

NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – April 2014

Chairman's Chatter

Boxers can hang up their gloves. In chess, I suppose you pack up your set and sadly, I have to announce that is what Harry Currie has decided to do.

Harry was one of our longest-serving members and acted as treasurer for both our club and the Cambridgeshire Association. For many years, he was very active in our teams and frequently gave our match captains palpitations when his commuter train was delayed. I think many of you will have fond memories of the Lane v Currie rivalry which made Kasparov v Karpov look like a friendly game.

I should like to thank Harry for his efforts on behalf of the club and wish him all the best enjoying his time away from the chess cauldron.

As one door closes, another opens as we welcome back Francis after a short sabbatical whilst another player eyes us from afar...

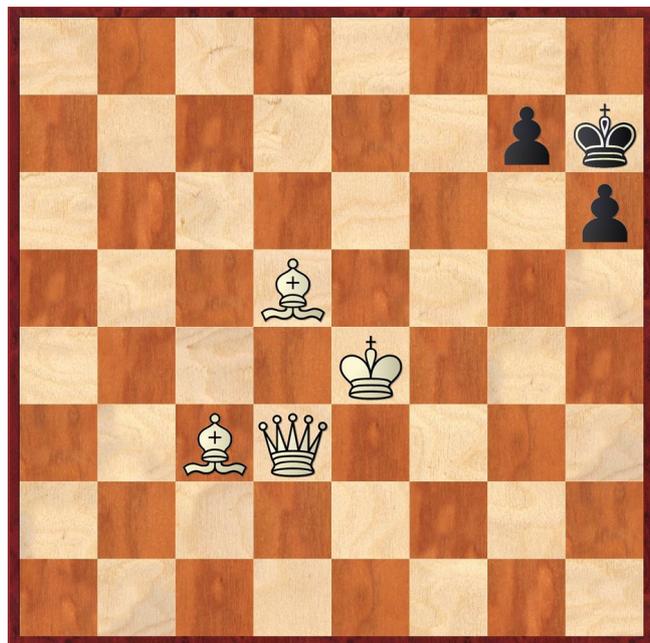
Paul Hanks

Diary Dates

The Club Handicap will take place on 9th April and will follow the traditional format with time distributed between opponents depending on grading difference.

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



8/6pk/7p/3B4/4K3/2BQ4/8/8

Last Month's solution (N Dimitrov)

Position : 8/3KN3/8/4k3/5p2/5Q1R/8/8

1 Rg3 fxc3 2 Nc6# [1 ... Kd4 2 Qd5#; 1 ... Kf6 2 Qxf4#]

Website to Watch

From 20th to 30th April, Azerbaijan hosts the Vugar Gashimov Memorial tournament in Shamkir. Gashimov, a former world No 6, had been inactive for several months on health grounds and sadly, passed away in January at the age of 27. In his honour, six young players (Carlsen, Caruana, Nakamura, Karjakin et al) will contest a round-robin event. Possibly due to the unplanned nature of the event, there does not seem to be an official website yet so you should try a general game viewer such as www.chessbomb.com.

Window on the Web

I recently came across <http://chessimprovement.net> which contains many ideas, blogs and videos dedicated to making us better players. The content is free, apart from a game analysis service. The home page contains an introduction by the site founder, Majnu, with some notes about the improvement method used by GM Yasser Seirawan, which anyone who has seen his videos on St Louis Chess Club's You Tube channel will be aware of. These can be found here :

<http://www.youtube.com/user/STLChessClub?feature=watch>

The introduction is followed by reviews of a couple of endgame books and links to some of Majnu's videos, including a 35-minute one *This is How to Improve You Chess*. Majnu has produced over 300 chess videos on his YouTube channel, and links to them are on the channel and on his site. Titles include *Chess Visualisation Training*, *Chess Calculation Training*, *Middlegame Training* and *Play Like Kramnik*. There are also links to articles on middlegame training, positional sacrifices and tactics and links to 13 endgame videos and other chess websites.

Ron Jones

Result Round-up

Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

St Neots	1	New England A	4
A Chapman	½	F Bowers	½
R Gompelman	½	M Dunkley	½
P Barkas	0	S Caraway	1
C Emery	0	P Turp	1
J Dunn	0	P Hanks	1
Buckden	3½	New England B	½
P Barkas	1	D Lane	0
C Norton	½	P Spencer	½
S Buttercase	1	M Tarabad	0
M Friday	1	I Garrett	0

Team 550 Competition

Warboys	P	New England 2	P
New England 2	2	St Neots	2
P Turp	0	R Gompelman	1
D Lane	0	J Dunn	1
N Wedley	1d	D E Fault	0d
M Tarabad	1d	D E Fault	0d
New England 1	1½	Warboys	2½
P Hanks	1	R Mann	0
P Spencer	½	B Duff	½
S Walker	0	M Onyons	1
J Parker	0	D Wardle	1
New England 2	4	Godmanchester	0
S Caraway	1	A Rankine	0
D Lane	1	M English	0
N Wedley	1	J Bygrave	0
M Tarabad	1d	D E Fault	0
Godmanchester	1	New England 1	3
J Wright	½	P Spencer	½
M English	0	C Russell	1
J Bygrave	½	S Wozniak	½
M Lynn	0	I Garrett	1

New England Club Ladder

White		Black	
M Tarabad	0	1	P Spencer

Position	Change		Player	Record <small>26/03/14</small>
	Month	Overall		
1	-	+5	I Garrett	1,0,1,0,1,0,0
2	-	+12	P Spencer	1,1,1,1,1
3	-	-1	S Caraway	1,1,½,1,½
4	-	-	N Wedley	½,½,1,0,1,1,0
5	-	+6	P Hanks	1,1,½
6	-	+4	M Tarabad	1,1,0,1,0,0
7	-	-	S Walker	1
8	+1	-7	J Parker	0,½,0,0,0
9	-1	-6	D Lane	½,0,1
10	+1	+2	S Wozniak	0,0
11	-1	-3	H Currie	0,0
12	+2	+4	M Dunkley	½
13	-1	-4	P O'Gorman	0
14	-1	-9	F Bowers	
15	-	-2	J Sadler	0,0
16	-	-1	P Turp	

Club Championship

Round 4			
M Dunkley (3)	½	½	P Hanks (3)
S Caraway (2)	1	0	R Jones (1+P)
S Walker (1½)	0	1	P Turp (2)
J Sadler (1½)	1	0	C Russell (1½)
I Garrett (1)	0	1	M Tarabad (1½)
P Spencer (1+P)	1	0	N Wedley (½)
J Parker (½)	0	1	D Lane (0)

Round 5			
S Caraway (3)			M Dunkley (3½)
P Turp (3)			P Hanks (3½)
M Tarabad (2½)			P Spencer (2+P)
R Jones (1+P)			J Sadler (2½)
I Garrett (1)			S Walker (1½)
J Parker (½)			C Russell (1½)
N Wedley (½)			D Lane (1)

Match night : 23rd April. Deadline : 30th April.
Next draw : 1st May

New England Grand Prix

Player	Champ	Ladder	League	Cup	Team 550	Total
P Spencer	2	5	5	0	3½	15½
P Hanks	3½	2½	2	½	4½	13
S Caraway	3	4	2	0	2	11
D Lane	1	1½	2	½	3	8
M Dunkley	3½	½	2	0	2	8
N Wedley	½	4	-	-	3	7½
J Sadler	2½	0	3		1½	7
M Tarabad	2½	3	1	0	0	6½
I Garrett	1	3		-	2	6
P Turp	3		2	½	½	6
R Jones	1		2	0	1½	4½
S Walker	1½	1	1	-	0	3½
J Parker	½	½	0	0	2	3
C Russell	1½	-		-	1	2½
F Bowers	-		½	-		½
S Wozniak	-	0		-	½	½
P O'Gorman	-	0		-		0
B Sadler	-			-	0	0
H Currie	-	0		-		0

Match of the Month

It is nearly 2 years since I last stood in front of a class and taught German. Those two years have gone by in a blur. Gone are those long nights, full of lesson preparation, exercise books, exam marking and the stress of the pastoral side of the role, which would never leave you. Back to a "normal" life, as it were. I will value my ten years of teaching even if I somewhat reflect on them with a certain amount of nostalgia. For they shaped me and have effectively set me up for the remainder of my working life. In those years, I earned well, was able to step onto the property ladder and was introduced to such a bewildering assortment of people ranging from the students, to their parents and all the outside agencies I had to deal with.

The educational world has taken such a nose-dive in this country, and I think that I was very fortunate to get out when I could, although thinking about it objectively, I probably stayed two years longer than I should. I was effectively "forced" out of my role as a Modern Foreign Languages teacher, and I have been suitably compensated by the school for their rough treatment of my position and my department's collapse. That is a long and torrid story in itself but I am lucky that all of the action, the breakdown and resulting recompense happened without me having to do a thing. So dramatic were the goings-on that I was able to stand aside, allow it to happen and not invest time or money in contesting the outcome. It took a year really, but eventually, closure and a pay cheque came my way. Nothing substantial, but considering I did not have to do a thing to get it, it was very welcome!

In that May of 2012, I spent nearly a whole month searching for new employment. Day in, day out, I searched and I filled out numerous applications. It was a daunting prospect for me, for I had never applied for a non-teaching post. Interviews for teaching posts last all day and you have to perform several things, including practice lessons and discussions with governors, students and teachers. A "civilian" job interview, lasting 30 minutes, was something I had no practice at. I am a confident person, and do not get nervous in such scenarios. I express myself well and have a huge breadth of knowledge and experience. Despite that, it was still an amazing accomplishment to be offered a post after my very first interview!

I took up my new employment as "Disability Adviser" at the University of Northampton in the September 2012, having spent the summer in Chennai and Istanbul playing two excellent Olympiads. I walked into my new job, having suffered exactly 10 days of unemployment. A remarkable feat in today's economy.

My current post is excellent. I am effectively in charge of the resource staff, who provide support for disabled students at the university. A lot of these people are note-takers, escorts, who help students from their rooms to the lectures, provide library assistance etc. I have 23 people under me, and I have to give assistance to about 75 core students - concentrated

support on a daily basis is a challenging organisational task. In my department, there are about 1200 registered students. The job is varied. I interview students, obtain government funding for them, give guidance on how the university can support them in their studies, and go into lectures. I also teach the teachers how to teach(!) which is a thrilling and enthralling role-reversal.

The chess still rumbles onwards. As Jonathan Trott has recently experienced, "burn-out" is potentially something I have experienced in the past season. When I first arrived, it was exciting to discover that I could actually play in three different leagues. I play for Chess Mates in the Northamptonshire league, Northampton in the Bedfordshire league and for Daventry in the Leamington league. And yes, this has sometimes meant, playing three evenings a week! With weekends away at congresses, the 4NCL, playing for York in the Woodhouse Cup, or international tournaments, this has led to a lot of chess.

OK, I do not have the evening pressures as I did when teaching but the enthusiasm for so much chess has waned. With such a large volume of chess, you are always going to get good results and bad results and yes, I have lost a number of games against strong and not so strong opposition over the past 16 months. This has now made me realise that I have to rein it all in and from September 2014, I am going to be extremely selective in what I play.

My stride for my FIDE Master title has somewhat been halted by my performance in Division 1 of the 4NCL. Although it is thrilling to play in such a high division, you are facing very strong opposition. The highlight this year was playing Grandmaster John Emms, whom you will all know. Such an experience, analysing with him afterwards! This begs the question then as to how I should continue. Play in Division 1 against these amazing players and accept very strong opposition or drop down to the second team and play on board 1 in division 2 facing players of my own strength. An interesting dilemma.

I sometimes see some of you at the county matches, where I have not really shined this year. Newmarket is not my favourite venue. I find the hall rather off-putting and with no alcohol there, it's even worse! I am happy to speak to you all and enjoy a social chat. Please don't expect me to be a fountain of chess wisdom - I need to wind down and forget about chess before the second game in the afternoon!

I will try and get across at some stage. I still have my house in Huntingdon and while it is self-financing, I am leaving that in place. I do not think I will stay here in Northampton and that is why I hesitate to buy a second property or sell mine and buy here. I have actually gone for a job in London, working in St George's Hospital, which would have been a promotion relative to my current post. That was this past January but as the interviewing panel told me in the feedback, I have only been in my new role for 18 months and have not gathered enough practical

experience to step up the ladder yet. Which is true and valid, to be fair. I do foresee myself moving back to Yorkshire at some stage but await a job opening. I am in no rush but I am not going to sit here forever. I have a job and that is something you have to be glad about nowadays. Just like my chess, security and slow positional play is the key!

So, cross your fingers for me in Greece this coming May. There, I will be playing in the IBCA World Individual Championships for the visually impaired. Winning the tournament will automatically give me an IM title. Naturally, that is a big ask with the Russians and other strong East European players also there. Neil McDonald will accompany me and considering it is an individual tournament, I do not have to worry about a team or team selection. I am excited and am looking forward to it, very much so. Hopefully, I can keep you all informed on how I do and I am sure that the games will become available shortly afterwards.

So, good luck to one and all and keep sending your games to Paul for publication. I always read the Newsletter and enjoy the games and commentary!

Here is an interesting game, played in the 4NCL during February 2014. I have had much success against the Closed Sicilian over the years and the set-up I adopt here has served me well, fitting into my positional style of play against an apparently aggressive plan. The intriguing feature of this game is how a seemingly difficult concealed pin is neatly reversed onto White, causing the collapse of an illusionary strong centre.

M Ludbrook (Oxford 2) v **C Ross** (e2e4.org.uk 2)
4NCL Division 3S, Daventry Court, 15.02.2014

1	e4	c5
2	Nc3	Nc6
3	g3	g6
4	Bg2	Bg7
5	d3	Rb8

This sideline of the Closed Sicilian baffles many players of the white pieces, as they often do not have easy targets on the kingside to lash out at. In this structure, Black delays the development of his king's knight as long as possible, akin to some lines in the Modern Defence.

One of White's strongest assets is his bishop fianchetto on g2. For that reason, Black removes the rook from the long diagonal and initiates activity down onto the b2 square, the focus of his own 'Dragon' bishop. Tactics along the h1-a8 diagonal are avoided and a queenside expansion quickly instigated.

6	Be3	d6
7	Qd2	b5

With the black king remaining in the centre, it is challenging for White to come up with a decisive plan. He wishes to go king-hunting with f2-f4-f5 but becomes occupied with defending his queenside and the vulnerable b2 square. The Dragon bishop is a menacing piece and White has to be wary of loose pawns on the queenside which Black could easily snaffle and run away quickly with his stolen booty.

8 Nge2 Nd4

It is essential that White is not permitted to transpose the position into an "Open Sicilian", as Black's lack of development would be detrimental to his structure. Black prevents White from playing d3-d4 with an advantageous opening up of lines for White. To evict the knight on its strongly outpost at d4, White will have to play c2-c3, thereby giving the black b pawn a target and permitting the rook on b8 to be opened. It is a tough choice for White, to either allow the knight to stand unchallenged on d4 or to create potential weaknesses in his queenside pawn structure.

9 0-0

The week before this game, FIDE Master Alan Merry played 9 Rb1? against me and soon lost a pawn. After 9 ... b4, 10 Nd1 Bg4! the light squares around the White camp proved far too weak. He spent the remainder of the game grovelling for a draw which, to be fair, he held well in the rook and pawn ending.

9 ... b4

This is a desirable push for Black in any case, so there is no reason to delay it any more.

10 Nd1 Bg4

Once again, demonstrating to White that his light-squares are indeed vulnerable. Note that the snazzy 10 ... Bh3 does not actually work, as 11 Bxd4 solves all of White's tactical difficulties. This was also the case in the aforementioned Merry game. If the light squares, specifically f3, are proving to be vulnerable for White, maybe 9 h3 is his best try. Although a P-R3 move, this is not out of place as part of a kingside expansion. White often does push with g3-g4 in similar structures to this and will frequently strive for f2-f4 with a further push of f4-f5. In that type of position, with white pawns on g4, f4 and e4, Black's practically forced reply will always have to be f7-f5 when captures on f5 need to be carefully calculated. More often than not, "Reverse-mirror" captures are necessary on f5. For example, if g4xf5, Black will have to recapture with the e pawn. And if White captures with e4xf5, Black should recapture with the g pawn. Although not set in stone, this is a general maxim Black should heed as far as possible.

11 f3 Nxe2+

This zwischenzug has the intention of misplacing the white queen. Black wishes to avoid a slightly awkward pawn structure with a doubled pawn on d4 if he can. Since a c5xd4 capture is not going to hit a knight on c3 any more, the structural alteration is not desirable.

The purpose of the queen being on d2 is to support a future Bh6. With the white f pawn being on f3, it will have to advance to f4 to free the blocked fianchettoed bishop on g2 but there it obstructs the dark-squared bishop on e3 making Bh6 impossible. The white queen on e2 loses her influence on the black kingside.

12 Qxe2 Bd7

12 ... Be6 is an option but the bishop is not intended for that diagonal. Although the white queenside pawns are a point of focus, Black is not really interested in

attempting to steal a pawn. The fianchettoed bishop on g2 is going to be brought to life and Black aims to neutralise it as quickly as possible.

13 f4 Qc7

Again, 13 ... Qc8 is an option, as she eyes up the white kingside and has Bh3 in the offing. She also serves the purpose of defending the c5 pawn, which could be a tactical liability. White is potentially threatening to break with e4-e5, and if Black is to undermine the pawn chain with d6xe5, he has to be wary of his loose c5 pawn. Also, if Black wishes to push with c5-c4 to create further weaknesses on the queenside, the a7 pawn has to be defended as the white dark-squared bishop is then opened up. Black has to time all of this play carefully, as a slip in the positioning will allow the two white bishops to spring into life raking down the long diagonals.

14 c3

To develop the knight on d1, White must play this move eventually. White though, intends a big pawn centre. In true Alekhine fashion, Black focuses on hitting the big white centre from the flanks with pieces and tempts White to overextend, which he duly does.

14 ... bxc3
15 bxc3 Nf6

It is time for the completion of development. As Bh6 is no longer on the agenda for White, Black can bring the king's knight into the fray. The knight eyes up the g4 square and has potential bishop-pair gaining ideas with an excursion onto that square. White is being lured into pushing with e4-e5 but captures on e5 will only leave a loose white pawn there and Ng4 hits it with the knight and the Dragon bishop.

16 h3 Bc6

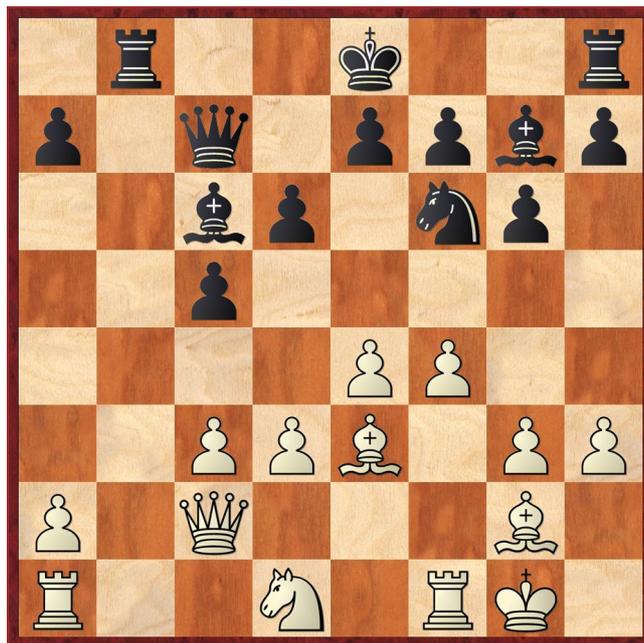
Challenging the long diagonal. Since h2-h3 has been played, the light-squared bishop has no future on the c8-h3 diagonal. The bishop is also used to guard the d5 square, which is a very useful outpost for the black knight if it were to be hit with e4-e5. g4 is no longer a flight square, so a new one is created. The text move also pressurises the e4 pawn, removing d3-d4 as a tactical possibility. To accomplish the push with the centre, the e pawn will need protection first.

17 Qc2?!

It is curious to question this move but it is not White's best. 17 Nf2 has to be advocated, when White would do best to build up slowly. Black can choose whether to play down the b file or go for a central break with d6-d5. White has to protect the e4 pawn because Black threatens 17 ... c4 deflecting the d3 pawn's protection of the e pawn. An annoying trick but it has to be addressed.

Here though is the intriguing feature about this game. Although not an immediate difficulty, White is preparing d3-d4. White solves the tactical difficulties with his centre and he sees that a future push of his d pawn is going to give him a pin down the c file. If Black is ever to capture with c5xd4, the move c3xd4 gives Black big problems down the c file with the

pinned light-squared bishop. Black does not wish to lose any more tempi in his position by manoeuvring. His pieces are just about on their ideal squares. How to resolve the issue of the potential pin?



17 ... 0-0!

Black completely ignores White's threats! He realises that there is a deeper meaning to the pin down the c file and he does not waste any time in dealing with it. Black develops and prepares to bring the king's rook to c8, when his development would be absolute. White now has a very tough choice to make.

18 d4?

After which, it could be argued that White is positionally lost. It is very curious how the big centre could possibly be fatal to White but the weaknesses can soon be exploited. Where Black's knight will settle was discussed on move 16 and the d5 square was created as a flight square. It is astonishing that the d5 square becomes a stronghold. Once the black knight is firmly established on this outpost, it is inevitable that the pawn behind the outpost becomes vulnerable and soon falls - in the way the great Nimzovich preached to us all. Such wisdom should not be readily ignored.

18 ... Bb5

Thus, turning the "pin" onto White. This simple tempo-gaining idea "unpins" the light-squared bishop from the difficulties down the c file. The simplest way to demonstrate this is by the continuation 19 c4 cxd4! when the c4 pawn is pinned against the white queen. A move like this has turned the tables completely and it is apparent that c5xd4 will give White a backward c pawn unless the white queen is protected. Since the rook on f1 is attacked, White's reply is only natural.

19 Rf2 cxd4

Breaking down the white centre and establishing the outpost on d5. The next few moves are forced.

20 cxd4

20 Bxd4 would leave White with a horrible c pawn. 20 ... Rfd8 or 20 ... Rfc8 with simple development will eventually provide dividends and the white c pawn must fall eventually.

20 ... **Qxc2**
21 **Rxc2** **Bd3**

Eliminating the white e4 pawn and establishing that outpost on d5 accordingly.

22 **Rc7** **Bxe4**

The black knight wishes to stand on d5 not e4. The knight has little scope from e4 and hence this capture is necessary. If the light-squared bishops are exchanged on e4, the knight on e4 would gain a tempo on the pawn on g3 (with Ne2+ tactics in the offing thereafter). White is keen on regaining his pawn but he has to be careful to which one he takes.

23 **Rxa7**

23 Rxe7 would give White big problems after 23 ... Bxg2 24 Kxg2 Nd5 when both rook and bishop are hit. The bishop on e3 is loose and material will fall. 25 Re4 f5 26 Re6 Kf7 is just one example.

23 ... **Bxg2**
24 **Kxg2** **Nd5**

Not only establishing the knight on d5, but defending the pawn on e7 simultaneously. Looking at the pawn structures, Black has a single pawn island whereas White has three and a vulnerable d pawn to boot. His single asset, the passed a pawn is not going anywhere very quickly, as the two minor pieces cannot support its advance. The simple comparison of the minor pieces is more than enough justification for this position and the white rook on a7 is only in the way of his asset.

25 **Bg1**

White must maintain this bishop otherwise the d pawn will drop off with devastating effect. Note that a bishop capture on d4 by Black would fork all of the white pieces were the knight on d1 to recapture on e3!

25 ... **Rfc8**

All of the black pieces are now on their optimum squares. The rooks on open files and the minor pieces exerting tremendous pressure on the white camp. Penetration squares are abundant and it is only a matter of time before something crumbles.

26 **Ra3**

The rook dejectedly returns to the third rank and out of the way of his passed a pawn. There is no scope or future for it on the 7th rank.

26 ... **f5**

Clearing the back rank and forging a path for the black king's entry into the game. The light squares in the centre are secured and the knight on d5 cemented.

27 **Rf3**

It is a sad day indeed, when a rook has travelled from f1-f2-c2-c7-a7-a3 only to return to pretty much where it came from. Back on f2, the rook does a defensive job of fending off penetrating rooks landing on c2.

27 ... **Rc4**

There was no need to rush here. White was becoming very short of time and quick, easy moves were the only requirement to put him under more pressure. A possible forcing line is 27 ... e5 28 a4 Rc2+ 29 Rf2 Rxf2+ 30 Bxf2 exf4 31 a5 but this gives White more counterplay than he deserves.

28 **a4** **Nb4**

The black pieces begin to tickle the loose white pawns. This knight introduces tactics with Nc2 and Ne1+ when the white rooks could be entombed. This made calculation for White more challenging, especially in his time-trouble. 28 ... Bxd4 29 Bxd4 Rxd4 30 a5 would win a clear pawn but Black has to deal with the advancing a pawn.

29 **Rb3**

White had to deal with the immediate threat of 29 ... Nc2 which would win at least an exchange by Ne1+. 29 Rb1 Ra8 30 Ne3 Rxd4 31 Nxf5 Rd2+ 32 Rf2 Rxf2+ 33 Bxf2 gxf5 34 Rxb4 is not really what Black wants.

29 ... **Ra8**

Once again, finding simple moves. Black unpins his knight and keeps the threat of 30 ... Nc2. The advancing a pawn is targeted and its protection is not easily achieved. 29 ... Bxd4 30 Bxd4 Rxd4 31 Rab1 would win the d pawn but again, releases the tension in White's time-trouble.

30 **Nb2** **Rc2+**

The check on c2 is given, as it is necessary to move the rook with tempo. The check was not given before now, as it had no purpose. With the white rook's moving from f3, there is no Rf2 blocking motif. Indeed, the "fianchettoed" knight becomes a target.

31 **Kf1** **Nc6**

Although the black knight does not retreat to its outpost, the probing of the white pawns is more than enough justification for its wayward journey. The white pawns are going to prove too vulnerable to hold onto them all. And Black has a cunning plan up his sleeve.

32 **Rd1** **Kf7**

Introducing the black king into the game. This king, if given the chance, can wander into e6 and d5. Immediate Ke6 moves are not possible, of course, due to d4-d5+ forks.

33 **Be3**

White desperately tries to re-group his pieces. In very serious time-trouble, White scrambles around to find an effective way to continue. 33 Rb6 Na5 does not achieve anything, but is an easy move to find in serious time pressure. Black now has a very subtle, but extremely effective continuation.

33 ... **Rb8!**

Once again, a very tough move to meet in serious time pressure. The knight on b2 is protected well by the rook on b3, which is White's best asset. In that regard, Black seeks to rid himself of White's active piece. With its removal, the knight is undermined and, as a consequence of that, the pawn on a4 is

undermined. This exchange of rooks wins the a pawn which is White's only asset.

34 Rxb8 Nxb8

Although the knight is misplaced on b8, it can quickly return to the action. In the meantime, White has to save his own steed.

35 Nd3 Ra2

Winning the passed a pawn. Once this drops, the white d pawn will be pressurised. This will soon fall and the endgame is easily converted.

36 Nb4

As good as a resignation but with seconds to reach the time control, White blitzed out a last few attempts.

**36 ... Rxa4
37 Rb1 Ra5**

Simplest and best. Nd5 tactics are avoided and the theme of pins and counter-pins is continued.

38 Ke2 Rb5

Pinning the knight and forcing an exchange of rooks and knights - the end-game is simple enough.

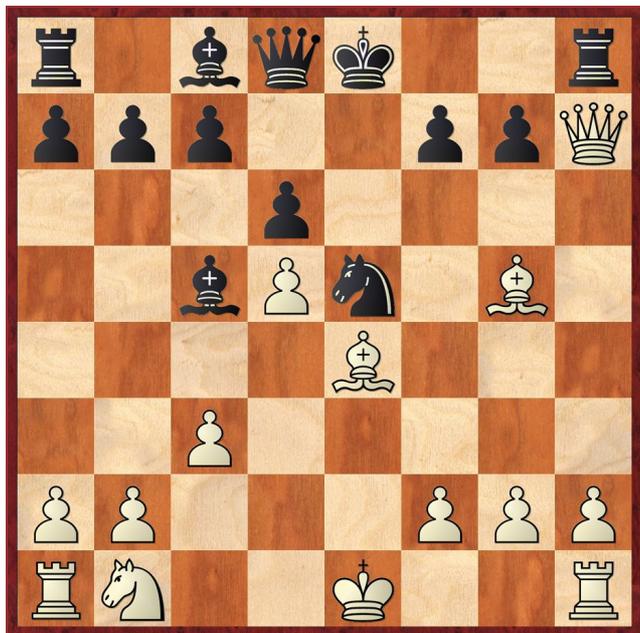
39 Kd3 0-1

And without Black having to make his 39th move, White's flag fell with still another move to make.

Chris Ross

Eye Opener

There is a standard way to estimate a man's age. Count the wrinkles and divide by four! My brow gained a furrow when mentally, I reached the following position when browsing through "Visy Anand : World Chess Champion".



White has just played Qxh7 and Anand rebuffs the idea with the comment "11 ... Qxg5 leaves White no hope". Why? Surely White wins the exchange with check by 12 Qxh8+ Ke7 and although Black threatens 13 ... Qc1+, White can meet this with 13 0-0 or 13 Nd2. After several false starts, my analysis ran :

**11 ... Qxg5
12 Qxh8+ Ke7**
a) **13 0-0 Bf5
14 Qxa8 Bxe4
15 g3 Qg4
16 Nd2 Qh3
17 Nxe4 Nf3**

This looks clinical but there is the spoiling variation **14 h4** and after some time, I dredged from my memory the idea **14 ... Qg3 15 Qh5** (threatening 16 Qg5+) **Ng4** and **15 Kh1 Bxf2 16 Rxf2** (16 Qxa8 Qxh4#) **16 ... Ng4**.

b) **13 Nd2 Bg4
14 Qxa8 Bxf2+**

14 h4/f4 Bxf2+ makes little difference

15 Kxf2

15 Kf1 Qxd2 16 Bf3 Be3

**15 ... Qxd2+
16 Kf1**

16 Kg1 transposes and 16 Kg3 Qe3+ 17 Kh4 g5# though 17 Bf3 Bxf3 goes beyond my horizon with 18 Rhf1 Qg5+ 19 Kf2 Qxg2+ 20 Ke3 Qe2+ 21 Kf4 Ng6+ 22 Kg5 Qe5# or 22 Kg3 Qg2#

and Black can complete the game with a few dance steps **16 ... Qe2+ 17 Kg1 Qe3+ 18 Kf1 Be2+ 19 Ke1 Bf3+ 20 Kf1 Qe2+**.

From this, I learned

1 Because I found a) much easier than b), I am not as familiar with the attacking patterns against the uncastled king

2 12 Nd2 looks tougher to refute than 12 0-0 so I should have concentrated on this first. Analysing the apparently inferior line would have been wasted effort if the better variation held

3 Check your sources! The actual game was

M Kuijf v V Anand
Wijk aan Zee 1990

**1 e4 e5
2 Nf3 Nc6
3 c3 Nf6**

"While he was thinking about his reply, I had to spend a few minutes trying to remember the name of the opening" - Anand. I know the feeling!

**4 d4 Nxe4
5 d5 Ne7
6 Nxe5 Ng6
7 Bd3 Nxe5
8 Bxe4 Bc5
9 Qh5 d6
10 Bg5**

This is the position from which Qxh7 was played but it is Black to move!

10 ... Bg4

Of course! I have missed out this move in my visualisation. Now 11 Qxh7 Qxg5 allows the double rook sacrifice 12 Qxh8+ Ke7 13 Qxa8 but this is trumped by 13 ... Qc1#. Much simpler!