

NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – June 2013

Chairman's Chatter

The B team is celebrating! By the narrowest margin, they have won the Cambridgeshire Division 2 from Warboys B. A fine performance from the squad and Paul Spencer in his first season as captain.

Congratulations to Francis Bowers who again wins the Club Ladder and Grand Prix competitions. He also wins the Club Championship but this year, will have to share the space on the honours board with Phil Turp. Well done to the champions and thanks to all competitors.

Paul Hanks

Diary Dates

The final internal events of the season are the Club Rapidplay on 5th June and the Problem Night on 12th June.

During the summer (19th June onwards), Masterclass tuition sessions will be offered on a slightly different basis. Following last year, the topics will be 1) opening knowledge 2) endgame knowledge 3) strategic intent 4) candidate moves 5) deep analysis 6) position evaluation 7) opportunities and post-mortem review. Each week, one theme will be explored and the following week will be a clinic to discuss that aspect of the game with examples from our own games. Everyone will be expected to contribute to the latter!

The Annual General Meeting of the Cambridgeshire County Chess Association will take place on Thursday 20th June at Godmanchester Comrades Club.

Website to Watch

If you want to see clashes between Carlsen, Anand and Kramnik, look no further than the Tal Memorial tournament being held in Moscow from 12th to 24th June. The supporting cast is still impressive with Karjakin, Caruana, Gelfand, Morozevich, Nakamura ... The website <http://www.chessdom.com/category/live> expects to be showing live games.

Window on the Web

The Russian GM Peter Svidler is the ninth highest-rated player in the world. His website is at www.psvidler.net. Svidler is currently playing in the Thessaloniki Grand Prix and his homepage has a list of his results in that, and several previous tournaments. There is a link to live games, which can be played through. The site has 3 main links: *About Peter*, *Calendar* and *Results/Pictures*.

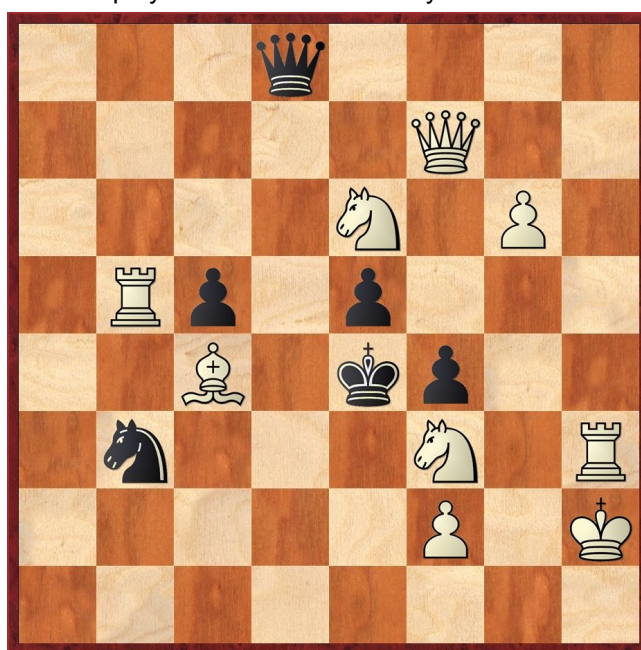
The first leads to a few personal details (his hobbies include cricket and billiards), some career highlights and a list of nine heavily annotated games, all of which can be played through. The second is self-

explanatory and gives his playing schedule. The third takes you to a 2010 calendar. Clicking on ten of the months leads to a table of Svidler's games played in the particular month, all of which (often more than the number listed) can be played through, although they are not annotated. What happened in the years before and after 2010 is a mystery.

Ron Jones

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2 - a tricky one!



Last Month's solution

Position : 8/8/2K5/2p5/2kp4/P1p5/2Q5/8

1 Qd1 d3 2 Qa4# [1 ... c2 2 Qxc2#]

Result Round-up

CCCA League Divisions

| Division 1 | P | W | L | D | Games | Pts |
|--------------------|----|---|---|---|-------|-----|
| Royston | 10 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 34½ | 19 |
| Peterborough A | 10 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 28½ | 14 |
| New England A | 10 | 5 | 1 | 4 | 26 | 11 |
| Cambridge Scholars | 10 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 24 | 8 |
| Warboys A | 10 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 18½ | 4 |
| St Neots | 10 | 2 | 0 | 8 | 18½ | 4 |

Match of the Month

The Chigorin Defence has been around for many years, and an opening that is trotted out occasionally by one's opponents. Do we fully understand though how to avoid its complications? Here is a neat demonstration how to play calmly against it.

However, it is move 12 by White, which is the most instructive in this game. A move that you should take a long time to contemplate. I had to smile quietly to myself when playing this, for it is a move that could seem foolish if it is positionally flawed. Having faith in one's positional judgement is a key feature though in being successful.

Chris Ross (2247) v Oliver Gill (2230)
Frome Congress Rd 3, 10.05.2013

1 d4 Nc6

The introduction to the Chigorin Defence. It violates several classical principles. In the main, Black does not maintain the centre pawn at d5, the c pawn is blocked and Black must be willing to trade the light-squared bishop for a knight. It is stated that the Russian, Mikhail Chigorin, valued the bishop pair less than most chess masters in his time. Some say he even preferred knights to bishops in all positions. Although this is a viable positional aspect to aim for, the structures one gets from the opening do not guarantee Black a "good knight v bad bishop" set-up.

2 Nf3

2 c4 allows e5 and a transposition into other systems.

2 ... d5
3 Bf4

Avoiding the Albin Counter Gambit (3 ... e5), which is a tricky gambit to cope with. Although I do not find the gambit sound, it gives White difficulties with development. The sensible refutation is to prevent e7-e5 and to continue with simple piece play. The knight can be left poorly placed on c6 if Black is not careful.

3 ... Bg4
4 e3 e6
5 c4

Now Black has willingly blocked in his light-squared bishop on the kingside with e7-e6, White targets the vulnerable squares on the queenside. b7 is a point of attention and d5 is not easily supported. Now the d4 pawn is supported, White can expand with c2-c4.

5 ... Bb4+
6 Nc3

Once again, simple piece development is essential. d5 is a point of focus and hence why d2 is not the right square for the queen's knight. Black is likely to take on f3 with his light-squared bishop, so exchanging on c3 and giving up both bishops would be a very drastic reaction.

6 ... Nge7

It is difficult to criticise this move but to me, the knight is slightly misplaced. Black's intention is to switch this to the kingside for an attack. In particular, if an exchange on f3 occurs, the knight may wish to wander

to h4. The f4 dark-squared bishop is a target and Black is contemplating f7-f5 to break things open. However, f6 has to be its natural square.

7 Qb3

The first move away from the known theory. Here, White intends to pressurise the b7 square, overload the knight on c6 with a possible Ne5 and also to target the d5 pawn. Once again, this allows a shattering of the pawn chain on f3, but this is unimportant with the pawn structure being solid there, White obtaining the bishop pair and having an alternative flight plan for the king. See below for opening references.

7 ... Ng6
8 Bg3 0-0
9 cxd5 exd5
10 Be2 Bxc3+

A surprise, but there is little choice for Black here. Black wants to force a semi-decision out of White. Some pressure has to be released somewhere, and by this exchange, Black gets a temporary reprieve.

11 Qxc3

11 bxc3 allows 11 ... Na5 and Black obtains the c4 outpost. This knight could be dislodged, but Black would also achieve c7-c5. The time-gaining idea is not in White's best interest. The half-open c file is equally as good as the half-open b file. d5 and b7 are still targets, but now White has the thrust b2-b4 at his disposal. c7 is also becoming rather sensitive.

11 ... f5

The drawback to the re-capture on c3 with the white queen, since the pressure on the d5 pawn is released.

OK, a pause now. Some worthy positional considerations need to be taken into account. The first question is to where the white pieces belong. The white knight would like to find an outpost, but the natural-looking e5 post is heavily guarded. Exchanges on that square are not quite feasible. White also has pawn levers with b4-b5 and h4-h5. The white king needs a safe square to run to, as Black is threatening to open up the centre with f5-f4. Tactically speaking, f5-f4 is a threat that White needs to deal with, since the dark-squared bishop on g3 is lacking squares. If White is forced to take on f4 with the e3 pawn, d4 becomes an isolated pawn. For Black though, the black minor pieces sit rather awkwardly, especially so the bishop on g4, which has no flight squares.

Returning to the first positional consideration of the outpost. If e5 is not possible, then we need to find another. Hence, f4 itself becomes White's focus point. From f4, the white knight could stop Black's tactics and also stand on a very dominating square from which it can not be dislodged, in the true meaning of an outpost. If White has played h4-h5 to dislodge the knight on g6, g7-g5 is no longer playable and the white knight can stand on f4 unchallenged. On f4 too, the knight would target that weak pawn on d5.

Realising all of this, the final thing to solve was the knight's route to f4. If it helps, the Breyer variation of the Ruy Lopez can provide inspiration here.



12 Ng1!

A remarkable conception, which is positionally justified in every respect. Tactically, there is an additional bonus that the bishop on g4 is weak. f5-f4 cannot be played by Black without leaving this bishop en prise. White can sneak f3 and potentially trap the bishop if Black is not careful. The “undevelopment” of the white knight can only be good if it achieves the f4 outpost.

12 ... Qe7

Potential pins down the e file force White to run away and find safety for the monarch.

13 0-0-0 Nb4

Once again, Black is seeking tactics. True positional quality can prevent the tactics. 14 Kb1 here would lose an exchange to 14 ... Bxe2 15 Nxe2 Qe4+ which would be a tragedy. Black feels obliged to exchange bishops and secure his centre.

14 Qb3 Bxe2
15 Nxe2 c6
16 a3 Na6
17 h4 h5

A very drastic decision, but now the game is truly lost for Black. Black was concerned that if the black knight was forced away, the f4 outpost for the white knight, dominates the kingside. White could then play h5-h6 either forcing g7-g6 or leaving h5-h6 and g2-g4 opening up the kingside. This rash pawn push on the kingside by Black only gives White the g5 outpost though. g6 has become weak and the final white piece can be “airlifted” into the attack.

18 Bf4

Freeing up the 3rd rank. The bishop is destined for g5, but the main reason was to open up the g3 square.

18 ... Nxf4
19 Nxf4 Qf7
20 Rh3

With the rook’s introduction into the attack, there is no more resistance to deal with. The rest is simple

technique and the tactics will find themselves. Black has too many weaknesses on h5, f5, g6, e6 and the white knight is too dominant.

20 ... Rac8
21 Kb1 Rc7
22 Rg3 Nb8

There is an irony here that the black knight returns to base in an attempt to re-route itself to the kingside defence. It is, though, far too late for that.

23 Rg5 Qe8
24 Qd3 Qe4

Losing the exchange. There was nothing else - h5 was dropping off and the f5 pawn was far too difficult to defend. Black could have happily resigned here.

25 Qxe4 fxe4
26 Ne6 Rcf7
27 Nxf8 Rxf8
28 Rf1

There is no rush. White can simply defend, since the h5 pawn cannot be defended. Black is an exchange down for no good reason with other pawns falling.

28 ... Nd7
29 Rxh5 Rf6
30 f4 a5
31 Rg5 Nb6

Black attempts to target the backward e pawn. White wipes out that final hope immediately.

32 Rc1 Nc4
33 Rxc4 dxc4
34 Rxa5 b5
35 g4 Rd6
36 Ra8+ Kf7
37 Rc8

There was no need for contemplation here. White can play quickly and confidently, since Black is far too much material down. Black simply wished to reach the time control, when he could resign with dignity.

37 ... Rh6
38 h5 Rh7
39 Rxc6 1-0

Opening references

A 7 h3 Bh5 8 Rc1 0-0 9 a3 Bxc3+ 10 Rxc3 dxc4 11 Rxc4 Ng6 12 Bh2 Bxf3 13 Qxf3 e5 14 d5 Na5 15 Rc3 c6 16 dxc6 Nxc6 17 Bc4 Nh4 18 Qg4 Kh8 19 Rd3 Qe7 20 Rd7 f5 21 Rxe7 fxg4 R Akesson (2460) v A Morozevich (2575), London 1994 [0-1 (51)]

B 7 ... Bxf3 8 gxf3 dxc4 9 Bxc4 Bd6 10 Bxd6 Qxd6 11 0-0-0 Qb4 12 d5 Qxb3 13 Bxb3 exd5 14 Nxd5 Nxd5 15 Bxd5 Ke7 16 Rhg1 g6 17 Rg4 f5 18 Rc4 Rhd8 19 Bxc6 Rxd1+ 20 Kxd1 bxc6 21 Rxc6 Kd7 22 Rf6 Ke7 23 Ra6 I Rausis (2470) v G Den Hollander (1905), Haarlem 1997 [1-0 (48)]

C 7 ... Bxf3 8 gxf3 0-0 9 Bg3 dxc4 10 Bxc4 Nd5 11 Bxd5 exd5 12 0-0-0 Bxc3 13 Qxc3 Qf6 14 Bf4 Ne7 15 Kb1 Rfc8 16 Rc1 Ng6 17 Bxc7 Qxf3 18 Rhf1 h5 19 Ka1 Qh3 20 Qc5 Nf8 21 Qb5 Qd7 22 Qxd7 T Nyback (2448) v M Maki Uuro (2325), Helsinki 2002 [0-1 (50)]

D 7 ... 0-0 8 Ne5 Bxc3+ 9 bxc3 Nxe5 10 Bxe5 Nc6 11 Bg3 Na5 12 Qb4 b6 13 c5 Qd7 14 h3 Bf5 15 Be2 Rfe8 16 Bb5 c6 17 Be2 Qd8 18 0-0 b5 19 a4 a6 20 Ra2 Nc4 21 Rfa1 Rc8 22 axb5 I Lorincz (2360) v T Ruck (2265), Hungary 1995 [0-1 (42)]

Chris Ross