

# NEW ENGLANDER

## Chess Club Update – September 2012

### Chairman's Chatter

Last month, I made a light-hearted reference to the luxury conditions that Chris Ross would enjoy during his play at the Olympiads. He has obviously found a lifestyle that suits him! A silver medal on board 2 missing the gold only on a tie-break is a fantastic performance and one that leaves us lesser mortals in awe. Congratulations!

The new season is almost upon us and it is time to emerge from your summer bolt-hole. At the AGM (see Diary Dates), we shall need to gauge commitment for the year in order to determine how many teams to run and which competitions to hold. I hope you will all make every effort to support the club.

*Paul Hanks*

### Diary Dates

There are several notable dates in the offing :-

5th September	Club AGM to decide entries to the County competitions by 10th.
13th September	Meeting of Cambridgeshire Executive Committee to formalise the competitions
20th September	Annual County North v South match at Godmanchester
28th October	Rapidplay at Whittlesford
17-18th November	County Individual in Yaxley

Congress application forms are available from F Bowers.

### Puzzle Problem



Last Month's solution

Position : 5B2/8/P7/2Rp1K2/1bNk4/1R6/1P2pN2/Q3n3

1 Qa4 Bxc5 2 Bg7# [1 ... Bd2 2 Nxd2#; 1 ... Ba3 2 Nxa3#; 1 ... Ba5 2 Nxa5#; 1 ... Bc3 2 bxc3#; 1 ... dxc4 2 Qd7#; 1 ... N any 2 Rd3#]

### Website to Watch

Until 10th September, the games from the World Chess Olympiad with Chris Ross in the IBCA team are on <http://istanbul2012.tsf.org.tr/en>. There is even a thumbnail photograph of our star on the IBCA page. He could be up against Jakovenko (2736) or Eljanov (2696). We have high hopes...

FIDE has sold the commercial rights to its World Championship to a company called AGON. They are organising the first Grand Prix qualifying event for the next Championship cycle at Simpson's-in-the-Strand, London from 20th September to 4th October. It will be interesting to see how the company markets the event but the €240,000 prize fund of sounds impressive. Games should be on <http://london2012.fide.com>.

### Window on the Web

[www.chesscity.com](http://www.chesscity.com) is an American site supervised by FIDE Master and author Eric Schiller.

The home page refers to additions made in 2004 and 2005 so you are unlikely to find much up-to-date content here. The site seems biased towards publicity for FM Schiller's books and the fact that some of the links from the home page take you to pages that are "coming soon" indicates it is going through a revision process.

The link to Chess Opening Theory does work, mainly linking to various pages from FM Schiller's books. There are extensive notes on various openings such as Caro-Kann, Tarrasch, Sicilian, Nimzo-Indian and several gambit lines.

Some obscure unorthodox lines are covered, such as the Manhattan Gambit (an anti-Dutch gambit where White plays an early g4), the Maltese Falcon (I wonder if Humphrey Bogart might have played this), the Cabbage Formation, Basman's Creepy Crawley Opening (1 a3 e5 2 h3) and Moody's Universal Attack, in which Black plays the same first eight moves no matter what White plays, involving a double fianchetto and knights developed on e7 and d7.

The section Complete Chess Games has several games to play through from Kasparov v Short 1993 but the links to other games appear to be broken.

A pity there are broken links, but those who persevere will find some interesting reading.

*Ron Jones*

## Match of the Month

Although I would not usually write up a "friendly" game, I think this one is worthy of note. It was played under competitive conditions in Teignmouth, Devon.

The game shows how ideas from the greatest players can be replicated. Perhaps not in exactly similar positions but how they can be imitated in a different fashion. The concept I duplicate here is the famous Karpov 24 Bc7! plan in his match against Unzicker in the 1974 Olympiad. All will become clear at move 21.

If nothing else is learnt from this, then simply take away the fact that lessons can be learnt from our predecessors. Study and learn!

**Chris Ross** (2231) v **Alan Brusey** (2033)  
Teignmouth 2012.06.26"]

**1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nd2 c5 4 exd5**

It is interesting to note here that I paused when reaching this position, taking 60 seconds to decide on what variation I wished to play and which set-up I was going to adapt.

I have taught other players that when you reach such a position after the second or third move in a game, take a breath, make a decision and then you should be able to whip out your next 7 or 8 moves within seconds of each other. Make that decision, feel confident and demonstrate to your opponent that you know perfectly well what you are doing and how you wish to go about it. My next 14 moves were played in a matter of moments. It was move 17 when I next paused for thought. In a competitive game, this would give me a huge advantage on the clock.

**4 ... Qxd5**

4 ... exd5 is the other main variation in this Tarrasch line. Both variations, I have scored heavily against.

**5 Ngf3 cxd4**

Black wishes to liquidate the centre, seeking some freedom for development. This exchange though gives White a queenside majority, which is important in an endgame.

**6 Bc4 Qd6**  
**7 0-0 Nf6**  
**8 Nb3 Nc6**  
**9 Nbx d4 Nxd4**  
**10 Qxd4**

A line designed to head for an endgame. White has the aforementioned queenside majority and the purpose of this side-line is to target Black's queenside weaknesses. The exchange of queens seems desirable for Black as it frees up his development concerns somewhat. Ultimately though, this takes away from his aggressive intentions. For my style of play, this suits me excellently, as I need not fear kingside attacks etc. 10 Nxd4 is the main line, but a lot of theory has to be learnt there.

**10 ... Qxd4**

10 ... Qc7 is the only way in which Black can reject the offer of exchanging queens. White has a big lead in

development then and a swift Bf4 or Bg5 will only increase this advantage.

**11 Nxd4 a6**

The cracks in Black's queenside begin to appear. Nb5 was a big move for Black to deal with as the d6, c7 and a7 dark-squares are coming under a lot of pressure. With this last move though, it is the light squares around the queenside that now appear slightly vulnerable.

**12 Be2**

A curious move to conceive but again, I have copied this idea from other strong players, such as Nigel Short. The point is to relocate the bishop onto the long diagonal and target the black queenside, especially so the b7 pawn. Black's queenside development should then become rather awkward.

The white light-squared bishop also steps away from the queenside to permit White's pawn majority to begin its advance. c2-c4 is also facilitated to control the important d5 outpost.

**12 ... e5**

An understandable break for freedom but one which tends not to score very well for Black. Indeed, if development is compared on both sides, White is very much in the lead. Although this central advance gains a tempo, it also makes the e pawn much weaker. Black wishes to begin his own majority advance and to open up his bishop on c8. If Black can develop unhindered, he will equalise.

**13 Nf3**

The correct retreat for the knight. Pressure is placed on the e5 pawn, not giving Black time to settle and develop. The tactics now become apparent in this opening.

**13 ... e4?!**

Once again, Black attempts to complete development by tempo-gaining moves. However, this only drives the knight back to its dominating central square and weakens the e pawn even more.

13 ... Bd6 has to be preferred. White then would have a choice. He can attack the bishop immediately with 14 Rd1 gaining yet more time for development or go for the subtle 14 Re1 with latent threats down the e file and on the e5 pawn. I have played both before.

**14 Nd4 Bc5**

Once again, Black is under the illusion that tempo-gaining moves will aid him in his development difficulties. 14 ... Bd6 with the idea of Be5 has to be the only real way to do this. The bishop would stand centrally and may have a future on f6. White would then place his rooks quickly on the e and d files and attempt to open things up with a future f2-f3.

**15 Nb3**

Each side is trading tempo-gaining ideas. This effectively cancels out the point of Black's aim to equalise with threats. So, the development move Bf8-Bc5 has achieved nothing at all since the bishop has to relocate.

**15 ... Ba7**

15 ... Bd6 with the idea of Be5 has to be Black's preferred choice here. As stated before, the bishop would stand centrally and would exert pressure on the white queenside. As it is, the bishop targets the f2 square which, in fact, is not a weakness. The white king and rook defend the square adequately and unless another black piece can aim at it, the bishop is just a redundant piece. Yes, White has to be careful of e4-e3 tactics but even they are easily deflected. The white king is perfectly safe on g1. There are plans for the white king though which can be seen later.

**16 Bg5**

Completing development and finding the best square for the bishop. e3 is another obvious square for the piece but that requires a deeper explanation. I was prepared to relocate there if Black had forced me to do so with an immediate 16 ... h6 but at least in that line, I would have forced the weakness h7-h6. It is quite curious though that the initial destination for the bishop is actually effective and the "plan B" concept for the bishop is used with a different motif instead. All will become apparent soon enough. Move 21 is the key strategy moment. See below for opening references to the alternative plan at move 16.

**16 ... 0-0**

A plucky plan. Black declares that he is not concerned about the doubling of his pawns. He considers the bishop pair and open g file adequate compensation for the shattered pawn formation. Although this is a sound evaluation, it needs deeper consideration, which will soon come into play. 16 ... Nd5 is worthy of note.

**17 Rad1**

The first time I paused for thought. Naturally, the rooks need development but where are the rooks destined? I was aware that the queen's rook may be needed for the queenside advance and hence, 17 Rfd1 came into contention. However, abandoning the e file so easily did not seem a great idea. Then came the concept of Black forcing an eventual e4-e3. Or, indeed, a capture on e3. In that case, I would need the king's rook to control the half-open f file - a consideration which is important in the long-term scheme of things. I was already looking forward and edging my play towards an idea at move 21.

Naturally, the 7th rank penetration square, d7, is a key square for consideration. As it is, there is no easy way to get there. For the time being, that is.

Eventually, I landed on the easiest and simplest route, figuring that the queenside majority would have to take a slower path to advance.

**17 ... Bf5**

This bishop's development is almost impossible to resolve. 17 ... Bg4 has tactical consequences and the simple 18 Rfe1 would exert pressure down the e file if nothing else. The e4 pawn would come under tremendous pressure eventually.

**18 Nd4**

Relocating the knight with tempo. The knight was passive on the queenside and I am now initiating a deeper plan.

**18 ... Bg6**

The bishop retreats from the attack. However, this move releases the protection of the d7 square, my penetration square. This is critical for Black.

**19 c3**

Solidifying everything. An excellent consolidation move. There are no longer any e4-e3 and then Bxc2 tactics looming for Black. The knight on d4 is secured and Black needs to find a plan.

**19 ... h6?**

After which, Black is pretty much in a losing position. The move only provokes White into his course of action, which is massively deeper than Black had perceived. Black wishes to form some kind of kingside pawn advance and although this is an acceptable plan, the tempi lost in its execution are fatal.

The only way for Black to continue was 19 ... Nd5, when 20 g3 (to stop Nf4 ideas - as well as provide a flight square for the king on g2 when f2-f3 is played) gives Black hope to cling to.

**20 Bxf6 gxf6**

The crucial position. White now needs to instigate his winning strategy. Here, the Karpov game previously mentioned gave me the inspiration to understand how to proceed. The strategy is similar if not exactly replicated. This position needs some deep consideration. I would suggest that time is taken over this and a long-term game plan formed. The notes to my 21<sup>st</sup> move are extensive.



**21 Nc2!**

Several features now need to be taken into account. We first track back to move 16 Bg5. In the opening references below, we can see that 16 Be3 has been played before. This is a plan to neutralise the bishop on a7 but as I have explained, the black dark-squared

bishop has little danger for White. No, it is the pawn formation which is important there. Take the f2 pawn and put it on e3 in the current position. Yes, the pawn would be isolated but, in fact, it would not be weak in the slightest. The dark-squared bishop, which could attack the apparently weak pawn, would have had to be exchanged to force the pawn there. The f file would become open and the f5 square controlled. The black doubled f pawns would become a huge target.

With that in mind, White does not fear any exchanges on e3 because the white pawns would stand then on dark squares, opposite to that of Black's remaining bishop, on g6, and hence, not a weakness in an ending.

Now consider the knight on d4. Yes, it is ideally posted and stands solidly. What squares is it actually controlling though? b5, c6, e6, f5 and f3 are all controlled by black forces. Solid as the piece is, it can seek out a better outpost and, as our friend Nimzowitsch keeps reminding us, a knight should find an outpost blocking an isolated pawn. OK, the e4 pawn is not strictly speaking isolated but Black is reluctant to play f6-f5 if he can avoid it, as this would block in his bishop.

From e3, the knight controls c4 (assisting a queenside pawn advance by White), d5 (an important central point, from where the knight can spring into the black kingside or mop up some valuable queenside pawns), f5 (also a mini outpost) and g4. In effect, maximising the potential of the piece.

Let us study the white light-squared bishop. How is that to participate in White's game-plan? It can emerge on c4 to control the d5 square. A solid plan but White wishes eventually to advance on the queenside and c3-c4 will be prevented. So, we focus our attention on the other route - onto g4. There, the bishop would control the f5 square, a mini outpost in front of the black doubled f pawns. So, Bg4 appears to be a good positional plan.

Now comes the most important feature, the open d file. Open files are to be controlled - Nimzovitsch again! The knight manoeuvre has passed control to the white rooks. How though, since Black can challenge the occupation by placing a rook on the open file himself? How can White double rooks there without extensive exchanges occurring?

Here, good old Karpov provides the answer. Karpov has demonstrated how the penetration square (often the 7th rank of an open file) can be used as a "plug". Placing another piece securely on the plug square temporarily closes the file but permits the doubling of rooks behind it. This prevents rook exchanges until the time deemed appropriate by the doubler when the plug can be removed and the file controlled with advantage.

Convoluting in its wording but the basic concept is clear. Control the 7<sup>th</sup> rank with a plug and double behind it. When possible, unplug the file and win tactically. How then, is the open file to be temporarily blocked?

Here is the Karpov game in its entirety. Move 24 is the key plan in this particular game:

**Karpov v Unzicker**  
Olympiad 1974

**1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4 Nf6 5 0-0 Be7 6 Re1 b5 7 Bb3 d6 8 c3 0-0 9 h3 Na5 10 Bc2 c5 11 d4 Qc7 12 Nbd2 Nc6 13 d5 Nd8 14 a4 Rb8 15 axb5 axb5 16 b4 Nb7 17 Nf1 Bd7 18 Be3 Ra8 19 Qd2 Rfc8 20 Bd3 g6 21 Ng3 Bf8 22 Ra2 c4 23 Bb1 Qd8 24 Ba7 Ne8 25 Bc2 Nc7 26 Rea1 Qe7 27 Bb1 Be8 28 Ne2 Nd8 29 Nh2 Bg7 30 f4 f6 31 f5 g5 32 Bc2 Bf7 33 Ng3 Nb7 34 Bd1 h6 35 Bh5 Qe8 36 Qd1 Nd8 37 Ra3 Kf8 38 R1a2 Kg8 39 Ng4 Kf8 40 Ne3 Kg8 41 Bxf7+ Nxf7 42 Qh5 Nd8 43 Qg6 Kf8 44 Nh5 1-0**

So, my positional plan is to play my bishop around to g4, plug the d file by playing Bd7 and simply double up behind the bishop.

**21        ...                        Rad8**

Black challenges the open file, naturally. Otherwise, the immediate Rd7 is penetrating.

**22        Ne3                                f5**

Black had little choice now. As stated, the positional plan of Bg4 and Bd7 is just too strong to meet. White would then play Rd5 and Rfd1 and uncover the bishop, unplugging the d file at the same time, when it becomes tactically beneficial for White. A simple but extraordinarily strong plan.

**23        g3**

Now Black has played f6-f5 (to prevent Bg4/Bd7), his own light-squared bishop has been rendered temporarily useless. However, despite the apparent deceptive nature of the f5 pawn, it is actually a weakness which White intends to target.

f5-f4 has to be prevented, disturbing the knight on its outpost though there is a deeper reason for the move.

**23        ...                                Kg7**  
**24        Kg2**

No, not mimicking Black but actually getting on with the implied strategy. White is removing the king from the a7-g1 diagonal and tactical tricks by the bishop on a7 are avoided. White is now intent on forcing f2-f3, opening the f file and making the f5 pawn a big target. Sure, the knight on e3 will need a flight square first and d5 seemed to be its route. f2-f3 will put the question to the pawn on e4.

**24        ...                                Kf6**

Black seemingly wishes to centralise his king and defend his weak pawns. Again, a neat enough plan, but in reality, his king is running into grave danger.

**25        Nd5+**

Executing the aforementioned plan. The white f pawn is now free to move.

**25        ...                                Ke5?**

After which, there is no hope. Black steps into dangerous tactics. The idea of a centralised king is nice but it cannot be maintained. Due to the loose

nature of the black king, the tactics have to work for White.

Black had to grin and bear the misery and step backwards with 25 ... Kg7 and hope to hold. f2-f3 would undermine the black centre and whether Black can hold it is another question in itself.

**26 f4+**

Perhaps the idea Black had missed. The black king is becoming entombed and discoveries are looming everywhere.

**26 ... Kd6**

A very scary move to have to play. 26 ... exf3 allows 27 Bxf3 when the f file has become open making f5 a big target and Rfe1+ is going to be very awkward to meet. The black king is being cut down along the central files. Notice that 27 Bxf3 protects the apparently loose knight on d5. Again, when in a positionally superior position, the tactics often work themselves out. However, cool calculation is required to find the coup de grâce. Again, all the positional features should be taken into consideration and no immediate knock-out sought.

**27 g4!**

Hitting that "weak" f5 pawn, as previously mentioned. There is no immediate good discovered check with a knight move. If nothing is apparent, the discovery is not necessary. Keeping it in hand is more effective than its actual execution.

All the tactics just flow for White. Files and ranks forced open and the base of the pawn chain is struck, thereby weakening the spearhead at e4. Black is now in zugzwang.

**27 ... Ke6**

27 ... fxc4 28 f5 wins the bishop on g6 as any retreat to h7 or h5 allows an effective discovery with the knight 28 Nf6+. Any other move by Black would allow Ne3+ discoveries and gxf5. A rook move to g8 allows Nf6+ and any other rook move does not improve its position. The text-move desperately attempts to find a tactic to solve the situation. The knight on d5 is now loose.

**28 Bc4**

Black moves out of one discovery, just to step into another. The last white piece is activated. The knight is once again placed in a discovery position. The black king has no sanctuary. Black has not got a decent move available.

**28 ... fxc4**

Not finding any solution to his problems, Black desperately sacrifices his bishop for two pawns, hoping that his pawn mass will provide him some compensation.

**29 f5+ Ke5**

29 ... Bxf5 loses even more radically to 30 Ne3+ and then either Nxf5+ or Rxf5# will be played.

**30 fxc6 fxc6**

Black has some pawns for his piece. As stated previously, good positional strategy often allows the tactics to find themselves. Once again, White has a resource to demonstrate his positional superiority. The natural instinct here was 31 Ne7 but there is no response to 31 ... Rxf1 32 Rxd8 Rf2+ when that bishop on a7 has been justified. Note that 31 Ne7 Rxf1 32 Nxc6+ allows Kf6. That in itself gave me the clue to the finesse here, since the king can step onto the f file after the exchange on f1. How then to stop Rxf1 and allow Nxc6?

**31 Nf4**

There is some irony that the f4 square is used as a springboard to win further material. The black king has no safety in the centre of the board.

**31 ... Rxf4**

31 ... Rxd1 32 Nxc6 and the point is that the black king cannot step onto the f file. 32 ... Kd6 is forced, when I can take on d1 with check and then snaffle the rook on f8 with the knight. Lovely finishing tactics.

**32 Rxd8 1-0**

Winning a rook. There are no Rf2+ tactics and the rook on f4 must be exchanged. The game is over.

*Chris Ross*

#### Opening references

A 13 ... Bd6 14 Rd1 Bc7 15 Bd2 O-O 16 Bb4 Re8 17 Bd6 Bxd6 18 Rxd6 Bd7 19 Rad1 Bc6 20 Nd2 Rac8 21 Kf1 Kf8 22 Nc4 Ne4 23 f3 Nxd6 24 Nxd6 Ke7 25 Nxe8 Bxe8 26 Bd3 g6 27 Re1 Kd6 28 Rd1 M Bakalarz (2408) v U Andersson (2579), Warsaw POL 2005 [½-½ (95)]

B 15 c3 O-O 16 Bg5 Ng4 17 Rad1 Ne5 18 Nb3 Bb6 19 Be7 Re8 20 Bc5 Bxc5 21 Nxc5 f5 22 Rd6 Nf7 23 Rb6 Nd8 24 Rd1 Ne6 25 Bc4 Kf7 26 Rdd6 1-0 H Westerinen (2335) v D Andersen (1899), Ballerup DEN 2012

C 16 Be3 Bxe3 17 fxe3 Be6 18 Nd4 Rc8 19 c4 Ke7 20 b3 Rhd8 21 Rad1 a5 22 h3 h6 23 Rf2 Rc7 24 Bf1 Nd7 25 Rfd2 Rcc8 26 g4 Nc5 27 Bg2 h5 28 g5 f5 29 gxf6+ gxf6 30 Rf1 Rg8 31 Kh2 Rg5 32 Nxe6 Nxe6 33 Bxe4 Nc5 34 Bd5 Re5 35 Rg2 Ne6 36 Bxb7 Rb8 37 Bd5 Rxe3 38 Rf3 Rxf3 39 Bxf3 a4 40 bxa4 Rb4 41 Re2 Kd6 42 Bxh5 Rxa4 43 Bf7 Ng5 44 Bd5 Ra3 45 Bg2 Ne6 U Atakisi (2406) v M Al Modiahki (2564), Athens GRE 2006 [1-0 (77)]

#### Eye Opener

Sometimes, things look horribly familiar. Take this game for example.

**Mickael Carmes (2131) v Maarten Boonekamp**  
8th Chambery Open Rd (2), 03.08.2002

**1 e4 e5 2 Nc3 Nc6 3 Bc4 Nf6 4 d3 Bc5 5 f4 d6 6 Nf3 Be6 7 Nd5**

I expect we can all look back to our school days and find a similar position to this. I never pulled off (or saw!) the following tactic though.

**7 ... 0-0**  
**8 Nxf6+ Qxf6**

Black has fallen for it!

**9 f5 Bxc4**  
**10 Bg5 1-0**