

NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – June 2012

Chairman's Chatter

After 39 matches in the league, cup and Team "550", competitions and nearly 100 games in the internal tournaments, the season is drawing to a close. This issue contains a bumper crop of results but beneath the plain facts, titles are being decided. Our congratulations go to Francis Bowers who has made a clean sweep of the Club Championship, Ladder competition and Grand Prix.

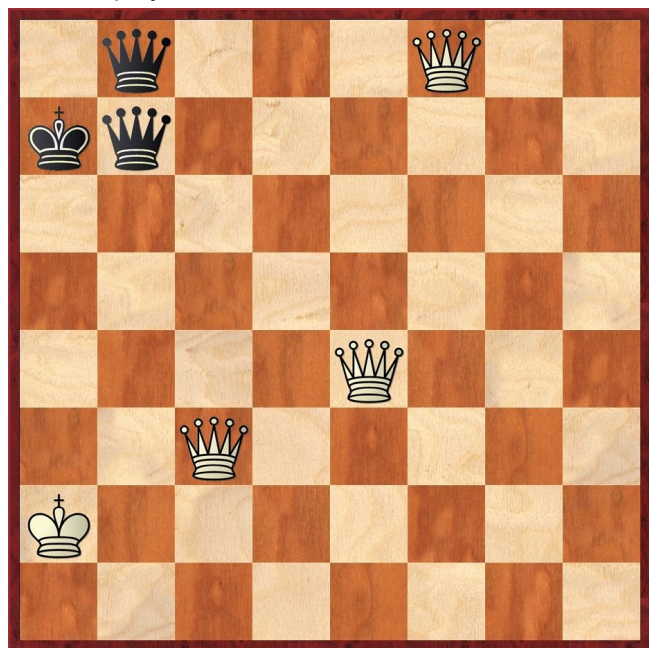
Paul Hanks

Diary Dates

Masterclasses attempting to improve our standard of play will feature early on club evenings throughout the summer months starting on 6th June. Next season will start with the Club AGM on 5th September.

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2.



Last Month's solution

Position : 8/8/8/8/8/Qp6/Np6/1k2K3

1 Qa4 bxa2 2 Qd1# [1 ... Kc2 2 Qe4#; 1 ... Ka1 2 Nc3#]

Website to Watch

June is the month for celebrations and indeed, there is a London Diamond Jubilee Congress from 2nd to 6th. It is being organised by *e2e4 Chess* who run (in their own words) "the best chess tournaments in the UK" on www.e2e4.org.uk. What if you play1 d2-d4?

Internationally, the Tal Memorial in Moscow gives a welcome payday for the grandmaster elite from 7th to 19th June (see www.russiachess.org). The 6th King's Tournament in Romania spans the month end from 23rd June to 4th July (see www.turneulregilor.com).

Window on the Web

The homepage of www.chessgames.com describes the site as an online chess database and community. The database contains over 600,000 games which are viewable using Java. The search facility allows searches by year, name of player, opponent, colour, number of moves, opening and result.

Some of the content is free but becoming a member unlocks further features. There's a guide on the Homepage for new users and over 17,500 collections of games submitted by members.

There is a *Daily Puzzle* with a *Game of the Day* and an *Opening of the Day* to play through and a *Player of the Day* feature providing links to all that player's games. The *Repertoire Explorer* allows you to see a breakdown of all the openings used by the player as White or Black. An interesting feature is *Guess the Move* where you play through a game and after a few moves you have to find the next moves, gaining points for correct answers.

The *Openings Explorer* allows you to play through games with particular openings and variations starting with any of 20 first moves, from 1 e4 to 1 a4, with statistics at each stage showing the percentage of White wins, draws and Black wins, from the position on the board. The *Endgame Explorer* lists most types of endgame and picking one takes you to a list of games that were decided in that way and each can be played through. The *Sacrifice Explorer* works in the same way.

There is an alphabetical directory of the players whose games are in the database. Local players I found in the list are Richard Tozer, Norman Hutchinson and our own Chris Ross.

This is not the largest games database available by any means, but the other features make the site worth a look.

Ron Jones

Result Round-up

Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

Spalding	1½	New England B	2½
J van Gemeren	1	R Jones	0
D Carew	½	P Spencer	½
J Smith	0	D Lane	1
A Coats	0	M Tarabad	1

Division One

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	Games	Pts
1	Royston	10	9	1	0	35½	19
2	Peterborough	10	7	1	2	29½	15
3	Cambridge Scholars	10	4	1	5	25	9
4	Warboys A	10	4	1	5	25	9
5	New England A	10	2	2	6	22½	6
6	Buckden A	10	0	2	8	12½	2

Division Two

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	Games	Pts
1	St Neots	8	4	3	1	18	11
2	Warboys B	8	4	2	2	21½	10
3	New England B	8	3	2	3	16	8
4	Spalding	8	4	0	4	14	8
5	Buckden B	8	1	1	6	10½	3

Team 550 Competition

St Neots	3½	New England 2	½
C Norton	½	P Turp	½
S Foster	1	D Lane	0
C Emery	1	M Tarabad	0
R Palumbo	1	H Currie	0

North		Pts	South		Pts
1	St Neots	21	1	Cambs Rowers	15+
2	New England 1	17½	2	Warboys S	10+
3	Warboys N	16½	3	Cambs Punters	9½
4	New England 2	15½	4	Royston	9½
5	Godmanchester	9½			

Club Championship

Round 3			
D Lane (1½)	1 _d	0 _d	R Jones (1½)
Round 4			
C Ross (2½)	1	0	M Dunkley (3)
P Spencer (2)	1	0	D Lane (1½+P)
R Jones (1½+P)	0 _d	1 _d	P Turp (1½)
C Russell (½)	1	0	M Tarabad (1)
Round 5			
F Bowers (3½)	1	0	M Dunkley (3)
P Spencer (3)	0	1	C Ross (3½)
P Hanks (2½)	1	0	P Turp (2½)
S Walker (1½)	1	0	J Parker (2)
N Wedley (2)	1 _d	0 _d	R Jones (1½)
M Tarabad (1)	0 _d	0 _d	S Farrington (1)
D Lane (2½)	½	½	C Russell (1½)
I Garrett (1)	1	0	H Currie (0)

Round 6

C Ross (4½)	0	1	F Bowers (4½)
M Dunkley (3)	½	½	P Hanks (3½)
N Wedley (3)	1	0	P Spencer (3)
S Walker (2½)	½	½	D Lane (3)
S Farrington (1)	0 _d	1 _d	I Garrett (2)
C Russell (2)	0	1	P Turp (2½)
H Currie (0)	1	0	J Parker (2)
M Tarabad (1)	1 _d	0 _d	bye

Pos	Player	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Rd 6	Pts
1	F Bowers	1	½	1	1	1	1	5½
2	C Ross	1	½ _a	1	1	1	0	4½
3	P Hanks	0	½	1	1	1	½	4
4	N Wedley	0	1	0	1	1 _d	1	4
5	M Dunkley	1	1	1 _d	0	0	½	3½
6	D Lane	1	½	1 _d	0	½	½	3½
7	P Turp	1	½	0	1 _d	0	1	3½
8	P Spencer	0	1	1	1	0	0	3
9	S Walker	0	0	½	1	1	½	3
10	I Garrett	0	1	0	0	1	1 _d	3
11	C Russell	0	0	½	1	½	0	2
12	J Parker	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
13	M Tarabad	1	0	0	0	0 _d	1 _d	2
14	S Farrington	0	0	1	0	0 _d	0 _d	1
15	H Currie	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
16	R Jones	1	½	-	-	-	-	-
17	S Sitaram	1	½	-	-	-	-	-

Problem Night : 9th May 2012

Pairing	Rd 1	Rd 2	Total
F Bowers & S Walker	6	5	11
C Ross & N Wedley	5	6	11
C Russell & P Spencer	5	5	10
S Caraway, I Garrett & J Parker	3	4	7

Club Handicap : 23rd May 2012

Pos	Player	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Rd 5	Total					
		Opp	Res	Opp	Res	Opp		Res	Opp	Res		
1	F Bowers	8	1	7	1	3	1	4	½	2	1	4½
2	P Hanks	7	0	6	1	5	1	3	1	1	0	3
3	P Spencer	5	1	4	1	1	0	2	0	8	1	3
4	C Ross	6	1	3	0	7	1	1	½	5	0	2½
5	D Lane	3	0	8	1	2	0	6	0	4	1	2
6	J Parker	4	0	2	0	8	1	5	1	7	0	2
7	N Wedley	2	1	1	0	4	0	8	0	6	1	2
8	I Garrett	1	0	5	0	6	0	7	1	3	0	1

New England Club Ladder

White		Black	
F Bowers	1	J Parker	0
N Wedley	1	I Garrett	0
F Bowers	1	P Spencer	0
H Currie	0	D Lane	1
P Hanks	1	I Garrett	0

Pos	Player	Record <small>30/05/12</small>
1	F Bowers	½,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,½,1,1,1,1
2	P Hanks	1,1,1,1,0,0,1
3	C Ross	1,1,1,1,1
4	P Spencer	½,½,1,½,1,0,1,0,0,1,1,0
5	D Lane	½,1,1,0,0,1,1,1
6	N Wedley	½,½,0,1,1,1,1,0,1,1,0,0,1,0,1
7	M Tarabad	0,0,0,1,0,0
8	J Parker	0,½,0,0,0,0,0
9	I Garrett	1,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0
less than 5 qualifying games		
-	S Caraway	½,0,1,½
-	S Wozniak	0,0,0,1
-	H Currie	0,0,0,0
-	S Walker	0,0,1,1
-	P Turp	0
-	S Sitaram	1,0,1
-	S Farrington	0,0,0

New England Grand Prix

Player	Champ	Ladder	League	Cup	Team 550	Total
F Bowers	5½	11	3½	2		22
P Spencer	3	6½	4½	0	5	19
D Lane	2½	5½	4½	0	4½	17
P Hanks	4	5	3	1	1	14
C Ross	4	5	2			11
N Wedley	3	8				11
P Turp	2½	0	4		3	9½
J Parker	2	½	½	0	6	9
S Sitaram	1½	2	3½	0	2	9
S Caraway		2	2½	2	2	8½
M Dunkley	3½		4	½		8
R Jones	1½		3½	½	2	7½
M Tarabad	1	0	1		4	6
S Walker	3	2	1		0	6
I Garrett	2	1		1	0	4
C Russell	2				1½	3½
S Wozniak		1			1	2
S Farrington	1	0				1
H Currie	1	0			0	1

Match of the Month

Two months ago, Steve Walker sent in a recent game of ours for the newsletter. Paul naturally asked me for some comments, though there was not much I could say – I made a horrible blunder on move 34 (sigh). Since that game had been a Nimzo-Indian, it set me thinking about all the games I had played with Paul at the old Perkins club, many of which had followed this variation. In fact, we had played so many Saemish variation games in the past that I was sure that I could find a rather better game to show as a comparison.

I dug out one of my old chess books and sadly, could not find a good example. But the first game in the book was the one I have selected below. I decided to look at this, simply because I had annotated it with the comment – ‘a good old-fashioned slugfest!’ This has always been my favourite form of chess – all out war!

Chris Russell (Perkins) v Steve Halliday (City CC)
H&PCA Division 2, 20.12.1989

1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 Bb5 4 e5 c5 5 Qg4?!

This is the poison pawn line from Winawer's variation of French Defence. A 'romantic' variation that appears in a great many beginner's textbooks, so I really should have known better than to play it in a league game! Sure enough, I had written in the margin that 5 a3 (the Winawer main line) is much better!

5 ... Ne7! (best) 6 Qxg7?!

Fritz does not like this and recommends any of Nf3, dxc5, Nge2 and a3 as better. But attacking the kingside pawns and denying the black king safe castling is the whole point of this opening strategy.

6 ... Rg8 7 Qh6

7 Qxh7? is very risky as the queen does not cover the bishop on c1 e.g. 7 ... cxd4 8 a3 Qa5! and if 9 Rb1 dxc3 10 axb4 Qa2.

7 ... cxd4 8 a3 Qa5?!

This looks very natural and was expected. In this line, White has a saving resource. John Watson (Play the French, Cadogan) recommends 8 ... Bxc3+! 9 bxc3 Qc7! which is much harder to counter and Black looks to be rather better. Interestingly, Fritz proposes 8 ... Ba5 with just a small advantage to Black.

9 axb4 Qxa1 10 Nb5!

The resource I mentioned - threats of Nd6+ and Nc7+.

10 ... Na6?

A mistake though to be fair, it does look logical and stops White regaining the exchange. Fritz prefers 10 ... Nf5! attacking the white queen and after 11 Qd2 Kd7, Black has effectively neutralised the knight checks. This was Black's best chance to equalise the game. Now the knight gets to be an uncomfortable thorn in Black's side. To be honest, a mistake in a difficult position was what I was hoping for!

11 Nd6+ Kd7
12 Bb5+

Gaining some development tempo but probably not best. Fritz likes 12 Bxa6 Qxa6 13 Nf3 Nf5 14 Qf6.

12 ... Kc7
13 Ne2!

Freeing the queen from the defence of c1. If 13 ... Rxc2 14 Qf6!

13 ... Nxb4
14 0-0!

14 Qxh7 also looks playable but with my king safe, I was sure that I would have the upper hand.

14 ... Qa5?

Another plausible move but unnecessary. The queen is not in danger and Black's lack of development is becoming critical. Nec6 or Nbc6 cover d4 and shore up the defence. Now Black is in trouble.

15 Nxd4 Nbc6
16 Bd2

Logical development but forcing Black's queen onto a better square. Fritz recommends 16 Bxc6 Nxc6 17 Qxh7 Rxc2+ 18 Kxc2 Nxd4 when Black is forced to give back the exchange.

16 ... Qb6
17 Bxc6 bxc6?!

Kb8/Nxc6 were better. The text allows a new threat.

18 Nb3! a5

Forced to prevent Ba5.

19 Be3



Keeps the pressure on and brings the Nb3 into the attack. I was bothered by a4 but this is not the best. Fritz recommends 19 Qf6!

19 ... Qb4
20 f4??

Truly awful! Giving away the win, but I was starting to get short of time. I wanted to prevent Qg4 but after 20 Qf6! my attack comes first (20 Qf6 Nf5 21 Nxf5 exf5 22 Qxf7+ Bd7 23 Nd4 etc). Even f3, g3 or h3 are better than what I played!

20 ... Bd7??

Steve thought for a whole 25 minutes and yet this move is a lemon! Now he has less than 20 minutes to play 20 moves. I cannot fathom why he did not see 20 ... Nf5! 21 Nxf5 Qe4!! Fritz rates this as level/small White advantage. The text gives me back the game.

21 Qxh7

Okay but both Qf6 and Bc5 were better.

21 ... Qb8
22 Nc5 Qf8

Bringing the queen to the kingside defence but there are too many holes. Fritz would shift the point of attack with Qd3! but Na4 and Qxf7 are still winning.

23 Na4 Rb8?!

Fritz much prefers 23 ... c5 24 Nxc5 Qg7 when White has to justify the sacrifice. Steve is very short of time.

24 Ba7

A showy kind of move! Qd3! is better.

24 ... Rb4
25 b3

Both Nc5 and Qd3 are better.

25 ... Rg7?!

Not good – it forces me to where I need to go!

26 Qd3

Finally!

26 ... Qg8
27 g3

Fritz says that this is unnecessary and Qa6 wins, but 27 Qa6 Rxc2+ 28 Kh1 Rxh2+ 29 Kxh2 Qh7+ Kg3 looks very hairy to a human! However, Black will eventually run out of checks and Qxa5+ wins.

27 ... Nf5?

27 Bc8 keeps the game alive

28 Qa6!

The penny drops!

28 ... Rxc3+

Desperation – there is nothing better.

29 Kh1!

There is no need to allow Black any extra checks.

29 ... Kd8 30 Qxa5+ Ke7 31 Nxf5+ exf5 32 Qxb4+

At this point, Steve's flag falls. The game is totally lost and, as it happens, White has a forced mate in four against any defence... I will leave that for you to find.

This is a typical example of my games from that time; full of gung-ho and very short on precision. And there was the sadly inevitable blunder at move 20!

I am not sure if there is anything to learn from it though. I did know that Steve was happy to take on this line as we had previously played some skittles games in the same vein. I think my philosophy at the time was that it is more difficult to defend than attack such double edged positions, and so it proved - just. But against someone theoretically prepared, it is a highly dodgy proposition!

Chris Russell