
C Norton	½	R Jones	½
C Emery	0	S Sitaram	1
S Buttercase	1	D Lane	0

New England A	1½	Peterborough	3½
F Bowers	0	A Timosenko	1
P Hanks	½	P Walker	½
S Caraway	0	R Ilett	1
M Dunkley	½	G Ward	½
R Jones	½	M Connolly	½

New England B	½	Warboys B	3½
R Jones	0	J Beck	1
S Sitaram	½	P Clough	½
D Lane	0	D Wardle	1
M Tarabad	0	M Onyons	1

Team 550 Competition

St Neots	3	New England 1	1
P Barkas	1	P Hanks	0
S Foster	1	C Russell	0
C Emery	0	P Spencer	1
M Friday	1	J Parker	0

Godmanchester	0	New England 2	4
J Wright	0	P Turp	1
J Bygrave	0	R Jones	1
A Rankine	0	D Lane	1
T Buxton	0	M Tarabad	1

New England 1	3	Warboys N	1
S Sitaram	½	R Mann	½
C Russell	½	C Watkins	½
P Spencer	1	M Onyons	0
J Parker	1	D Wardle	0

Club Championship

Round 1 (cont'd)			
M Dunkley	1	0	C Russell
H Currie	0	1	P Turp
Round 2 draw			
S Sitaram (1)			D Lane (1)
R Jones (1)			C Ross (1)
P Turp (1)			F Bowers (1)
M Tarabad (1)			M Dunkley (1)
I Garrett (0)			H Currie (0)
P Spencer (0)			S Walker (0)
C Russell (0)			N Wedley (0)
J Parker (0)			S Farrington (0)
Match night : 18th January Deadline : 22nd February. Next draw : 1st March			

New England Club Ladder

White		Black	
S Sitaram	0	N Wedley	1
P Spencer	1	I Garrett	0
F Bowers	1	J Parker	0
S Walker	0	N Wedley	1
D Lane	½	P Spencer	½
F Bowers	1	S Walker	0
P Spencer	1	S Farrington	0
N Wedley	0	S Caraway	1
M Tarabad	0	N Wedley	1
S Walker	1	P Spencer	0
S Walker	1	M Tarabad	0
D Lane	1	I Garrett	0

Pos	Player	Record 30/11/11
1	C Ross	1,1,1
2	H Currie	
3	S Caraway	½,0,1
4	R Jones	
5	P Hanks	1,1
6	N Wedley	½,½,0,1,1,1,1,0,1
7	S Walker	0,0,1,1
8	F Bowers	½,1,1,1
9	P Spencer	½,½,1,½,1,0
10	P Turp	0
11	D Lane	½,1
12	M Tarabad	0,0
13	I Garrett	1,0,0,0,0,0
14	S Sitaram	1,0
15	J Parker	0,½,0,0
16	S Wozniak	0,0
17	S Farrington	0
18	M Dunkley	

New England Grand Prix

Player	Champ	Ladder	League	Cup	Team 550	Total
P Spencer	0	3½	1	0	2½	7
N Wedley	0	6				6
F Bowers	1	3½	0	1½		6
P Hanks	0	2	2	1	0	5
C Ross	1	3	1			5
D Lane	1	1½	0	0	2	4½
R Jones	1		1	½	1½	4
P Turp	1	0	1		2	4
S Sitaram	1	1	1½	0	½	4
S Caraway		1½	1	1½		4
M Dunkley	1		2	½		3½
J Parker	0	½		0	2	2½
S Walker	0	2			0	2
M Tarabad	1	0			1	2
I Garrett	0	1		1		2
C Russell	0				½	½
S Wozniak		0			0	0
H Currie						0
S Farrington		0				0

Window on the Web

Earlier this year, Witney Chess Club won the ECF Website of the Year Award. Its top player is GM Peter Wells and its site at <http://www.witneychess.co.uk> contains many games to play through, some of them annotated.

The ECF website <http://www.englishchess.org.uk/> is a resource that no chess player should overlook. There are many useful links including one to IM Martin's training videos. There are currently more than 60 of these, including the *Match of the Day* videos he presented during the British Championships. These are well worth a look if you missed his daily analysis sessions on the internet, several of which were beset by technical problems.

You Tube contains a surprisingly large number of chess videos. Members of a certain age may recall the BBC TV series *The Master Game* from the mid 70s to the early 80s. Top players of the day including Short, Nunn, Miles and Korchnoi played a knock-out tournament and explained their thought processes to the viewers. Videos of the last 3 series, from 1980, 81 and 82 are available on *You Tube* here: <http://www.youtube.com/user/Sirb0b1#p/c/6D34FA02D4FEBBEC/0/ZkYzzomAvZU> or you can follow the link on the ECF website. There were seven series of *The Master Game* between 1975 and 1982. Dare we hope that they will all eventually appear on *You Tube*?

Des and I used to play for Bourne and the two games Des played against GM Jim Plaskett that were featured in June's Match of the Month took me back

over 20 years to the time when Jim first started playing for Bourne on board 1 with a view to getting our team promoted out of Division 2. The surprise on the faces of the opposing players was something to behold. At http://wn.com/James_Plaskett there is a video of Jim playing a lightning game in Spain where he now lives. Very hectic. He loses on time when about to deliver a back rank mate.

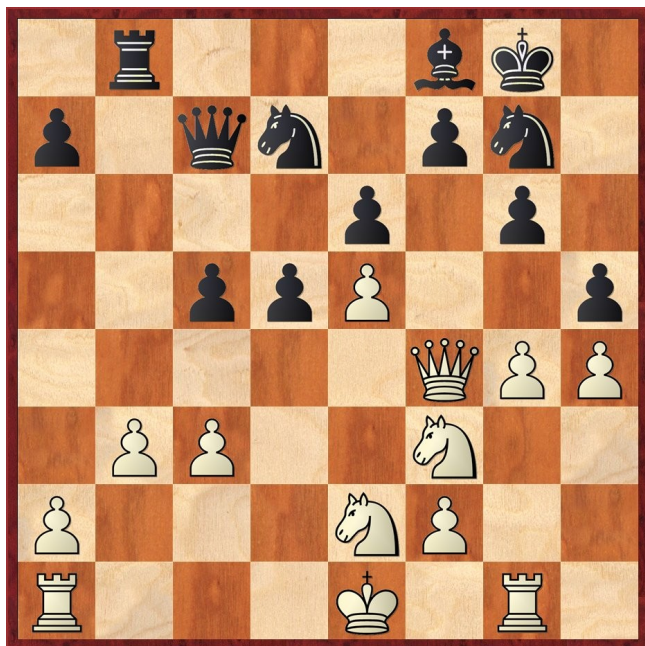
Ron Jones

Mess of the Month

Everyone strives to play good chess and so there must be lots of material for the **Match of the Month** article. But what is holding you back from submitting a game? The blockage must arise because few of us have the talent to play a whole game without howling errors and publication would only open us to the fear of ridicule. Nevertheless, there must still be instructive positions or short passages of play that club members would be interested to see.

As an alternative to the full game that normally appears, I propose that we occasionally compile these snippets into a composite feature in the newsletter. I am offering the following middlegame as an example of what I have in mind.

C Davison v P Hanks
Cambridge v New England A, 19.10.2011



As you can see, Black is the exchange down which I lost to a combination of schoolboy simplicity in a moment of stupidity. The computer later showed me there had been an elementary defence that should have been equally obvious but I had overlooked it because it was so passive. In fact, I was happy with Black's resulting position; I had a solid pawn centre; there is a target on e5 and the white king has not yet reached safety. So we can call it a sacrifice, can't we?

What I had underestimated was the speed of White's kingside attack. I had been obliged to play Ne8-g7 to stabilise the pawn structure instead of the intended

Bf8-g7 with pressure on e5. When faced with a flank attack, the traditional antidote is a thrust in the centre.

21	...	d4
22	cxd4	cxd4
23	Rc1	

The text move has the advantage that Rc1-c4 has become available in the event of Rb8-b4. White is non-committal about the central recapture and indeed, some of the options seem unpalatable :

- a) 23 Nxd4 hxg4 (23 ... Qc3+ is premature because the rook can be saved by 24 Ke2 even though it looks so unpleasant for White) 24 Ng5 (neither recapture is quite satisfactory as both 24 Qxg4 and 24 Rxg4 meet 24 ... Qc3+ and in the latter case, 25 Ke2 Qb2+ 26 Nd2 Rb4) 24 ... Nxe5 and the attacking tables have been turned
- b) 23 Nfxd4 Nxe5 with such nasty activity that White has to find 24 Kf1
- c) 23 Qxd4 hxg4 24 Qxg4 (24 Rxg4 Rb4) 24 ... Nxe5 25 Nxe5 Qxe5 when Black has compensation

23 Rd1 is probably best when 23 ... Rb5 (23 ... Rb4 is insufficient to save the pawn on d4 but a direct assault with 24 Ng5 may succeed 24 ... Nb6 25 Ne4 etc) 24 Nxd4 Nxe5 25 Kf1 leaves White with an advantage (25 Nxe5?? Rxe5+ 26 Kf1 Re1+).

23	...	Qa5+
24	Kf1	d3
25	Ng3	

25 Ned4 is recommended by Fritz as it keeps control in the centre.

25	...	hxg4
26	Ng5	

26 Qxg4 Nxe5 27 Nxe5 Qxe5 is supposed to be level but White's side must be easier to play with 28 h5.

26	...	Nxe5
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Black has achieved his objective - material equality with counterplay but...

27	Nxf7	
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This came as a surprise and threw my analysis and composure into chaos just as time was running short.

27	...	Nxf7
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My initial reaction was that 27 ... Qb5 was a refutation as Black threatens both Nxf7 and d2+ but 28 Nh6+ looked good. Had I the time to analyse deeper, I might have seen 28 ... Kh7

- a) 29 Kg2 d2 30 Qxd2 Bb4 31 Qe3 (31 Qf4 Rf8 32 Qg5 Qd5+ with a tremendous attack e.g. 33 Kf1 Rxf2+ 34 Kxf2 Qf3#; 31 Qg5 Qd5+ 32 Kf1 Bd2) 31 ... Qd5+ 32 Kf1 Bd2
- b) 29 a4 is given as best 29 ... Qa6 30 Rd1 Bd6 and there are still six moves before the time control! Anything could happen...
- c) If 29 Rd1 immediately, 29 ... d2+ (29 ... Nh5 is another option that makes you wish you were a computer) 30 Kg2 (30 Ne2 Nh5 31 Qxd2

Bxh6) 30 ... Qd5+ 31 Kf1 Qf3 32 Qxf3 gxf3
and the white knight is trapped.

28 Qxb8

This material loss I had foreseen!

28 ... d2
29 Rd1 Qd5

I had intended 29 ... Qa6+ and was expecting something like 30 Kg2 Qc6+ 31 Kh2 Nf5 with the threat of Nxh4. Obviously, it was only intuition that supported my attacking hopes but post-mortem analysis has thrown up the real potential with variations such as 32 Nxf5 exf5. Despite being a double exchange down, Fritz prefers Black here. 33 Rxd2 (otherwise Bd6+ is decisive) 33 ... Qc3 - spot Qh3#! - 34 Rgd1 Ne5 and the threat of Nf3+ causes White to shed material since 35 Kg2 Qh3+ 36 Kg1 Nf3#.

30 Ne2 was what I had overlooked. Backward moves are psychologically hard to see and this is a prime example. Black would have little initiative.

30 Qf4 Ne5 31 Rxd2 Qb5+ 32 Kg2 Qc6+ 33 Qe4 Qxe4+ 34 Nxe4 Nf3

but the endgame is lost.

35 Rd7 Nxb2 36 Nf6+ Kh8 37 Rd8 Nf5 38 Kxg1 Kg7 39 Nxb2 Bc5 40 Rd7+ Kf8 41 Ne5 Nxh4 42 Rh7 g5 43 Nd7+ 1-0

43 ... Kg8 44 Rxh4 Bxf2+ 45 Kxf2 gxf3 is hopeless.

So I lost quite badly in the end but I think the annotations show I chose a route that gave plenty of practical chances. Luck, obviously, was not on my side but I can console myself with the fact that I went down fighting.

The main point, however, is that imperfect chess can be at least as exciting as virtuoso technique. Don't be afraid to send in your scraps!

Paul Hanks

Eye Opener

There seems to be a fashion for early fianchetto developments often at the expense of advances of centre pawns. I struggled to find some grandmaster endorsement for this approach to the opening until I eventually came across 1 Nf3 Nf6 2 c4 b6 in Ponomarev v Carlsen, Wijk aan Zee 2011. Nevertheless, this game shows that hypermodern free-thinking does not extend to allowing weaknesses to appear in your pawn structure.

Jesus Carretero Ajo (2228) v Martin Madina (2228)
Alicante Open Round 9, 04.11.2001

1 b3 e5
2 Bb2 Nc6
3 e3 a6
4 c4 Nf6

It looks fairly standard so far.

5 g3

but this weakens the white squares. Just look how quickly Black exploits his opportunity.

5 ... d5
6 Bg2 Nb4

Already, the d3 square is a glaring hole that, at best, would prevent White from castling. When it comes to defending the square, the white knights and queen are curiously helpless (if 7 Qe2 Nc2+).

7 Bf1 Bf5

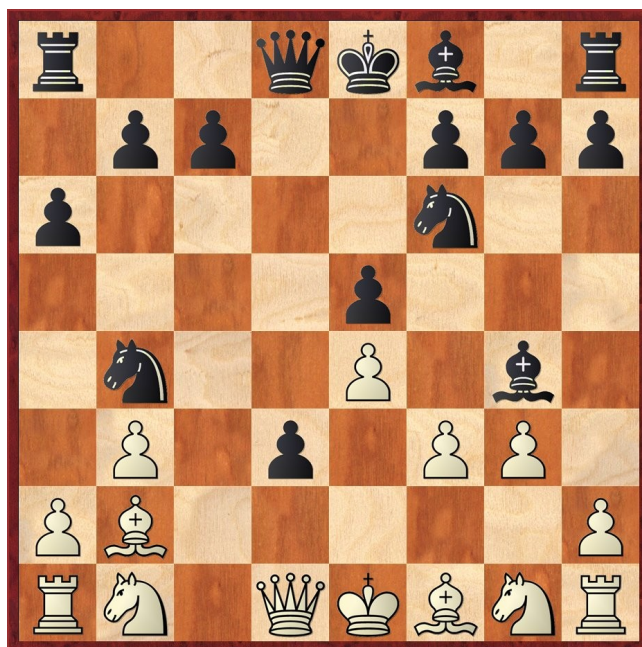
Black plugs away at d3 and c2. White could defend with 8 Na3 but would be badly behind in development.

8 d3 dxc4
9 e4

White loses material in most lines following 9 bxc4 Bxd3 e.g.

- a) 10 Na3 Bxf1 11 Kxf1 Nd3 12 Qc2 Nxb2 13 Qxb2 Qd3+ 14 Kg2 Bxa3
- b) 10 Bxd3 Qxd3 11 Qe2 (11 Na3 Qe4 threatening Qxh1 and Nd3+; 11 Qxd3 Nxd3+ and the fork wins a piece) 11 ... Nc2+.

9 ... Bg4
10 f3 cxd3



11 Na3

It is excruciating to analyse 11 fxg4 Nc2+

- a) 12 Kd2 Nxe4+ 13 Kc1 Nf2
- b) 12 Kf2 Nxe4+ 13 Kf3 (13 Kg2 Ne3+) Qf6+ 14 Kxe4 (14 Kg2 Ne3+ 15 Kh3 Nf2#) 14 ... Qg6+ 15 Kd5 (15 Kf3 Qc6+ 16 Kf2 Bc5+) 15 ... c6+ 16 Kc4 (16 Kxe5 Bd6#) 16 ... b5+ 17 Kc3 Bb4# .

11 ... Nxe4
12 Bc1

12 fxg4 d2+ 13 Ke2 Qd3#

12 ... Qd4 0-1