

NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – July 2014

Chairman's Chatter

One of the eternal attractions of chess is its ability to tease. A brilliant manoeuvre could be about to unfold before our eyes if only we could see the implications of our next move...

Some years ago, I set up the following position for consideration during a Masterclass session :-



After some playful chiding, I had to reveal the continuation **1 Bf7+ Kh8 2 Be8!** where White's last move unmasks a double threat to f8 while depriving his opponent of the time for a double defence. This elegant conclusion I then attributed to Richard Reti. "Ah..." Jack Alster sighed, "a Viennese gentleman."

The significance of this remark only became apparent due to Jack's other passion – literature. He wrote and published a short autobiographical volume covering his early life from his birth in Vienna, the tragic events surrounding the country's annexation, his flight from Austria and subsequent schooldays in wartime Britain.

Despite the harsh events of his upbringing, Jack became a strong player. I believe I only faced him in one formal game. As White, I dismantled his King's Indian Defence but he bought me off with an exchange sacrifice and I found myself facing a counterattack in which his mate in five permitted no similar resource.

Now, we have lost our Viennese gentleman. We shall all have our own memories of Jack but overall as a modest man and a good friend. Farewell Jack.

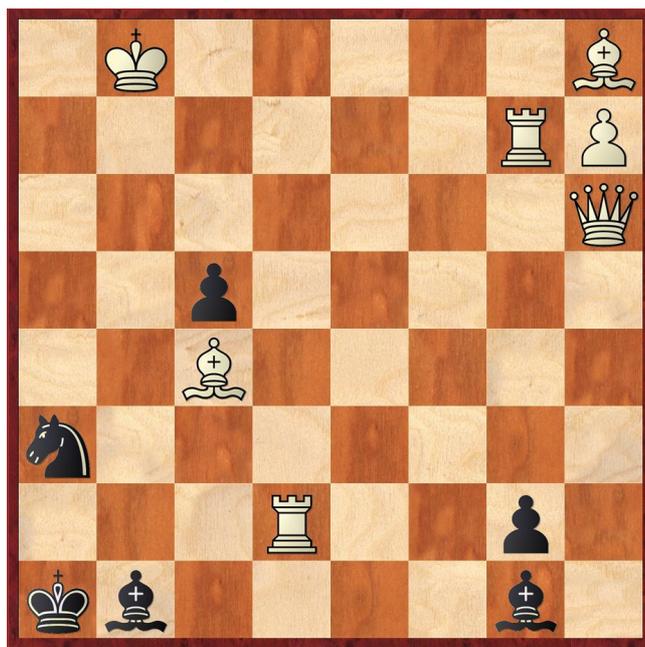
Paul Hanks

Diary Dates

The first results in the Summer Sprint are included in this issue. The next scheduled round is on July 16th and otherwise, the club evenings will have Masterclass sessions. However, please look out for announcements of any variations in the programme particularly as some Masterclasses will be "clinics" in which the audience will be expected to contribute recent club games for analysis.

Puzzle Problem

At the Problem Night, I always give a tricky last position. This is intended to moderate the progress of anyone having a good run of luck and hopefully means everyone finishes at roughly the same time. This year, I had to curtail the competition by dropping the finale. Here is that position with White to play and mate in 2.



Last Month's solution (Gorislavsky)

Position : 1K6/1N2p3/1k6/1n6/4Q3/8/8/4R3

1 Rb1 e5 2 Qg6# [1 ... e6 2 Qxe6#; 1 ... Ka6 2 Qc6#]

Website to Watch

July is a good month for chess tournaments. Eight grandmasters gather in Dortmund to play the Sparkassen Tournament from 12th to 20th July. The website www.sparkassen-chess-meeting.de/2014 is still being developed but should feature live games. Dortmund overlaps the Biel Festival (see www.bielchessfestival.ch) which takes place from 14th to 20th and the young field has an average ELO rating of 2719.

Closer to home, the British Chess Championships are at Aberystwyth from 19th to 30th July with some lesser categories continuing until 1st August. Our erstwhile top board Chris Ross is not listed among the qualifiers but deferred his entry from last year's event. Follow <http://englishchess.org.uk/BCC2014/> for all the action.

Window on the Web

www.chesspersonality.com is a chess-related site with a difference.

Here, for a change, there are no videos, tactical puzzles or games to play through. You are asked to "take the quiz" and answer 20 questions about your chess style. What you get at the end is an assessment of your playing style, which openings you should be playing, which (Facebook) friends are most like you and which master you are most like. I suppose we would all like to think we are so good at attacking that we play like Tal, or our defensive skills are as good as those of Lasker or Petrosian.

Each question has a choice of two possible answers. Half the questions involve assessing a position before you answer. These test your attitude to future planning or perhaps to a current threat. The other questions are short and are designed to test your mindset in various circumstances.

At the end, you find out whether you are an assassin, a mad scientist, a surgeon, a grinder, an escape artist, or whether you have one of several other suggested chess personalities. To see the other personalities, you don't have to take the test again (although you could). You can click on a link for each personality to see an explanation of that particular style, which master matches it and which opening suits each style. Most often it is the Ruy Lopez as White.

Thanks to Paul Hanks for suggesting this site. If anyone else finds a worthy site, please let me know.

Ron Jones

Result Round-up

Summer Sprint

White		Black	
D Lane	0	1	P Turp
I Garratt	0	1	N Wedley
P Hanks	½	½	S Caraway

Player	Grade	Game		Total	Game 3
		1	2		
P Turp	165	189	-	189	-
P Hanks	149	158	-	158	-
S Caraway	158	149	-	149	-
N Wedley	104	122	-	122	-
D Lane	139	0	-	0	-
I Garratt	72	0	-	0	-

Serious Study

Ever heard of Horwitz? No, don't get confused with Daniel Harrwitz (1823-1884) who contested matches with Staunton and Morphy. I mean Bernhard Horwitz (1807-1887). He merited a section in Nimzovitsch's seminal tome *My System* on account of Horwitz Bishops. The simple idea of placing bishops on adjacent diagonals creates a barrier that cannot be penetrated by an enemy king in the endgame and can be a devastating feature during an attack.

I learned of Horwitz Bishops during my school days but I am indebted to Romanian grandmaster Mihail Marin in *Informator 117* for pointing out a similar positional element with knights. In particular, I refer to knights on f3 and g3 or occasionally, f3 and e3. He was made aware of them also as a schoolboy "from his first trainer" and was taught how important the formation is as an attacking weapon. My continuing ignorance and his easy familiarity contrast the differing standards of chess education in England and Eastern Europe! Let's put it right...

Everyone who plays the Ruy Lopez (1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a3 4 Ba4) as White should recognise the kingside knight pair as a potential target position. White's strategy normally runs as follows :

- Play c2-c3 to prepare d2-d4 and open a retreat square for Ba4-b3-c2 (incidentally, creating Horwitz Bishops aiming at Black's castled king position!)
- As c3 is unavailable for the queen's knight, it must enter the fray via d2 but then where?
- An option after 0-0 and Rf1-e1 is Nd2-f1-g3/e3 - our preliminary goal e.g.

Gagunashvili (2570) v Paichadze (2480)
Georgian Championship 2012

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 d6 4 0-0 Bd7 5 c3 a6 6 Ba4 Nf6 7 Re1 b5 8 Bc2 Bg4 9 h3 Bh5 10 d3 Be7 11 Nbd2 0-0 12 Nf1 d5 13 Ng3 Bg6



Voilà! Frequently, however, Black is more vigorous in the centre and the knights can be diverted or delayed.

14 exd5 Qxd5 15 Nh4 Rad8 16 Ngf5 Rfe8 17 Bg5 Bf8 18 Bxf6 gxf6 19 Qg4 Kh8 20 Re3 Qd7 21 Rd1 Ne7 22 d4

There can be no doubting the menace of White's attack although here, White contrived to lose.

But to what end this grand strategy? Knights have short ranges and need to be close to the action to participate in an attack. On f3 and g3, they threaten to invade via e5, f5, g5 and h5. Black cannot repel them with any single pawn advance and pushing two adjacent pawns to the third rank creates a weakness of its own for the supporting bishops on c1 and c2.

We are probably more accustomed to assaults involving pawn moves either to displace defending pieces or through exchanges, to open files. In this case, minor pieces take the lead and you will need to be sufficiently assured to contemplate and analyse sacrifices to open the way. Take a minute and test yourself with the following position that arose in a post-mortem to a game between Karpov and Gligorich, Leningrad 1973.



Does **1 Nf5+ gxf5** [1 ... Kg8 2 Qe8#] **2 Qg5+ Kf8 3 Nh4** hold water? What about **2 ... Kh8**?

The reason for labouring this position is threefold.

Firstly, the queen and knight make a fearsome attacking duo and handling them well is very important. With such minimal material, you have to be clinical when foreseeing checkmate possibilities.

Secondly, attacks typically involve some positions in which the defender is quietly left helpless for one tempo. It is a definite skill to be confident with your logic ensuring that the threats are unanswerable.

Lastly, there are several branches to the analysis and it is quite complex even in a post-mortem scenario to be sure that you have made an exhaustive evaluation. It is of course not necessary to see through to the

bitter end – only to reach positions in which you are confident of victory.

I shall mark where each factor comes into play with *, ~ and \$ respectively. After **1 Nf5+ gxf5 2 Qg5+**,

A 2 ... Kh8

- i. just to crystallise the threats, let Black call White's bluff with a ineffectual defence e.g. **3 Nh4 Qxc3**(say) **4 Nxf5~ f6 5 Qxf6+* Kg8** (5 ... Rg7 6 Qxg7#) **6 Nh6#**
- ii. it suddenly occurred to me that **3 Qf6+ Kg8 4 Nh4** leaves Black defenceless against **5 Nxf5~** until I noticed **4 ... Qc1** when **5 Nxf5 Qf4+** or **5 g3 Qf1** lead to a perpetual check and certainly not **5 Kg3 Qf4#**
- iii. to maintain the queen on the c1-h6 diagonal, I had to revert to **3 Nh4** when defensive tries **3 ... Ra7** or **h6 4 Qf6+ Kg8 5 Nxf5~** transpose to variation ii) without the saving resource
- iv. so the best defence is **3 Nh4 f6 4 Qxf6+ Kg8** (4 ... Rg7 5 Qf8+\$ Rg8 and thanks to Fritz, 6 Ng6+* hxg6 7 Qh6#) **5 Nxf5 Qc1** (I overlooked 5 ... h5 but White is fine after 6 c4 and can even grab more pawns with check beforehand) **6 Nh6+\$ Qxh6 7 Qxh6** leaves White with a pleasant endgame.

B 2 ... Kf8

- i. the basic threats are **3 Nh4 Qxc3 4 Nxf5 f6** (4 ... Ke8 5 Qg8#; 4 ... Ra7 5 Qd8+ Be8 6 Qf6~) **5 Qxf6+* Ke8** (5 ... Rf7 6 Qh8#; 5 ... Kg8 6 Nh6#) **6 Qh8+\$ Kf7 7 Qg7+ Ke8 8 Qg8#**
- ii. running with the king brings no respite **3 Nh4 Ke8 4 Qg8+* Ke7 5 Nxf5+ Kf6 6 Qg7#**
- iii. being more circumspect with the defensive tempo does not seem to help **3 Nh4 Ra7 4 Qd8+ Be8** (4 ... Kg7 5 Nxf5+* Kg6 6 Qg8+ Kh5 7 g4#) **5 Nxf5\$** (threatening Qf6~) **f6** (5 ... Qc1 6 Qxd6+ Kg8 7 Qxe5~) **6 Qxf6+* Bf7 7 Qxd6+ Ke8** (7 ... Kg8 8 Qd8+) **8 Ng7#**
- iv. or **3 Nh4 f6 4 Qxf6+ Rf7** (4 ... Ke8 5 Qh8+\$ Kf7 6 Nxf5 Ra7 7 Nxd6+ Ke7 8 Nxb5; 4 ... Kg8 5 Nxf5 transposes) **5 Qxd6+ Kg7** (5 ... Kg8/e8 6 Qb8+ is not quite the strongest but with Qxb5\$ to follow, is the quickest way to terminate the analysis) **6 Qxe5+ Rf6*** (6 ... Kh6 7 Nxf5+\$ Rxf5 (7 ... Kg6 8 Qe6+* Rf6 9 Qg8+ Kh5 10 g4#) 8 exf5) **7 Nxf5+ Kf7** (7 ... Kg6 8 Qg3+ mating) **8 Qe7+** mating.

Perfect for time trouble!

The Ruy Lopez is not the only opening in which the structure may arise. If it is unnatural for the queen's knight to reach g3 via d2, one alternative route is c3-e4-g3. This may expose it to exchange unless it makes the tour before Black has developed. Such is the case in the Classical Variation of the Caro Kann Defence (**1 e4 c6 2 Nc3 d5 3 d4 dxe4 4 Nxe4**).

A recent game from the Russian Championship shows that the 2008 Women's World Champion took her lessons seriously.

A Kosteniuk (2495) v D Charochkina (2343)

Nizhny Novgorod, 2013

1 e4 c6 2 Nc3 d5 3 d4 dxe4 4 Nxe4 Bf5 5 Ng3 Bg6 6 h4 h6 7 Nf3 Nd7 8 h5 Bh7 9 Bd3 Bxd3 10 Qxd3 Ngf6 11 Bf4 Qa5+ 12 Bd2 Qa4 13 0-0 e6 14 Rfe1 Be7 15 a3 Rd8 16 b4 0-0



17 Nf5

Kasparov said he would always be willing to give up a pawn to occupy this square.

17 ... Rfe8

17 ... exf5 18 Rxe7 Rfe8 19 Rxe8+ Rxe8 20 Qxf5 gives up a pawn but may have been the lesser evil.

18 Rxe6 fxe6
19 Nxe7 Nf8

19 ... Kxg7 allows White to show off some other typical tactics. 20 Bxh6+ Kh8 (20 ... Kxh6/Kf7 21 Qg6#) 21 Bg7+ Kg8 (21 ... Kxg7 22 Qg6+ Kh8 (22 ... Kf8 23 Ng5 mating on f7 or e6) 23 Ng5 Rf8 24 h6) 22 Qg6 Qxc2 (22 ... Nf8 23 Bxf8+ Kxf8 24 Ng5) 23 Qxc2.

20 Nxe8 Rxe8

After the text move, the defence becomes too difficult. 20 ... Nxe8 is supposedly more resilient but with two pawns for the piece, White has plenty of attacking scope to balance the compensation e.g. 21 Ne5 Bf6 (21 ... Ng7 22 Bxh6) 22 Qg3+ Kh7 23 Bxh6 Bxe5 (23 ... Kxh6 24 Nf7+ Kh7 25 Nxd8 Bxd8 26 Qb8) 24 dxe5 Kxh6 25 Qf4+ Kxh5 (25 ... Kg7 26 Qg5+) 26 Re1 Ng7 27 Re3 and the exposed king will suffer e.g. 27 ... Ng6 28 Rh3+ Nh4 29 Rxh4+ Kg6 30 Qf6#.

21 Ne5 Kg7 22 Re1 N6h7 23 Re3 Bf6 24 Rg3+ Ng5 25 f4 Rd8 26 Nf3 Nfh7 27 fxg5 hxg5 28 Nxg5 Bxd4+ 29 Kh1 1-0

It is checkmate after 29 ... Nf8 30 h6+ Kxh6 (30 ... Kg8 31 h7+ Kh8 32 Nf7#) 31 Nxe6+ Kh5 32 Qf5+ or 29 ... Nxg5 30 Rxg5+ Kf6 (30 ... Kh8 31 Bc3) 31 Qh7.

No sooner had I penned these lines when an apposite position cropped up in one of my games! Against the adjacent knights, Black has a solid pawn structure

which prevents invasion on f5 and g5 but gives hope of using h5 in an attack against g7 possibly with a sacrifice on h6. Sadly, the game showed up my inexperience in this type of position.

P Hanks v B Duff

New England A v Warboys A, 22.01.2014



18 Nh5 a5

If you want to attack, now is the time. The computer says White has great chances after 19 Bxh6 but for a human, it is more an act of faith. Two moves on, the threats are not obvious but pressure is mounting e.g. 19 ... gxh6 20 d5 f6 (20 ... Bf8 21 dxc6 Qxc6 22 Rad1 Rad8 [22 ... Nd5 is better. Black returns the material but gets exchanges] 23 Rxd7 Rxd7 24 Nf6+) 21 dxe6 Nc5 22 Nd4 Nbd3 23 Re3 with a strong initiative.

19 Re4 Nf6 20 Nxf6+ Bxf6 21 Bf4 Qe7 22 h5 c5 23 Be5 cxd4 24 Bxd4 Bxd4 25 Nxd4 Qc5

The foregoing is almost best play in Fritz's opinion. Black goes for the weak pawns and Rd4-h4 looks passive. I did not realise 26 Rg4 was a more dynamic response because 26 ... Qxh5 is met by 27 Rxg7+ Kxg7 28 Nxe6+. Of course! The double check means that there is no interposition and any retreat to the edge of the board allows mate next move. The king has to advance 28 ... Kg6 29 Qg7+ Kf5 30 Nd4+ and intuitively, it must be helpless. Indeed it is with 30 ... Ke4 (30 ... Kf4 31 Qg3+ Ke4 32 Qe3#) 31 Re1+ Kd3 32 Ne6 Na2 (32 ... Kxc4 33 Qc3+ Kd5 34 Qc5#) 33 Qd4+ Kc2 34 Qe4+ Kb3 35 Qd3+ Kb4 (35 ... Kxa4 36 Qa3#; 35 ... Kxb2 36 Rb1#) 36 Qa3+ Kxc4 37 Qxa2+ Kd3 (37 ... Kb4 38 Re4#) 38 Qb3+ Kd2 39 Qc3#. Instead, I took advantage of the latent fork on c7 but did not realise I was dissipating my focus on g7.

26 Nb5 Rad8 27 Rg4 e5 28 Qg3 Qf8

Black could have been more aggressive with 28 ... Rd3 because, contrary to my analysis, Black's position is fine after 29 Rxg7+ Kh8 30 Qg4 Qf8.

After the text move, the game reduced to a drawn endgame in a further 12 moves.