

# NEW ENGLANDER

## Chess Club Update – May 2014

### Chairman's Chatter

Another season is drifting towards its end. The league matches are over but don't let that lull you into a state of chess dormancy. There is still a raft of competitions to keep you active over the summer months!

*Paul Hanks*

### Diary Dates

With the completion of our league commitments, the coming month is crammed with the internal events that were crowded out earlier :-

7 <sup>th</sup> May	Rapidplay
14 <sup>th</sup> May	Club Championship Round 6
21 <sup>st</sup> May	Summer Sprint
28 <sup>th</sup> May	Problem Night

Please note the deadline for games in both the Club Championship and the Ladder Competition is 31st May.

The Summer Sprint is an experimental event which may be summarised :

- Players may play any number of games which will be graded
- Participants score their opponent's grade for a draw and their opponent's grade + 50 for a win
- If their opponent's grade exceeds their own by 10 points or more, players receive a bonus of 30 points for a draw and 50 points for a win
- The best two results against distinct opponents count.

The dates of further rounds are like to be one per month and will be announced in the June newsletter. This format should encourage good play and strategic choice of opponent!

### Window on the Web

Those who like to contribute to forums, or just to read forum posts left by others, might wish to steer clear of the chess-related forum at [www.chesscircle.net](http://www.chesscircle.net). The site appears to be a large bulletin board with thousands of members who can post chess questions or thoughts for discussion by the site's community. Anyone can read posts on the site but to contribute to the forums you must register as a member. This involves choosing a user name and password and providing an email address. This site is a good idea but unfortunately it appears to have been commandeered by spammers. I found one valid thread about crushing defeats, but the rest of the site is a joke.

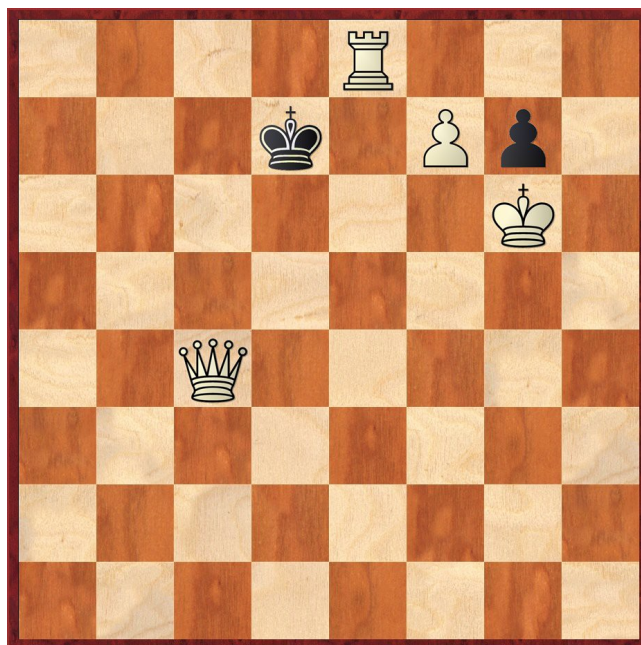
A better site is <http://hilmichess.blogspot.com> which contains some valid tips for improving at chess,

although there appear to have been no additions to the site since 2008. A list of recommended chess books to read is given, together with tips on how best to seriously study chess. Here you will find such pearls of wisdom as "find your weaknesses and work to improve them", "if stuck in a rut, learn a new opening" and (easier said than done) "memorise up to 25 GM games". There are also notes on the best way to study openings and endings.

*Ron Jones*

### Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



Last Month's solution (Ellinghoven)

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

1 Qh3 Kg6 2 Qf5# [1 ... h5 2 Qxh5#; 1 ... g6 2 Qd7#; 1 ... g5 2 Qf5#; 1 ... Kh8 2 Qxh6#]

### Website to Watch

FIDE has quietly dropped the first in its series of Grand Prix events that was due this month. Instead, you can watch the Capablanca Memorial in Havana from 7<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> May. The official website is <http://torneocapablanca.indes.cu> but it does not seem to be reliable.

The Poikovsky Tournament takes place from 11<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> but you will need to read Cyrillic to understand its website (<http://admoil.ru>). This leaves the USA Championship in St Louis from 8<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> May (see [www.uschesschamps.com](http://www.uschesschamps.com)). It is a twelve player all-play-all competition with a \$64k bonus prize for any player that wins all eleven games!

## Result Round-up

### Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

Cambridge	3½	New England A	1½
R Tozer	1	F Bowers	0
A Stewart	½	M Dunkley	½
C Davison	½	S Caraway	½
R McCorry	1	P Turp	0
S Pride	½	D Lane	½

New England A	4½	St Neots	½
F Bowers	1	C Emery	0
M Dunkley	1	S Foster	0
P Turp	½	S Buttercase	½
S Caraway	1	M Friday	0
P Hanks	1	D E Fault	0

Warboys B	1½	New England B	2½
C Watkins	1	D Lane	0
P Baddeley	0	P Spencer	1
M Onyons	½	J Parker	½
D Wardle	0	M Tarabad	1

### Team 550 Competition

St Neots	3	New England 1	1
C Emery	1	P Spencer	0
J Dunn	½	C Russell	½
S Buttercase	½	S Wozniak	½
R Palumbo	1	I Garrett	0

Warboys	4	New England 2	0
C Watkins	1	M Dunkley	0
B Duff	1	R Jones	0
M Davies	1	D Lane	0
M Onyons	1	M Tarabad	0

### Club Handicap : 9<sup>th</sup> April 2014

Player		Rd	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1	P Turp	Result	1	1	1	1	1	5
		Opponent	5	3	2	4	7	
2	S Caraway	Result	1	1	0	1	1	4
		Opponent	6	4	1	5	3	
3	J Sadler	Result	1	0	1	1	0	3
		Opponent	8	1	4	6	3	
4	I Garrett	Result	1	0	0	0	1	2
		Opponent	7	2	3	1	8	
5	D Lane	Result	0	1	1	0	0	2
		Opponent	1	7	8	2	6	
6	M Tarabad	Result	0	0	1	0	1	2
		Opponent	2	8	7	3	5	
7	P O'Gorman	Result	0	0	0	1	0	1
		Opponent	4	5	6	8	1	
8	B Sadler	Result	0	1	0	0	0	1
		Opponent	3	6	5	7	4	

## Club Championship

Round 5			
S Caraway (3)	½	½	M Dunkley (3½)
P Turp (3)	0	1	P Hanks (3½)
M Tarabad (2½)	0	1	P Spencer (2+P)
R Jones (1+P)	½	½	J Sadler (2½)
I Garrett (1)	0	1	S Walker (1½)
J Parker (½)	P	P	C Russell (1½)
N Wedley (½)	½	½	D Lane (1)

Round 6			
P Hanks (4½)			J Sadler (3)
M Dunkley (4)			M Tarabad (2½)
P Turp (3)			S Caraway (3½)
C Russell (1½+P)			P Spencer (3+P)
D Lane (1½)			R Jones (1½+P)
S Walker (2½)			N Wedley (1)
J Parker (½+P)			I Garrett (1)
Match night : 14th May. Deadline : 31st May.			

### New England Club Ladder

White	Black	
I Garrett	1	0 N Wedley

Position	Change		Player	Record <small>30/04/14</small>
	Month	Overall		
1	-	+5	I Garrett	1,0,1,0,1,0,0,1
2	-	+12	P Spencer	1,1,1,1,1
3	-	-1	S Caraway	1,1,½,1,½
4	-	-	N Wedley	½,½,1,0,1,1,0,0
5	+1	+5	M Tarabad	1,1,0,1,0,0
6	-1	+5	P Hanks	1,1,½
7	+5	+9	M Dunkley	½
8	-1	-1	S Walker	1
9	-1	-8	J Parker	0,½,0,0,0
10	-1	-1	D Lane	½,0,1
11	-1	+1	S Wozniak	0,0
12	-1	-4	H Currie	0,0
13	-	-4	P O'Gorman	0
14	-	-9	F Bowers	
15	-	-2	J Sadler	0,0
16	-	-1	P Turp	

## New England Grand Prix

Player	Champ	Ladder	League	Cup	Team 550	Total
P Spencer	3	5	6	0	3½	17½
P Hanks	4½	2½	2	½	4½	14
S Caraway	3½	4	3½	0	2	13
M Dunkley	4	½	4	0	2	10½
D Lane	1½	1½	2½	½	3	9
N Wedley	1	4	-	-	3	8
M Tarabad	2½	3	2	0	0	7½
J Sadler	3	0	3		1½	7½
I Garrett	1	4		-	2	7
P Turp	3		2½	½	½	6½
R Jones	1½		2	0	1½	5
S Walker	2½	1	1	-	0	4½
J Parker	½	½	½	0	2	3½
C Russell	1½	-		-	1½	3
F Bowers	-		1½	-		1½
S Wozniak	-	0		-	1	1
P O'Gorman	-	0		-		0
B Sadler	-			-	0	0
H Currie	-	0		-		0

## Match of the Month

Commentators nowadays feel unable to describe an occasion as merely important. It must be somewhere between "huge" and "massive". On this scale of cliché, the events of 16<sup>th</sup> April were pretty well galactic.

At home, the A team faced St Neots at the end of a hard season in which they had secured only one win and a draw. Their opponents were in an even more parlous state with only a single win to their name and so the encounter between the teams would decide the holders of the wooden spoon. A loss would mean New England's worst result in Division One of the Cambridgeshire League.

Sadly, St Neots were well below full strength and a late withdrawal caused them to concede bottom board. It was not long before the other boards also went in our favour.

### S Caraway v M Friday

New England A v St Neots, 16.04.2014

1 b4

I commented in the October 2013 issue of the newsletter about the rarity of this opening at grandmaster level. Known as the Polish or Sokolsky Opening, it also goes under the banner of "The Orang-utan". This arose because Tartakower played it

against Maroczy in the New York tournament in 1924 after the players visited Bronx Zoo.

1 ... e5  
 2 a3 d5  
 3 Bb2 Bd6  
 4 Nf3 Qe7  
 5 e3 f6

White's play is based on two themes – either a queenside pawn advance or tactical threats against f6 and g7. Black has taken steps to neutralise the latter so it must be time to remind him of the former.

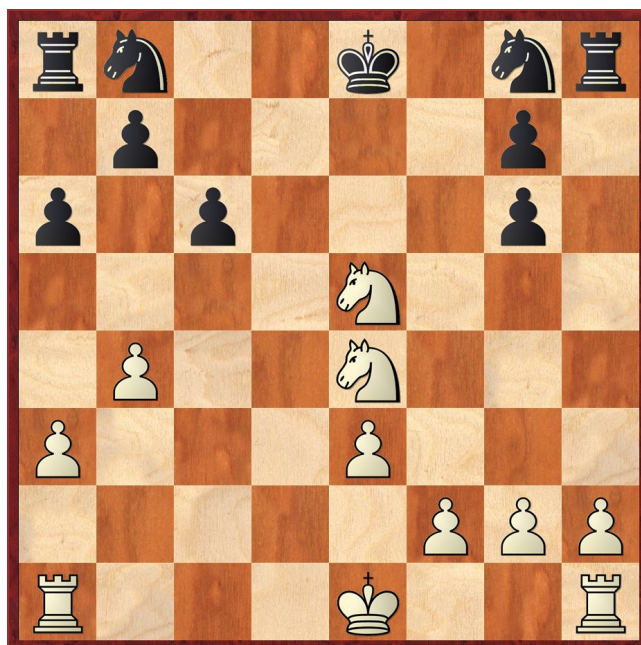
6 c4 dxc4  
 7 Bxc4 Be6  
 8 Qb3 Bxc4  
 9 Qxc4 a6  
 10 Nc3 Qf7  
 11 Qe4 c6

We have reached move 11 and Black has yet to dig his spurs into the flanks of his steeds. Indeed, it will be a further six moves before he does. Here, 11 ... Nc6 would have been a perfect opportunity to address the differential in development. Exchanges (with which Black co-operates) only exacerbate the problem.

12 d4 Qg6  
 13 Qxg6+

White could save a tempo with 13 dxe5 Qxe4 14 Nxe4 Bxe5 15 Bxe5 fxe5 16 Nxe5 compared with game move 17 and when choosing, you have balance the chance of trapping the rook on h8 with the weakness of the doubled pawns.

13 ... hxg6  
 14 Ne4 Bc7  
 15 dxe5 fxe5  
 16 Bxe5 Bxe5  
 17 Nxe5



Compare the relative activity levels of the white and black knights!

17 ... Ne7



18 0-0-0 Rf8  
 19 Nd6+ Kd8  
 20 Nf5+ and wins

Obviously, Black cannot play 20 ... Ke8 21 Nxg7# and to save the knight on d7, 20 ... Nd5 is forced. Thereafter, 21 Nxg7 threatens both 22 e4 and 22 Ne6+ so Black needs care to stay alive e.g. 21 ... Rg8 22 e4 Rxd7 23 exd5 cxd5 24 Rxd5+ but even so, White has a winning material advantage and greater activity. I can chose to try to win by a direct attack or continue exchanging and drink cream in the endgame.

*Sam Caraway*

On board one, desperation drove Colin Emery to try a King's Gambit against Francis but Fischer's anti-dote (1 e4 e5 2 f4 exf4 3 Nf3 d6) deprived White of any early initiative. Very soon, Black's consolidated extra pawn forced White into more drastic but dubious measures and the required match victory was rapidly achieved.

Meanwhile, the B team were also fighting for their honour. A record of one win and three draws was superior to the A Team's but this still placed them at the foot of the table below Buckden and Peterborough B (both with two wins, two draws and a better points difference). Anything but a win was unthinkable even though their final opponents, Warboys B, were comfortable runners-up in the division.

With White, Des on Board one was outgraded by 21 points and therefore, our main chances would have to rest with the lower boards.

#### P Baddeley v P Spencer

Warboys B v New England B, 16.04.2014

1 d4 d5  
 2 c4 dxc4  
 3 e4 e5  
 4 d5 c6  
 5 Bxc4 Nf6  
 6 Nc3 Nbd7

6 ... Bb4 appeared in Hanks v Spencer described in the February 2012 issue. That was a blood-thirsty game as well!

7 Bg5

7 Nf3 is probably a bit better but in the game, I was happy White didn't play dxc6 to ruin my queenside pawns. I was immediately able to put my knight on a better square and chase away his bishop.

7 ... Nb6  
 8 Bb3 Be7  
 9 Nf3

9 dxc6 would be a positional approach

9 ... cxd5  
 10 Nxe5

10 exd5 e4 11 Ne5 0-0 (11 ... Bd6 12 f4) 12 0-0 looks promising for White but is probably fairly equal.

10 ... Nxe4  
 11 Nxe4

11 Bxe7 Qxe7 seems to win the ambitious knight but there are further complications 12 Qe2 (12 Qh5 Nxc3

13 bxc3 0-0 when the knight will not escape e.g. 14 0-0 g6 15 Qe2 f6) 12 ... Qxe5 13 f3 0-0 14 fxe4 d4 leaves Black with an advantage.

11 ... Bxg5

The move played is quite good but 11 ... 0-0 might have been better with 12 f4 f6 13 0-0 fxd5 14 Nxg5 leading to level material and position.

12 Qh5

This looks dangerous but Black can defend.

12 ... Qe7

The text move is strongest but there was also 12 ... g6 13 Qxg5 Qxg5 14 Nxg5 f6 15 Ngf7 (15 Nxf7 fxe5 16 Nf6+ Kf7 17 Nxd5) 15 ... 0-0 although Black faces an uphill struggle.

13 Qxf7+

It is too soon for 13 Nxf7 Qxf7?? 14 Nd6+ due to 13 ... Qxe4+ but it is a strand of the variation 13 0-0 Bf6 (13 ... Qxe5 14 Nxg5 with nasty threats) :-

- 14 Nxf7 needs the cold-blooded 14 ... 0-0 in reply because 14 ... Qxe4 15 Nd6+ and 14 ... dxe4 15 Nxf8+ g6 16 Nxg6 hxg6 17 Qxg6+ Kd8 18 Rad1+ Bd7 19 Rfe1 with a massive attack
- 14 Nd6 Qxd6 15 Nxf7 Qe7 16 Nxf8+ g6 17 Nxg6 hxg6 18 Qxg6+ Kf8 gives Black a difficult position and faces three passed pawns on the kingside.

My opponent did say after the game he wanted something better out of this position but felt winning the pawn back was best.

13 ... Qxf7  
 14 Nxf7 Kxf7  
 15 Nxg5+ Kf6  
 16 f4

Often good to advance a pawn and not have the knight blocking it in this position but I felt the pawn on f4 gives me something to aim for later.

16 ... h6  
 17 Nf3 Re8+

Black has slightly more activity in the endgame although White should have good drawing chances.

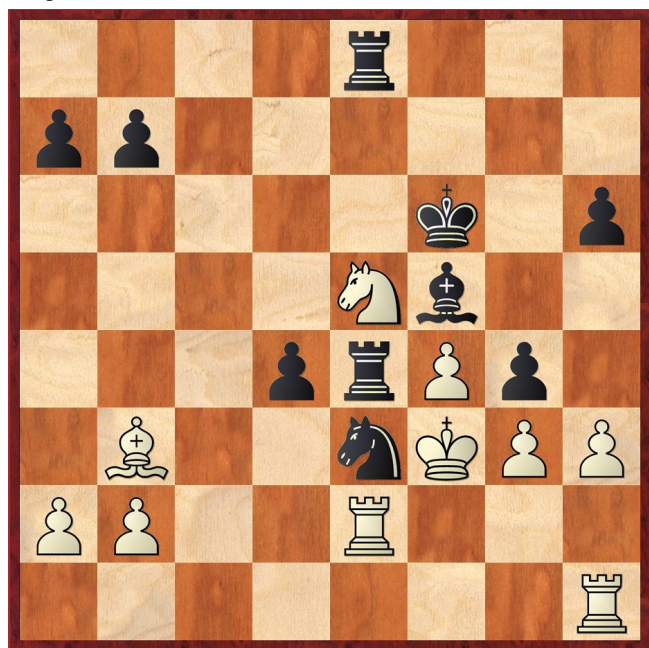
18 Kf2 Re4  
 19 g3 Nc4  
 20 Rad1 Ne3  
 21 Rde1 Ng4+  
 22 Kg2 Bf5  
 23 h3 Ne3+  
 24 Kf2 Rae8  
 25 Ne5 d4  
 26 Re2 g5

I have been able to increase the pressure gradually and White must expect a trap at almost every step.

27 Kf3 g4+

Because fxd5 drops the knight, I could have continued 27 ... h5. 27 ... Rf8 is also good here - it prevents White playing 28 Rc1 Rxe5 29 fxe5 Kg6 with

a discovered checkmate and forcing White to take my knight with his rook.



28 hxg4 Nxg4  
29 Rxe4

I am saved by the consecutive checks 29 Nxg4+ Bxg4+ 30 Kxg4 Rxe2.

29 ... Bxe4+  
30 Kxe4 Nf2+  
31 Kxd4

We are both getting a bit low on time at this point and White misses the tactic 31 Kf3 Nxh1 32 Kg2 Nxg3 33 Kxg3 with a draw as the probable result. Peter said he had missed 30 ... Nf2+ and right away thought he had lost his rook. He was annoyed with himself so didn't analyse properly.

31 ... Nxh1  
32 g4 Nf2

A sad blunder ends the battle.

33 Ke3? Nxg4+ 0-1

34 Kf3 Nxe5+ 35 fxe5+ Rxe5 is comfortable - even for me!

*Paul Spencer*

With impeccable timing, Jason played his best game of the season and Mahmoud had to defend a Scotch Game. His opponent dropped a centre pawn and Mahmoud increased his advantage in activity to win just after the time control. Phew!

The sting in the tail is that there is one outstanding match in the competition – Peterborough B v Buckden. A draw in this match would leave all three teams level but with New England B having the worst tie-break score. Fingers crossed...

### Eye Opener

There is a lot of shadow boxing at grandmaster level – too much in my opinion. Some manoeuvring is certainly necessary to arrange pieces so that a long-term plan can be enacted but there are many games,

however, where the objective seems totally negative. One player, normally Black, shuffles pieces on the first three ranks and aims merely at frustrating his opponent. Sadly, the strategy can be successful if the more ambitious player is tempted into rashness.

It is heartening therefore to see the direct approach come out on top. Here Black is a fearsome competitor and renowned author from Moldova.

**M Zulfugarli (2400) v V Bologan (2540)**  
Nikolaev Zonal Tournament, 1995

1 e4 g6 2 d4 Bg7 3 Nc3 c6 4 Bc4 d6 5 Qf3

A schoolboy attack against f7 but it shows Black's perverse nature. He could have replied 5 ... Nf6 but he continues to eschew normal development.

5 ... e6  
6 Nge2 b5  
7 Bb3 a5

In seven moves, Black has made six pawn moves. Would you recommend that to a beginner?

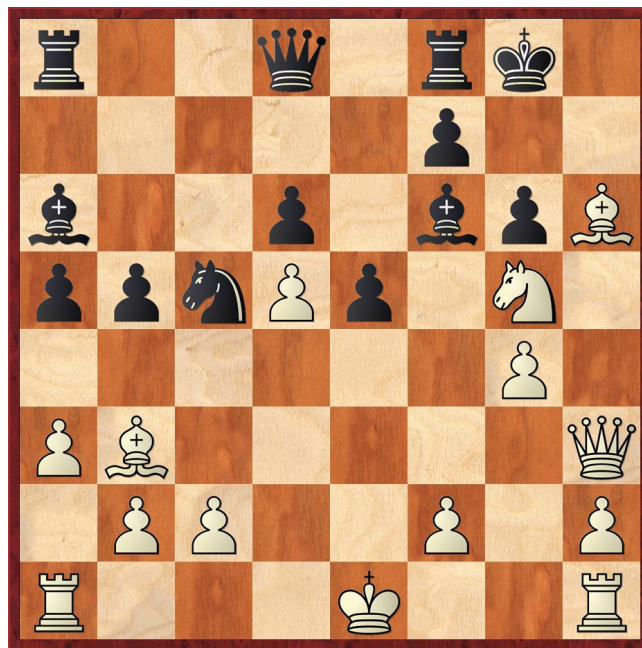
8 a3 Ba6?!  
9 d5 cxd5  
10 exd5 e5  
11 Ne4 h6  
12 g4

White lashes out just as Black wishes but here the move is the computer's recommended continuation.

12 ... Nf6  
13 N2g3 Nxe4  
14 Nxe4 0-0  
15 Qh3 Nd7  
16 Bxh6 Nc5  
17 Ng5

White could continue 17 Nxc5 dxc5 18 Bxg7 Kxg7 19 0-0-0 with good prospects due to the passed pawn. Instead, he tries to land a lucky punch.

17 ... Bf6



18 Bg7 1-0