

NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – April 2012

Chairman's Chatter

Last month, we sadly said goodbye to Sailesh who has departed to live for a while in the USA. His time with the New England Chess Club was brief but extremely promising. We wish him well in his new surroundings and every success in his future chess career.

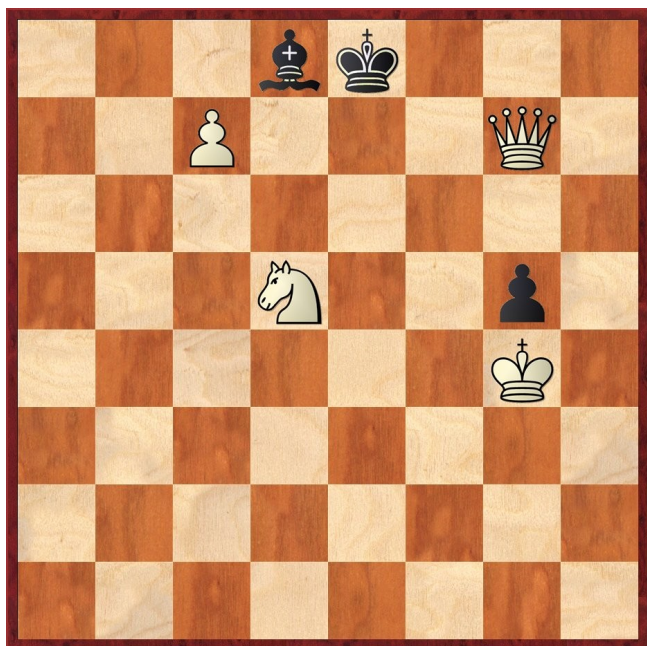
We have recently needed to postpone two matches and with a player missing as noted above, the captains are struggling to raise teams. Please give them every support in the final fixtures.

Paul Hanks

Diary Dates

Please mark the Cambridgeshire Rapidplay in your diaries for 29th April. Entry forms are available from the website www.cambschess.org.uk but if this is not working, contact Francis for a copy.

Puzzle Problem



Last Month's solution

Position : 3kN3/5K2/1nPN4/8/8/8/8/2R5

1 Rb1 Nd7 2 c7# [1 ... N other 2 Rb8#]

Website to Watch

The website www.2700chess.com reports that the Russian Team Chess Championship will take place from 9th to 15th April with many top-rated players. Its source is <http://russiachess.org> but Google is unable to add many more details.

Due to the lack of high calibre tournaments caused by sponsorship difficulties during the recession, Kramnik and Aronian have arranged a match over 6 games called the Zurich Chess Challenge. It can be followed from 21st to 28th April on www.kramnikaronian.com.

Window on the Web

ChessOK (previously known as *Convekta*) are chess training software publishers and developers of *Rybka* and *Houdini*. Their site at www.chessOK.com contains various resources such as openings and endings databases. Paul used the endings database to check the solution to one of the ending puzzles in the Christmas newsletter. Not having come across these databases before, I tested the endings one by one by entering a random endgame position on the board, giving White an extra pawn. After pressing the "evaluate" button, the immediate answer was that White had mate in 20! Using this, you could check whether you were right to accept a draw in that level-looking endgame recently. Unless you'd prefer not to know!

The site also has chess puzzles to solve and online chess courses. A couple of the courses are free but most have to be purchased e.g. the "Chess Package for Club Players" costs \$10 for a 3 month subscription. Other courses can be purchased on CD-Roms or downloads.

www.365Chess.com claims to be the biggest online chess games database. It has an opening explorer tool, a search tool to find any position in the database, chess puzzles to solve and a news page containing tournament reports and game scores. The free content is limited, but by becoming a "supporter" for at least \$10 p.a. unlimited access to the site's features is unlocked. The free content, in my opinion, might well be adequate for most players.

Ron Jones

Result Round-up

Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

New England A	2½	Cambridge	2½
C Ross	0	R Tozer	1
F Bowers	1	R McCorry	0
P Turp	½	J Daugman	½
S Caraway	½	O Winfridsson	½
M Dunkley	½	S Pride	½

Buckden B	1½	New England B	2½
C Hamilton	½	M Dunkley	½
A Young	0	P Spencer	1
A Ellul	0	D Lane	1
B Taylor	1	M Tarabad	

Team 550 Competition

Godmanchester	2	New England 1	2
A Rankine	1	P Hanks	0
J Wright	1	C Russell	0
J Bygrave	0	P Spencer	1
M Lynn	0	J Parker	1
Warboys N	2	New England 1	2
R Mann	1	P Hanks	0
C Watkins	1	C Russell	0
M Onyons	0	S Wozniak	1
D Wardle	0	J Parker	1

New England Grand Prix

Player	Champ	Ladder	League	Cup	Team 550	Total
P Spencer	2	6½	4	0	5	17½
F Bowers	2½	9	3½	2		17
D Lane	1½	3½	2½	0	4	11½
P Hanks	1½	4	3	1	1	10½
S Sitaram	1½	2	3½	0	2	9
N Wedley	1	8				9
C Ross	2	5	2			9
J Parker	2	½		0	6	8½
P Turp	1½	0	4		2½	8
S Caraway		2	2½	2	1	7½
R Jones	1½		3½	½	2	7½
M Dunkley	2		3½	½		6
M Tarabad	1	0	0		3	4
S Walker	½	2	1		0	3½
I Garrett	1	1		1		3
C Russell	½				1½	2
S Wozniak		1			1	2
H Currie	0	0				0
S Farrington	0	0				0

Club Championship

Round 2			
M Tarabad (1)	0	1	M Dunkley (1)
Round 3			
M Dunkley (2)	1 _d	0 _d	S Sitaram (1½)
M Tarabad (1)	0	1	F Bowers (1½)
D Lane (1½)	P	P	R Jones (1½)
P Turp (1½)	0	1	C Ross (1½)
I Garrett (1)	0	1	P Spencer (1)
N Wedley (1)	0	1	J Parker (1)
S Walker (0)	½	½	C Russell (0)
S Farrington (0)	P	P	H Currie (0)
Round 4			
C Ross (2½)			M Dunkley (3)
J Parker (2)			F Bowers (2½)

P Spencer (2)			D Lane (1½+P)
R Jones (1½+P)			P Turp (1½)
P Hanks (1½)			I Garrett (1)
H Currie (0+P)			N Wedley (1)
C Russell (½)			M Tarabad (1)
S Farrington (0+P)			S Walker (½)
Match night : 11th April Deadline : 25th April. Next draw : 1st May			

New England Club Ladder

White		Black	
M Tarabad	0	P Spencer	1
D Lane	0	F Bowers	1
J Parker	0	D Lane	1

Pos	Player	Record <small>14/03/12</small>
1	C Ross	1,1,1,1,1
2	P Hanks	1,1,1,1,0
3	F Bowers	½,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,½,1
4	S Caraway	½,0,1,½
5	P Spencer	½,½,1,½,1,0,1,0,0,1,1
6	S Wozniak	0,0,0,1
7	N Wedley	½,½,0,1,1,1,1,1,0,1,1,0,0,1
8	D Lane	½,1,1,0,0,1
9	M Tarabad	0,0,0,1,0,0
10	H Currie	0,0,0
11	R Jones	
12	S Walker	0,0,1,1
13	P Turp	0
14	I Garrett	1,0,0,0,0,0,0
15	S Sitaram	1,0,1
16	J Parker	0,½,0,0,0,0
17	S Farrington	0,0,0
18	M Dunkley	

Match of the Month

Steve Walker (105) v Chris Russell (129)
New England Club Championship, 14.03.2012

1 **d4** **Nf6**
2 **c4** **e6**
3 **Nc3** **Bb4**
4 **a3**

This is the Saemisch Variation of the Nimzo-Indian Defence and it is becoming an endangered species. A more popular way of continuing, at least at international level, is 4 f3 and only play a2-a3 after 4 ... d5. Anand recently tried this method against Wang Hao at Wijk aan Zee 2011 and romped home both in the game and with a best theoretical novelty prize. Either way, White gains the bishop pair and tries to build a central pawn mass.

4 **...** **Bxc3**
5 **bxc3** **b6**

Black has a number of options here including 5 ... c5, d5, 0-0 and even Nc6. The latter was tried by no less than Magnus Carlsen at the 2010 Olympiad when his

play was markedly “experimental” and he came badly unstuck!

6 Qc2 d6
7 e4 e5

Without his king's bishop, Black adopts the sensible approach of putting his pawns on the dark squares. Paradoxically, though, White seems to have a problem on the light squares as his bishop may have little scope behind his own blocked pawns.

8 Bg5 Nbd7
9 Bd3 0-0
10 Nf3 c5
11 Bxf6 Qxf6

If 11 ... Nxf6? 12 dxe5 wins a pawn though Black may claim he has some compensation.

12 d5 Qh6
13 0-0 Nf6
14 Qd2 Qxd2

This was one of many critical positions. I thought the move 14 Qd2 was essential as Black's queen on h6 and knight on f6 were building up too dangerously against my kingside - h3 has no defence and Bh3 looks imminent with a strong attack. Black maybe could have tried 14 ... Qg6 to keep the attack going with the idea of 15 ... Bh3 but I would probably have replied 15 Qg5 forcing the exchange of queens.

15 Nxd2 Nh5

The knight is heading for f4 and difficult to stop.

16 Bc2 Nf4
17 Rfe1 Bd7

It is thematic in this opening for Black's light-squared bishop to be developed on a6 to hit the doubled pawn weakness on c4 but Chris wants it to support the break f7-f5.

18 Re3 g6
19 Nf3 f6
20 Kh1 Rf7
21 Ng1 Raf8
22 g3 Nh5

Black could have considered Nh3 rather than retreating to h5.

23 Bd1 Ng7
24 f4

This is possibly a bit risky. Black has more forces concentrated on the kingside so opening this flank is likely to favour him. Maybe, my queen's rook should not have been kept as a spectator...

24 ... exf4
25 gxf4 Re8

There is now an awkward pin on the e file. I knew my unprotected rook on e3 would miss his companion!

26 Bc2 Nh5

I played 26 Bc2 with the idea of Rag1 and e5 at some stage.

27 Ne2 Rfe7

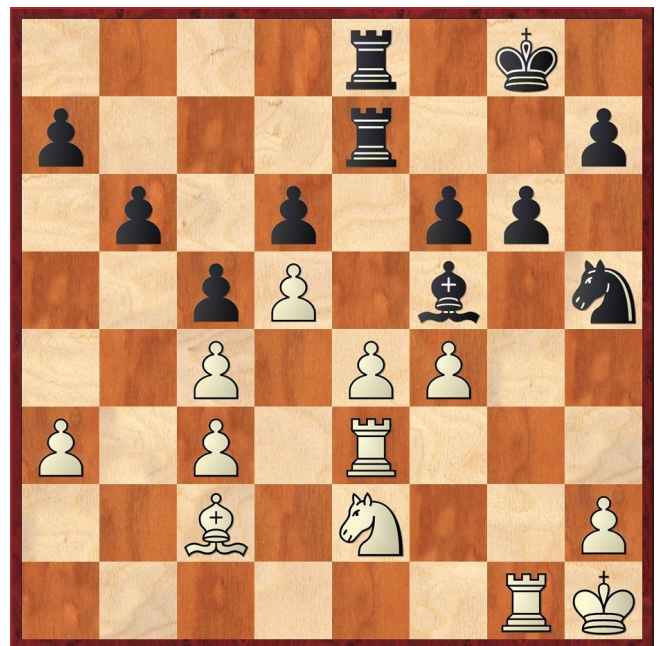
Black has built up a strong central attack with his rooks and ultimately his bishop. I was getting very worried about my position!

28 Rg1!?

I was happy with this move which activates my last piece but computer analysis prefers 28 Re1 largely because Chris has such a strong reply to the text move. Fritz's line runs 28 Re1 f5 29 Kg1 Kf8 30 Kf1 fxe4 31 Ng3 Nxf4 32 Nxe4 so even here, I cannot escape a material deficit.

28 ... Bf5!

At last, I played 28 Rg1 with the plan of 29 f5 or e5 to open up the long diagonal c2-h7 right into Black's kingside. In fact, Black's move 28 ... Bf5! exploits the pin and is a winning breakthrough for him. But it also afforded White some counter-attacking chances, although at this stage I thought the most I could hope for was a draw.



29 exf5

Desperate times call for desperate measures. Objectively, 29 Ng3 is best allowing several pieces to be exchanged with 29 ... Nxc3 30 Rxc3 Bxc4+ 31 Bxe4 32 Rxe4 Rxe4 33 f5. This may lose more slowly but definitely with more certainty.

29 ... Rxe3
30 fxc6 h6

The move h6 would seem a simple but effective escape from White's attack. Given more time, Black could analyse 30 ... Rxe2 and ensure that despite appearances, he has little to fear. However, we all know Chris likes to keep the flag on his clock well-exercised.

31 Ng3 Nxf4

White's gamble 31 Ng3 was just an attempt at a swindle because if Black had continued with the natural 31 ... Nxc3 instead of the move played, White may as well resign there and then. Black just mops up all White's queenside pawns with his Re3 piece.

Luckily for White, Black was very short of thinking time. Also, if Black retreats with 31 ... Ng7, this wipes out any chance of a draw for White.

32 Nf5

White suddenly has a lot of chances and the computer evaluation drops from Black having an advantage equivalent to 5 pawns to the position being level.

32 ... Re1
33 Nxh6+ Kg7
34 Nf5+ Kg8

If Black tries 34 ... Kf8 (and he may well have as he was very short on time), White just plays 35 g7+ Kf7 (35 ... Kg8?? 36 Nh6#) 36 Nh6+ Ke7 37 Rxe1+ etc. leading to mate in a further 7 moves.

35 Nh6+ Kg7
36 Nf5+ Kg8

and a draw was agreed under the rule for threefold repetition.

As an interesting footnote, this game was examined using the "Blundercheck" tool in Fritz 11. I committed ten minor inaccuracies but at no point before move 31 does it suggest an improvement in Black's play – an impressive feat in itself. Sadly, that one error was all it took for the full point to slip from Chris's grasp.

Steve Walker

Eye Opener

By opening 1 d4, White avoids the cut and thrust of the open games and generally, with pieces developed behind the pawns, the opportunities for tactics are more limited. Even so, solid-looking openings can have hidden themes that you need to be familiar with in order to avoid an embarrassing early upset.

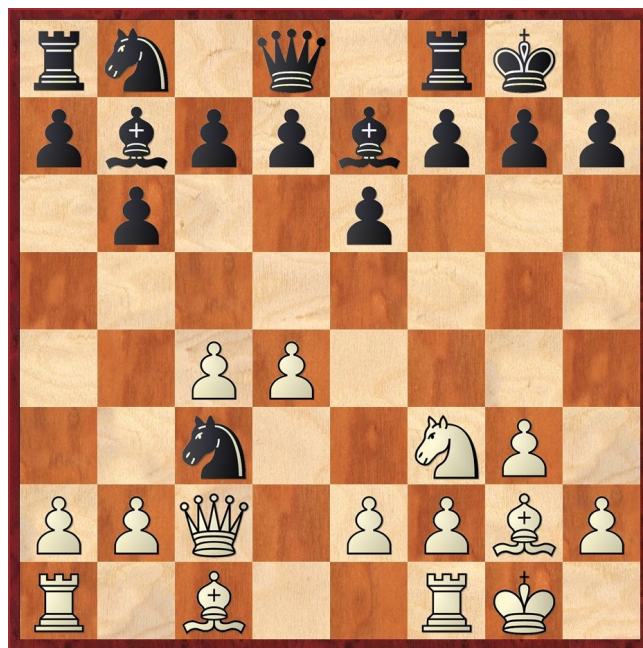
I am going to give a game by Nicholas Rossolimo. I frequently come across his name when finding material involving sacrificial attacks and here is an example of his tactical foresight.

B O'Sullivan v N Rossolimo

Zonal Tournament, Hilversum; 1947

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	Nf3	b6
4	g3	Bb7
5	Bg2	Be7
6	0-0	0-0
7	Nc3	Ne4
8	Qc2	Nxc3

This opening is a standard line of the Queen's Indian Defence and has occurred at many times in international tournaments over the past decade. Black's cause has been championed by Adams, Judit Polgar and Gligoric (among others) but they all faced 9 Qxc3 rather than White's next move.



9 Ng5

This coup looks justified by the threats of 10 Qxh7# and 9 Bxb7 winning a rook but it opens a Pandora's Box.

9 ... Nxe2+
10 Qxe2

The zwischenzug at move 9 means the reply 10 Kh1 allows a capture with check i.e. 10 ... Bxg2+ 11 Kxg2 Bxg5 with an extra piece.

10 ... Bxg2 0-1

After this drubbing became known, you would think that the combination would never see the light of day again but you would be wrong. In slightly different guises, the tactic Nf3-g5 continues to accumulate victims e.g.

E W Bayer (2360) v R Junge (2370)
 Bundesliga, Germany; 1989

First 9 moves as above by transposition

9	Qxc3	d6
10	Qd3	c5
11	Ng5	Bxg5
12	Bxb7	1-0

B Stanojevic (2342) v R Pikula
 Montenegro Open, Sozina; 2004

First 8 moves as above by transposition

8	...	f5
9	Ne5	d6
10	Nxe4	Kh8

A strange continuation until you realise both 10 ... fxe4 11 Bxe4 Bxe4 12 Qxe4 dxe5 13 Qxa8 and 10 ... dxe5 11 Nf6+ Bxf6 12 Bxb7 lose as previously.

11	Nxd6	Bxg2
12	Ndf7+	winning shortly.