

NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – August 2013

Chairman's Chatter

In athletics, they changed the rules to make disqualification immediate if you jumped the gun. What penalty should we apply to two of our athletes who played a game in the Club Ladder competition in July? The ranking list is included in this issue so that qualifying games can be arranged from now on.

Paul Hanks

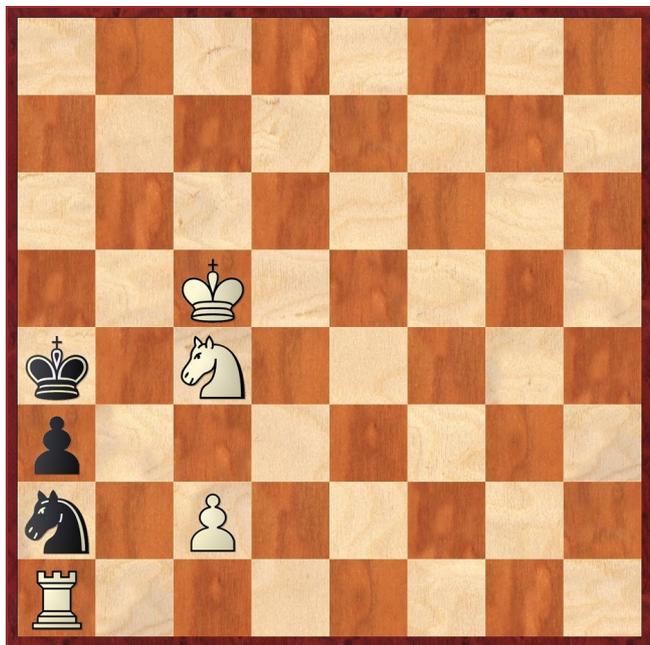
Diary Dates

The provisional date for Club Annual General Meeting is 4th September. Please expect the normal agenda but also have some ideas about how we should shape the coming season.

In August, there are four club nights before we start the formal schedule of events. If Masterclass sessions are held on each night, they will cover preliminary analysis of candidate moves and deep analysis of variations. An instruction session will be followed the next week by a game clinic to explore our own recent efforts.

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



Last Month's solution (O Wurzburg, BCM 1896)

Position : 8/pk1B4/p7/2K1p3/8/8/4Q3/8

1 Bh3 a5 2 Qa6+ Kxa6 3 Bc8#

2 ... Kc7/a8/b8 3 Qc8#

1 ... other 2 Qg4 and 3 Qc8# though 2 Qa6 also mates in some variations

Website to Watch

Until 4th August, you can catch the tail end of the traditional Sparkasse Chess tournament in Dortmund on www.sparkassen-chess-meeting.de. The main event of the month, however, is the FIDE World Cup being held in Tromso, Norway. It is a knock-out competition between 128 players and the games run from 11th August to 3rd September. The first round draw has already been made and progress can be followed on www.chessworldcup2013.com.

Window on the Web

The Scottish GM Jacob Aagaard (pronounced "Oogo" in his native Danish) is a resident of Glasgow and has won both the Scottish and British championships. He has written several chess books, is a FIDE senior trainer and part owner of the chess publishing house Quality Chess.

Aagaard has an extensive on-line blog at <http://www.qualitychess.co.uk/blog/> which contains some interesting articles and comments. His blog on 8 July gives the moves of a game in which he played the Sveshnikov Sicilian as Black against Tiviakov, having recently written a book on the opening. He followed his own suggested line but was faced with a novelty and lost – proving you should not rely on everything you read in a chess book.

The home page has links to various sections of the site including *Jacob Aagaard's Training Tips*. There are some exercises here, together with articles such as *Understand What Type of Player You Are and Adjust Your Style Accordingly*, *Ten Ways to Improve in Chess*, and *Analysing Your Own Games* (the best way to do it). He also discusses the importance of physical fitness and writes about *Goal Setting* and asks *What is Calculation?*

There is an archive of monthly blogs going back to September 2009. I found the older ones to be a little disappointing as they consist mainly of progress reports on upcoming publications from Quality Chess (as might be expected) and reviews of various books. One older blog that I did find interesting is *Review of Positional Play on ChessCafe*, dated 3 Jan 2012. GM Aagaard takes exception to a review of his book *Grandmaster Preparation: Positional Play*, in which Aagaard suggests that decision-making at the board can be helped by asking

1. Where are the weaknesses?
2. Which is the worst-placed piece?
3. What is your opponent's idea?

There is a link to the review, which contains some exercises from the book, with solutions.

Ron Jones

Result Round-up

New England Club Ladder

White			Black		
N Wedley			½	½	D Lane

Position	Change		Player	Record <small>31/07/13</small>
	Month	Overall		
1			J Parker	
2			S Caraway	
3			D Lane	½
4			N Wedley	½
5			F Bowers	
6			I Garrett	
7			S Walker	
8			H Currie	
9			P O'Gorman	
10			M Tarabad	
11			P Hanks	
12			S Wozniak	
13			J Sadler	
14			P Spencer	
15			P Turp	

Serious Study

Have I left the best until last? This is the final article in the series on the Najdorf Sicilian (1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6) and it is traditional for a climax to be marked by a firework spectacular. I have taken a different, quieter approach and will be examining White's positional continuations on move 6. These are likely to be more difficult to understand because there will rarely be a glittering tactical refutation of weak moves.

The main move here will be 6 Be2 and when Najdorf was introduced his eponymous variation to world-class chess at Budapest 1950, this move was indeed Smyslov's choice. Karpov also used it frequently and resorted to it in the must-win game at the end of his Moscow 1985 match against Kasparov which cost him the world title.

6 Be2 is not the only option for the positionally inclined. The slower pace of these openings means that there is time for several motifs to appear before the middlegame crisis occurs. The most notable alternatives are :

- 6 f4 is closely related to 6 Be2 and many games are simple transpositions with these two moves and 0-0 being played in any legal permutation. One way to avoid returning to the main line is to interject Qd1-f3 before the bishop is developed. Short used this to tickle

Kasparov at Debrecen 1992 when he played 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 f4 e6 7 Qf3 Qb6 8 a3 with the obvious trap 8 ... Qxd4 9 Be3 netting the black queen.

- 6 a4 is a favourite with Kamsky. His plan is to impede Black's normal counterplay starting b7-b5 especially as White is well placed to occupy the long light-squared diagonal with Be2-f3 and put pressure on b7.
- 6 g3 is becoming increasingly popular. The idea is that after Bf1-e2 and f2-f4 in the main line, White often continues Be2-f3, later begins an attack with g2-g4 and then vacates the d1-h5 diagonal for the white queen with Bf3-g2. With an early fianchetto, White can save a tempo compared with the indirect route.
- 6 h3 is deceptive. Normally, it would simply deter Black from playing a piece to g4. Here, however, h2-h3 supports a subsequent kingside attack including the pawnstorm g2-g4. In the English Attack, f2-f3 performs the same function but has disadvantages in restricting the f pawn's influence in the centre and blocking Qd1-h5.

The structure of Black's response to 6 Be2 depends on how far the e pawn is pushed when claiming territory in the centre.

- No advance at all just invites White to advance...

A Gipslis v M Quinteros

Olot, 1973

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Be2 Nbd7 7 f4 Nc5 8 Bf3 Qb6 9 Nb3 Nxb3 10 axb3 g6 11 e5 dxe5 12 fxe5 Nd7 13 Nd5 Qd8 14 Bg5 h6 15 Bh4 g5 16 Bg3 Bg7 17 e6 with a massive attack

- With 6 ... e6, Black adopts the Scheveningen set-up. It is a major continuation in its own right but can often arise from other move orders such as 1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 e6 2 d4 cd4 4 Nd4 a6 5 Be2 Nf6 6 Nc3 d6.

Smyslov offers some instructive advice for the opening exchanges in his annotations to a brevity against a future British champion.

V Smyslov v C Kottbauer

Groningen 1946

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	a6
6	Be2	e6
7	0-0	b5

A typical reaction in the Sicilian but premature in these circumstances if White is sufficiently vigorous.

8	Bf3	Ra7
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The alternative 8 ... Bb7 allows variants of 9 e5 Bxf3 10 Qxf3 Nd5 11 Nxd5 exd5 12 Re1.

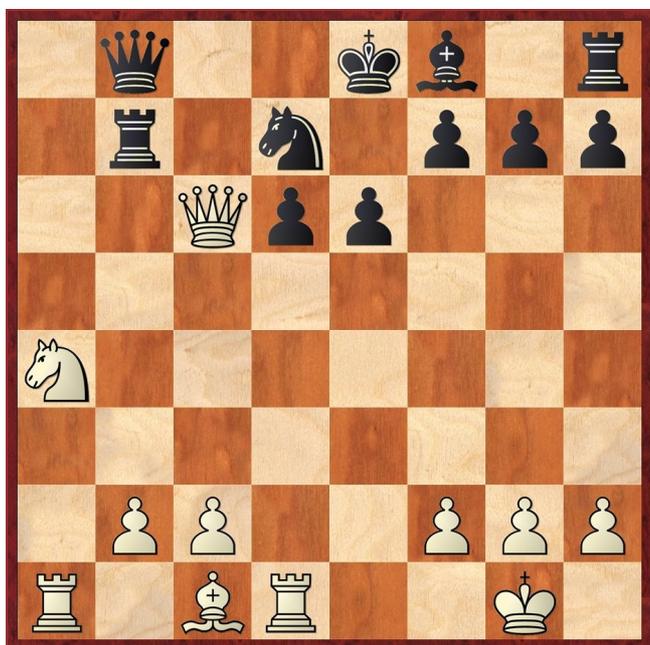
9 Qe2 Rc7

Ideally, Black wants to play Ra7-d7 so that e4-e5 would dangerously open the d file against his own queen. White removes her highness and would now respond 9 ... Rd7 10 e5 dxe5 11 Nc6 Qc7 12 Nxb8 Qxb8 13 Bc6. This analysis by the world champion is not, however, the strongest line according to Fritz.

10 Rd1 Nbd7
11 a4 bxa4
12 Nxa4 Bb7
13 e5 Nxe5

13 ... dxe5 14 Bxb7 exd4 15 Bxa6 leaves White with the superior position.

14 Bxb7 Rxb7
15 Qxa6 Qb8
16 Nc6 Nxc6
17 Qxc6+ Nd7



18 Nc5 dxc5
19 Bf4 Bd6

19 ... Qxf4 allows the heavy white pieces to penetrate 20 Qc8+ Ke7 21 Qxb7 Kf6 22 Rxd7 Kg6 23 g3 Qc4 24 Ra7

20 Bxd6 Rb6
21 Qxd7+ 1-0

In a more strategic vein, White's quiet development behind the e4 and f4 pawn front relies on the centre remaining stable and eventually, g2-g4 heralds the expected kingside attack. Black is more cramped and as 0-0 is fairly standard for both sides, the natural queenside advances lack a target. Instead, Black, shuffles the pieces with waiting moves and contests the centre when White's concentration shifts to the flank. A typical example between well-prepared opponents is

M Carlsen (2733) v V Anand (2799)
Wijk aan Zee 2008

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Be2 e6 7 a4 Nc6 8 0-0 Be7 9 Be3 0-0 10 f4 Qc7 11 Kh1 Re8 12 Bf3 Rb8 13 Qd2 Bf8 14 Qf2 Bd7 15 g4



White has achieved his aim in terms of a space advantage and kingside initiative. Surprisingly, Black was able to drag the focus of play back to the centre, exchange pieces and grab some pawns.

15 ... e5 16 Nf5 exf4 17 Bxf4 Be6 18 Rad1 Ne5 19 Bxe5 dxe5 20 g5 Nd7 21 Nd5 Qc6 22 Bg2 Qc5 23 Qh4 Qxc2 24 Rc1 Qxa4 25 b3 Qa5 26 Rc3 g6 27 Rh3 h5. White played 28 Bf3 and Black went on to win. Anand's post-mortem analysis recommended 28 Ng3 Bxh3 29 Bxh3 Re6 30 Nxh5 gxh5 31 Qf2 winning.

- 6 ... e5 is the trademark Najdorf continuation and is currently being played twice as frequently as 6 ... e6. It gives Black a more solid position and by depriving f2-f4 of its impetus, White does not drum up rapid attacking chances. In fact, databases show few short games (except for blunders).

In fact, the positions can become so difficult that even the very best can make errors of judgement.

G Kasparov (2785) v V Anand (2735)
Las Palmas, 1996

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Be2 e5 7 Nb3 Be7 8 0-0 0-0 9 Kh1 b5 10 a4 Bb7 11 Nd5 bxa4 12 Rxa4 Bc6 13 Ra3 Nxe4 14 Na5 Nf6 15 Nxc6 Nxc6 16 Bc4 Nd4 17 Rh3 g6 18 Qd2! Nf5 19 Nxf6+ Bxf6 20 Bd5? lead to a draw in 63 moves.

Later it was found that the immediate 20 g4! would give excellent winning chances [20 ... Nh4 21 g5; 20 ... Qc8 21 Bd5; 20 ... d5 21 Bd3 Nd6 (21 ... e4 22 gxf5 exd3 23 Qh6 Re8 24 Qxh7+ Kf8 25 fxg6) 22 Qh6 Re8 23 Qxh7+ Kf8 24 Bxg6].