

# NEW ENGLANDER

## Chess Club Update – December 2013

### Chairman's Chatter

In the "Team 550" competition, Sam Caraway has found his other commitments are taking too much time for him to give sufficient attention to his captancy. He has stepped aside and Ron Jones has agreed to take over. Many thanks to Sam for his efforts and best of luck to Ron - Sam's unbeaten streak is a hard act to follow!

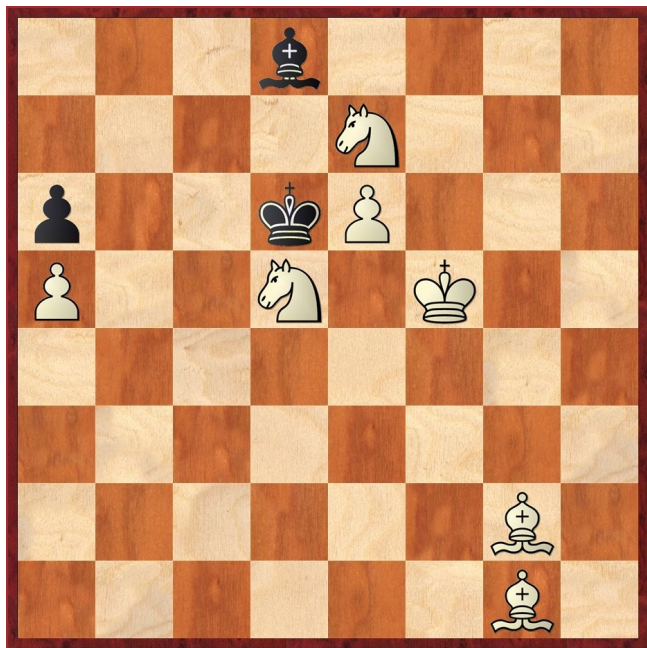
*Paul Hanks*

### Diary Dates

Our Xmas Special will take place on 18<sup>th</sup> December before our two week break for the festive season.

### Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



Last Month's solution (Lund)

Position : 2B5/6R1/3p4/4k3/8/6P1/1K6/3Q4

1 Qa4 Kf6 2 Qd4# [1 ... Kd5 2 Rg5#; 1 ... d5 2 Qf4#]

### Website to Watch

Sixteen players will contest the London Chess Classic from 11<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> December but in a new format. This year, four rapidplay encounters will run concurrently and a session ticket (£15) will cover two such quartets of games. Juniors born on or after 1<sup>st</sup> September 1995 accompanied by a paying adult can enter for free and a day ticket for two sessions will set you back £25. Otherwise, the website [www.londonchessclassic.com](http://www.londonchessclassic.com) will allow you to follow the tournament.

### Window on the Web

<http://www.chesslive.de/js/apps/onlinedb/> is the website of the Chess Live Database. As the name suggests, it is a database of games but is also an openings explorer. There are over 3 million games starting 1 e4 and over 2 million starting 1 d4, with 18 other first moves in order of popularity, the last being 1 Na3 (112 games). Believe it or not, the database has 229 games starting 1 f3. To test it, I entered the moves of my last game, in which I thought I'd played an inferior move early on, only to find there were nearly 15,000 games where my move had been played, so it was probably not so bad after all. However, my opponent played a novelty on move 9 so the explorer was only useful up to that point.

The board interface is clear and easy to use, with the usual flip board, take back and search features. Many games are listed by top GMs such as Adams, Aronian and Svidler, from this year's Warsaw Men's European Team Championship won by Azerbaijan.

One of the advantages of this opening explorer is that there is no need to register to use it.

*Ron Jones*

### Result Round-up

#### Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

New England A	2½	Warboys A	2½
P Turp	1	R Mann	0
S Caraway	½	B Duff	½
M Dunkley	1	N Greenwood	0
P Hanks	0	C Watkins	1
R Jones	0	J Beck	1

Peterborough B	3½	New England B	½
A Summers	½	R Jones	½
M Connolly	1	P Spencer	0
D McClennon	1	J Parker	0
P Silman	1	M Tarabad	0

#### Team 550 Competition

New England 1	3	Godmanchester	1
P Hanks	1	J Wright	0
P Spencer	1	A Rankine	0
J Parker	1	J Bygrave	0
I Garrett	0	M English	1

New England 2	2½	Warboys	1½
S Caraway	0	R Mann	1
R Jones	½	B Duff	½
D Lane	1	M Onyons	0
N Wedley	1	K Harbour	0

Godmanchester	1	New England 2	3
J Wright	0	M Dunkley	1
A Rankine	0	R Jones	1
J Bygrave	0	D Lane	1
M English	1	M Tarabad	0

#### New England Club Ladder

White		Black	
M Tarabad	0	1	P Spencer
D Lane	0	1	P Hanks
N Wedley	0	1	M Tarabad
P O'Gorman	0	1	D Lane
P Spencer	1	0	I Garrett

Position	Change		Player	Record 27/11/13
	Month	Overall		
1	+5	+13	P Spencer	1,1,1,1
2	-	-	S Caraway	1
3	-2	+7	M Tarabad	1,1,0,1
4	-1	+2	I Garrett	1,0,1,0,1,0
5	+3	+6	P Hanks	1,1
6	-1	-2	N Wedley	½,½,1,0
7	-3	-4	D Lane	½,0,1
8	+2	-7	J Parker	0,½,0,0
9	-2	-4	F Bowers	
10	-1	-3	S Walker	
11	-	-3	H Currie	0,0
12	-	-3	P O'Gorman	0
13	-	-1	S Wozniak	0
14	-	-1	J Sadler	0,0
15	-	-	P Turp	

#### Club Championship

Round 1			
C Russell	½	½	S Walker

Round 2			
P Turp (1)	1	0	M Tarabad (1)
P Spencer (1)	0	1	M Dunkley (1)
S Caraway (1)	1	0	C Russell (½)
S Walker (½)	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>	P Hanks (1)
J Parker (0)	0	1	R Jones (0)
J Sadler (0)	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>	D Lane (0)
I Garrett (0)	1	0	N Wedley (0)

Match night : 13th November. Deadline : 31st December.  
Next draw : 1st January

#### New England Grand Prix

Player	Champ	Ladder	League	Cup	Team 550	Total
P Spencer	1	4	1½	0	1	7½
M Tarabad	1	3	1		0	5
I Garrett	1	3			1	5
M Dunkley	2	-	2	0	1	5
S Caraway	2	1	½	0	1	4½
P Hanks	1	2	½	0	1	4½
N Wedley	0	2			2	4
D Lane	0	1½	0	½	2	4
R Jones	1		1½	0	1½	4
P Turp	2		1	0		3
J Sadler	0	0	½		1	1½
J Parker	0	½		0	1	1½
C Russell	½	-				½
S Walker	½		0			½
H Currie	-	0				0
B Sadler	-				0	0
S Wozniak	-	0				0
P O'Gorman	-	0				
F Bowers	-					

#### Club Mini-Lightning : 27<sup>th</sup> November 2013

Group A	JS	PT	IG	NW	JP	Group B	Total
J Sadler	<b>X</b>	1	1	0	1	1	4
P Turp	0	<b>X</b>	1	1	1	0	3
I Garrett	0	0	<b>X</b>	1	1	1	3
N Wedley	1	0	0	<b>X</b>	1	0	2
J Parker	0	0	0	0	<b>X</b>	0	0

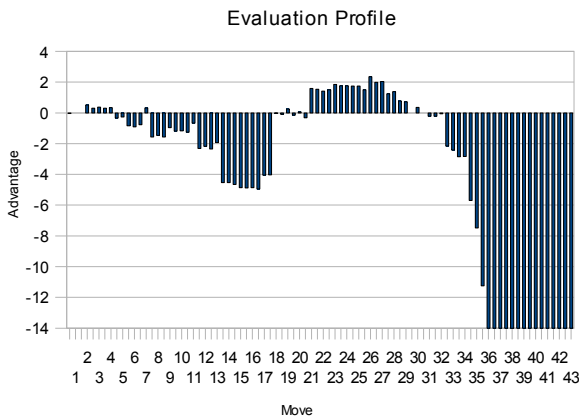
Group B	PH	DL	SC	MT	BS	Group A	Total
P Hanks	<b>X</b>	1	1	1	1	1	5
D Lane	0	<b>X</b>	1	0	1	1	3
S Caraway	0	0	<b>X</b>	1	1	1	3
M Tarabad	0	1	0	<b>X</b>	1	0	2
B Sadler	0	0	0	0	<b>X</b>	0	0

Play-Off			
J Sadler	0	1	P Hanks
P Turp	0	1	D Lane
I Garrett	0	1	S Caraway
N Wedley	0	1	M Tarabad
J Parker	0	1	B Sadler

### Match of the Month

If you follow the on-line games from a grandmaster tournament, they now include an "evaluation profile" graph alongside the computer analysis. This is a graphic representation of how the software evaluates the position after each move in units equivalent to a pawn. Interestingly, the initial position starts as 0.23 in favour of White but this is usually disregarded!

Here is an example that relates to this month's game.



As you can see, we swapped a fraction of a pawn in a random fashion for the first seven moves and then, Black developed a serious advantage peaking at nearly five pawns – enough for an easy win. By move 20, White was on top but Christmas had come early and the compliment was returned. And now for the scoresheet for this fluctuating game.

#### D Lane v P Spencer

New England Club Championship Rd 1, 9.10.13

**1 c4 e5 2 g3 c6 3 Bg2 Nf6 4 Nf3**

Des has played a version of the English, an opening I usually like to play, so I decided on something a bit unusual to try and get my opponent (and maybe me) out of his comfort zone.

The text sequence has been seen at grandmaster level but White normally claims some space in the centre with 4 d4 when a possible continuation is 4 ... e4 5 Nc3 d5 6 Bg5 Nbd7 7 cxd5 cxd5 8 Qb3 Adams v Naiditsch, Baden-Baden 2013.

**4 ... e4 5 Ng5**

At this point, Fritz still prefers White but only with 5 Nd4.

**5 ... d5 6 Qb3 h6 7 Nh3 Qc7**

This was played with the idea of continuing with Be6 to put pressure on the queen. There are at least six moves that maintain Black's slight edge. 7 ... dxc4 8

Qxc4 Na6 9 0–0 Be6 10 Qc3 g5 is recommended but it is hard to be sure that computers are at their strongest at such an early stage.

**8 Nc3**

This is the real start of White's troubles. Des is allowing me too much control of the centre which could be alleviated by exchanges on d5.

**8 ... d4**  
**9 Nd1 Bc5**  
**10 d3 Bf5**

I think my last two moves have to be played. I would have liked to play the dark-squared bishop to d6 threatening e4-e3 with the idea of taking the g3 pawn but my pawn on e4 needs defending first.

**11 Bf4 Qd7**

I think f4 is a good square for white's bishop but I was also happy to see White not castling because this would have eliminated some of my threats in the centre.

**12 Ng1 exd3**  
**13 exd3 Na6**

I'm probably too concerned about Qxb7 at some point and played Na6 to help prevent this and at the same time, threaten Nb4 which attacks the d3 pawn, a pawn that is hard to defend. Black could remove his king from the centre with 13 ... 0–0 and prevent White from doing the same e.g. 14 Ne2 Re8 15 Qc2 Qe7 16 Bf3 Bh3.

**14 a3 Bb6**  
**15 Ne2**

The d3 square can only be defended by ugly contortions. 15 Qc2 Nc5 16 Bf1 Qe6+ 17 Kd2 (17 Be2 Bxd3) 17 ... g5 18 b4 Nce4+ 19 Kc1 (19 dxe4 Bxe4).

**15 ... Nc5**  
**16 Qa2 Nxd3+**  
**17 Kf1 Ne4**  
**18 b4**



18 ... **Nexf2**

No!..... Black has a fine position and has no need to force the pace.

The move I feel highlights a weakness of mine which is my tactical play. I forgot to look at the strengths *and* weaknesses of the position. Instead, I was trying to work out a way of ploughing through with my attack. Maybe if White had not played 18 b4, my plan would have worked but in the game, this had passed me by. My plan was 19 Nxf2 Nxf2 20 Kxf2 d3+ winning my piece back but it doesn't work because of 21 c5 and if 21... d3xe2 22 Qxe2+ and only then picking up my bishop on b6. A much more subtle approach is required e.g. 18 ... 0-0 - I had missed this maybe because it looked too defensive for me - but it would bring the rooks into play and take the black king to a place of safety. True 19 f3 Nf6 20 c5 Nxf4 21 Nxf4 Bc7 seems to be forcing Black backwards but White still faces a passed pawn, has an exposed king and cannot bring his king's rook into the action.

19 **Nxf2** **Nxf2**  
20 **Kxf2** **Be6**  
21 **Qd2** **d3+**

I should have forgotten about my blunder and just looked at the position rather than trying to make some sort of attack work. 21 ... Bxc4 would still give me compensation and level up the material.

22 **c5** **Bd8**  
23 **Nc3**

White is now ahead. I felt that 23 ... Qd4+ would end up forcing White's king back trapping his rook on h1 and also pinning the knight on c3 against the rook. My pawn on d3 may be lost anyway so why leave my queen there to defend it?

23 ... **Qd4+**  
24 **Be3** **Qf6+**  
25 **Kg1** **Bc7**  
26 **Rf1**

Because I know how the game ends, taking the pawn on d3 is probably better but 26 Rf1 is also good as it frees up White's knight and attacks my queen.

26 ... **Qg6**  
27 **Be4** **f5**  
28 **Bg2**

28 Bxd3 looks risky but it is not simple to exploit the pin on the d file. 28 ... 0-0-0 29 Kg2 Bc4 30 Bxf5+ Qxf5 31 Rxf5 Rxd2+ 32 Bxd2.

28 ... **0-0-0**  
29 **Bf4**

White starts to be indecisive and the position drifts towards equality.

29 ... **Qf6**  
30 **Be3** **Rhe8**  
31 **Bf4** **g5**

It still looks quite even but I'm much happier with my position now. I've got some chances with my pawns coming down the kingside and with my pawn on d3. I'm looking to break open the kingside and I didn't feel

as though White has too much play but he does have the extra piece. At this stage, I was getting low on time.

32 **Bxc7** **Kxc7**  
33 **Ne4**

Because of Black's next move, White should create a luft with 33 h3 and then might dream of a queenside counterstroke b4-b5. As a result, 33 ... Bc4 would be a multi-purpose response.

33 ... **Qd4+**  
34 **Nf2** **Bc4**  
35 **Bf3**

White prevents the rook from reaching the seventh rank but ...

35 ... **Re2**

The sky is falling in.

36 **Bxe2**

White can't continue to resist by declining the offer 36 Qd1 g4 37 Bg2 d2.

36 ... **dxe2**  
37 **Qe1** **exf1Q+**  
38 **Qxf1** **Bxf1**  
39 **Kxf1** **Qa1+**

It's now only a matter of finding the quickest finish. The computer suggests paralysing White with 39 ... Qd5 40 h4 Qf3 (threatening Rd1#) 41 Ke1 Re8+ 42 Kd2 Re2+ etc.

40 **Kg2** **Qxa3**  
41 **Re1** **g4**  
42 **Re5** **Qf3+**  
43 **Kg1** **Rd2**

0-1

*Paul Spencer*

## Eye Opener

The Caro-Kann defence has a reputation of producing dull games but occasionally, a game bucks the trend.

**A Gershon (2420) v A Finkel (2505)**  
Ubeda Open Rd 7, 1997

**1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 Nd2 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Nd7 5 Bc4 Ngf6 6 Ng5 e6 7 Qe2 Nb6 8 Bd3 h6 9 N5f3 c5 10 dxc5**

So far, this variation can be found in a number of games e.g. Andreikin v Sjugirov, Moscow 2012.

10 ... **Nbd7**

But here, the natural 10 ... Bxc5 is normal. The quoted game from the Russian Super Final continued 10 ... Bxc5 11 Ne5 0-0 12 Ngf3 a6 13 g4 and White also proceeded to build up a massive kingside attack.

11 **b4** **b6**  
12 **Nd4**

The game is still as balanced as you would expect from this opening especially with 12 ... Nd5. Instead, Black steps on the landmine.

12 ... **bx5**  
13 **Nc6** **Qc7**  
14 **Qxe6+** **1-0**