

NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – April 2015

Chairman's Chatter

It has been a long, hard season. The league teams are on a poor run but not through lack of effort. The two losses recorded here should have had different results given better luck. In second division and Team 550 competition, we have four victories to celebrate. Well done but keep persevering!

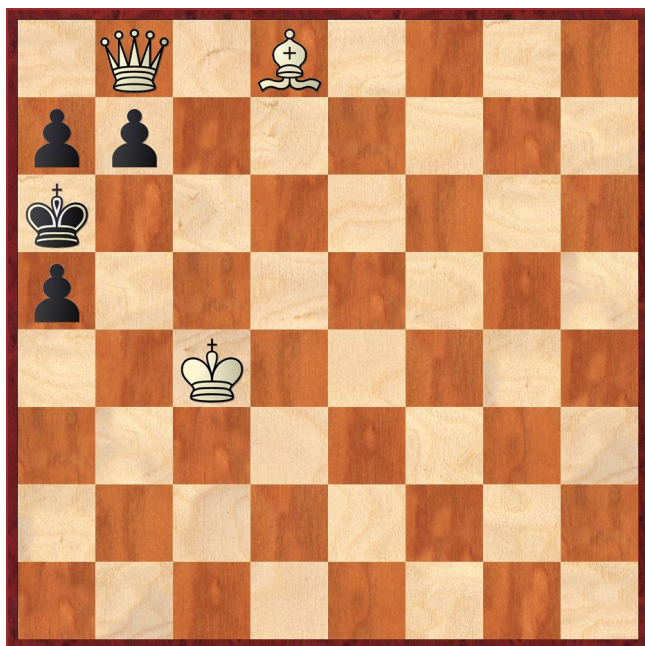
Paul Hanks

Diary Dates

Approaching the end of the season means time is running out for re-arranging postponed matches. The tentative date for the home match in the Fenland Plate against Cambridge is April 8th which coincides with the next round of the Club Championship. In the Team 550 competition, the match Warboys v New England Patriots will occur unusually on a Thursday - 30th April.

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



Last Month's solution (Chepizhny 1987)

Position : 4K1k1/8/6P1/6n1/2B2B1/8/8/8

1 Bf5 Nf7 2 gxf7# [1 ... N other 2 Be6#]

Website to Watch

The Gashimov Memorial which takes place from 16th to 25th April in Azerbaijan attracts the younger grandmasters. Carlsen, Caruana, So and Giri will be there but so will the old guard represented by Anand and Kramnik. With no obvious official website, it is advertised on www.chessbomb.com so this is a good place to look for live games.

By implication, these players will miss the World Team Championships in Tsaghkadzor, Armenia. With play from 19th to 28th April, it overlaps the elite tournament but should still boast a strong field. As with other FIDE events, the website tsaghkadzor2015.fide.com lacks features until the last minute but does promise live game coverage.

Window on the Web

Francesco Costa, a 2200 plus rated correspondence player, has a website with some interesting content at <http://www.webalice.it/costa.f/chess.html>.

Under the heading *Endgames and Studies*, there are some problems to solve involving such themes as double attack, discovered attack and zugzwang, plus endings with pawns (including the opposition), rook versus rook, opposite coloured bishops, same coloured bishops and bishop versus knight. Included are a few "White to move and win" puzzles and a Nalimov Database of endings. Almost all of the solutions appear in English but unfortunately one or two have not been translated from the Italian and others that have are difficult to follow.

Some knowledge of Italian might be useful here, because although Google gave me the opportunity to translate the pages, some of the translation was odd. For example : "The realization of imprisonment: the Woman and the pedestrian Blacks are completely blocked by the two Alfieri. In practice, White can now play the final of pedestrians with Horse of advantage". The solutions can, however, still be played through using the play button under the chessboard, making the notes easier to understand.

Under the heading *Opening Theory*, there are some basic opening tips and more advanced advice on opening strategy such as the use of the minority attack in the Karlsbad pawn structure. There is also an archive of recent games collected in an Openings Database which is free to download.

This site is both educational and sometimes unintentionally amusing.

Ron Jones

Result Round-up

Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

Peterborough A	3½	New England A	1½
F Bowers	1	P Hanks	0
F Davies	1	M Dunkley	0
A Summers	1	P Turp	0
M Connolly	0	D Lane	1
P Silman	½	S Walker	½

Cambridge	3	New England A	2
R McCorry	½	P Hanks	½
B Tarlow	0	S Caraway	1
S Pride	½	M Dunkley	½
G de Block	1	P Turp	0
S Bazyk	1	D Lane	0

New England B	3	Peterborough B	1
S Wozniak	½	M Connolly	½
S Walker	½	N Fisher	½
J Parker	1	P Silman	0
M Tarabad	1	J Conlon	0

Fenland Trophy

Royston	4d	New England B	0d
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Team 550 Competition

Godmanchester	1	NE Cavaliers	3
J Wright	0	M Dunkley	1
A Rankine	0	P Turp	1
M Lynn	1	D Lane	0
A Ellul	0	M Tarabad	1

Spalding	1½	NE Patriots	2½
P Szutkowski	0	P Hanks	1
R Smith	1	C Russell	0
D Reynolds	0	J Sadler	1
R Coats	½	J Parker	½

Warboys	1	NE Cavaliers	3
C Watkins	½	M Dunkley	½
B Duff	½	P Turp	½
P Wells	0	D Lane	1
K Harbour	0	M Tarabad	1

Club Championship

Round 4			
P Hanks (3)	½	½	S Caraway (3)
D Lane (2)	½	½	J Parker (2)
C Russell (1)	P	P	M Dunkley (1½)
P Turp (2)	1	0	J Sadler (1½+P)
P Spencer (2+P)	P	P	R Jones (1+P)
M Tarabad (1)	0	1	S Walker (1+P)
S Wozniak (1)	0	1	N Wedley (1)
N Foreman (0)	P	P	B Sadler (0)
I Garratt (0)	1	0	P O'Gorman(1)
Deadline : 31st March		Next draw : 1st April	

Round 3			
J Sadler (1½)	P	P	P Spencer (2)
S Walker (1)	P	P	R Jones (1)

Round 5			
P Turp (3)			P Hanks (3½)
M Dunkley (1½+P)			S Caraway (3½)
N Wedley (2)			D Lane (2½)
J Sadler (1½+P)			S Walker (2+P)
C Russell (1+P)			J Parker (2½)
P O'Gorman(1)			S Wozniak (1)
B Sadler (0)			M Tarabad (1)
I Garratt (1)			M Tarabad (1) – Rd 6
N Foreman (0)			P Spencer (2+2P)
R Jones (1+2P)			N Foreman (0) – Rd 6
Match night : 8th April		Deadline : 30th April	
Next draw : 1st May			

New England Club Ladder

White			Black
S Caraway	½	½	P Hanks
I Garratt	0	1	P O'Gorman
J Parker	1	0	P Stevens
N Wedley	1	0	I Garratt

Position	Change		Player	Record <small>25/03/15</small>
	Month	Overall		
1	+3	+8	P Hanks	1,1,½
2	-1	-	D Lane	1,1
3	-1	-2	M Tarabad	0,1,1,1,1
4	-1	+6	S Wozniak	1
5	-	+1	P O'Gorman	1,1,1,0,½,1
6	-	-1	J Parker	0,1,1,1,1
7	+1	-4	N Wedley	0,0,0,1,0,1
8	-1	-1	N Foreman	0,0,0
9	-	-5	I Garratt	0,1,0,0,0,1,0,0,0
10	-	+1	S Walker	½
11	+1	+1	S Caraway	½
12	-1	-4	P Stevens	0,0,0,0

New England Grand Prix

Player	Champ	Ladder	League	Cup	Team 550	Total	TPR*
P Hanks	3½	2½	4		2½	12½	160
D Lane	2½	2	3		3	10½	108
M Dunkley	1½		4	½	4	10	161
J Parker	2½	4	2		1½	10	100
M Tarabad	1	4	2		3	10	100
P O'Gorman	1	4½	0		3½	9	85
S Caraway	3½	½	3		1½	8½	159
P Turp	3		2	0	2	7	151
J Sadler	1½		1		3	5½	117
S Walker	2	½	1½	0	1	5	92
N Wedley	2	2			½	4½	93
S Wozniak	1	1	½		2	4½	117
P Spencer	2		1		1	4	133
R Jones	1		1	0	1½	3½	126
I Garratt	1	2				3	58
C Russell	1		0		0	1	98
N Foreman	0	0				0	46
B Sadler	0					0	30
P Stevens		0				0	29

* approximate & includes Summer Sprint

Match of the Month

This year, the media have been celebrating 800 years of Magna Carta which laid the foundations of the system of justice in this country. The following game shows we still have a long way to go...

N Wedley v P Hanks

New England Club Ladder, 04.02.2015

1 d4 f5

Norman confessed that he knew the Dutch Defence was in my repertoire but had not found time to study it. Judging from the opening phase, the same could be said for his opponent! In my defence, I must point out that Norman openly admitted his ignorance at this point. This shameless psychological ploy was clearly calculated to lure me into a state of overconfidence. As proof, just watch how well it succeeds.

2 Nf3 Nf6
 3 c4 b6
 4 Nc3 Bb7
 5 e3 g6
 6 g3 Bg7

With a kingside fianchetto, I have entered the Leningrad Variation which is relatively new to me and sadly, my inexperience will shine through!

7 Bg2 d6
 8 0-0 Nbd7

It was necessary to play 8 ... 0-0 but in that case, I was concerned by 9 Qb3 and 10 c5. I only realised how badly I was playing after playing the text move. I now saw White has 9 Ng5 and frantically, I had to plan a reply. Initially, I analysed 9 ... Bxg2 10 Kxg2 Nf8 11 Qf3 when White has nasty possibilities on the light squares with Qf3-c6 and Nc3-b5 in the offing. I was pinning my hopes on 9 ... Qc8 10 Ne6 Kf7 (10 ... Bh6 11 Nb5) and surprisingly, rather than 11 Nxc7, the computer recommends keeping the black king awkwardly placed with 11 Ng5+.

9 Qc2 Qc8
 10 d5 Nf8

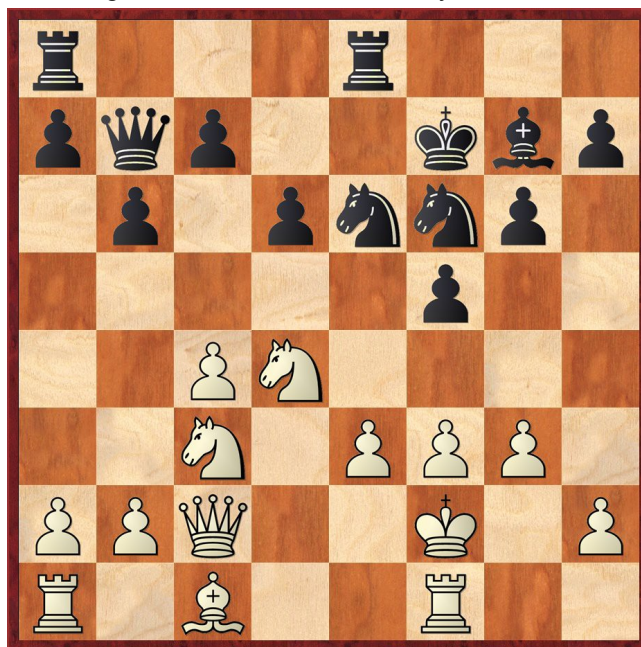
Black should weaken White's centre with 10 ... c6. As it is, White does not have to hurry to occupy e6 and should calmly bring his queenside pieces into play. Very soon, their influence will be missed.

11 Nd4 e5
 12 dxe6 Bxg2
 13 Kxg2 Nxe6
 14 Qa4+ Kf7
 15 Qc2 Qb7+

Expecting 16 Kg1 Ng5 and Nh3# is a pipe dream. I was beginning to think I might survive.

16 f3 Rhe8
 17 Kf2

White was still comfortable so I do not understand this move. Again, 17 Bd2 was satisfactory.



17 ... Nxd4

Initially, I looked at knight forays on the kingside but planning to attack f3 by 17 ... Ng5 and 18 ... c5 just runs into 18 h4 when I am forced back. I flirted with 17 ... Ng4+ 18 fxc4 Nxd4 but White is not forced to recapture. By transposition, I have an alternative using the same construction.

18 exd4 Ng4+

19 fvg4

Norman demands to be shown but 19 Kg2 Bxd4 20 Nd5 Nf6 leaves him a pawn down. Now, the sky falls in.

19 ... Bxd4+
20 Be3 Rxe3 0-1

The discovered check means White has to counter such threats as 21 Nd5 Rc3+ and 21 Nb5 Qf3+ 22 Kg1 Re1+ 23 Nxd4 (23 Qf2 Bxf2#) 23 ... Qxf1#. After 21 Ne2, 21 ... Qf3+ is tempting but 22 Ke1 (22 Kg1 Rxe2+) 22 ... Qxg4 leaves Black with a hefty but not immediately decisive advantage. Instead 21 ... Rf3+ is much clearer with 22 Ke1 (22 Kg2 Rf2+ 23 Kh3 Qg2+ 24 Kh4 Bf6+ 25 g5 Qxh2#) 22 ... Rxf1+ 23 Kd2 (23 Kxf1 Qh1+ 24 Ng1 Qxg1+ 25 Ke2 Re8+ mating) 23 ... Rxa1.

21 Qd1 is best but 21 ... Rd3+ or more indirectly 21 ... Rf3+ 22 Ke2 Rxc3 23 Qxd4 (23 bxc3 Qe4+ with checkmate to come) 23 ... Qg2+ 24 Rf2 Rc2+ nets plenty of material.

This was a very satisfying game to play due to my rapid and thoroughly undeserved change of fortune but was actually a dismal display of my understanding of the theory. Needing to respond to this wake-up call, I have delved into the opening in the hope that I will be better prepared next time. I mix my comments with some derived from John Watson's book *A Strategic Chess Opening Repertoire for White*.

It might seem that 1 ... f5 defines the Dutch Defence but even at this stage, it is important to realise 1 ... e6 is a more flexible approach provided you are happy to enter the French Defence after 2 e4. After 1 ... f5, White knows he does not need to contest the d5 square immediately and could opt to strike at e4 instead with 2 Nc3. If 1 ... e6 had been played, Black could meet 2 Nc3 with 2 ... d5 when White has lost the option of Queen's Gambit structures following 2 c4. The sequence 1 d4 f5 2 Nc3 can also continue 2 ... d5 but this is the Stonewall Variation which, as the name suggests, is not very dynamic for Black.

There are two other principal variations for Black.

- In the Classical Variation, Black plays e7-e6, develops the kingside starting Bf8-e7 and contests the centre with d7-d6 and c7-c5.
- The Leningrad Variation of the above game is characterised by the kingside fianchetto. If you are to consider this line, you need to be familiar with some tactical possibilities e.g. 1 d4 f5 2 c4 Nf6 3 Nc3 g6 4 h4 d6 5 h5 Nxh5 – declining would allow h5-h6 making a nonsense of the fianchetto - 6 Rxh5 gxh5 7 e4 with adequate compensation. 7 ... exf4 8 Qxh5+ is at least a perpetual check and White could try for more. Such pitfalls are best avoided and this imaginative continuation should only be contemplated when your opponent is not suspected of prior study. Norman's outburst at move 1 would then have worked in my favour!

The scope of Black's light-squared bishop is determined by placing pawns on the c8-h3 diagonal. The natural development for this piece is therefore on b7 but contrary to my belief, it should not be an automatic reaction. In fact, it is played occasionally in the Classic Variation but hardly at all in the Leningrad.

Black creates a weakness along the a2-g8 diagonal in the event of kingside castling. In return, Black controls e4 to prevent White from expanding in the centre. In the long term, Black tries to build a kingside attack by compressing White's activity into the a to d files. In favourable circumstances, the game will progress in the mould of a King's Indian Defence with a pawn storm on the e, f and possibly g files and furthermore, Black hopes to have gained a tempo by pushing the f pawn before developing the king's knight.

The main lever of Black's attack will be f5-f4 and this will most probably require the support of a pawn on e5. Working logically backwards, e7-e5 requires d7-d6 and this preferred structural evolution actually occurred in the text game. What I failed to grasp is that Black suffers this further weakening of the light squares (especially e6) and needs to reinforce them by keeping the queenside bishop at home.

Eye Opener

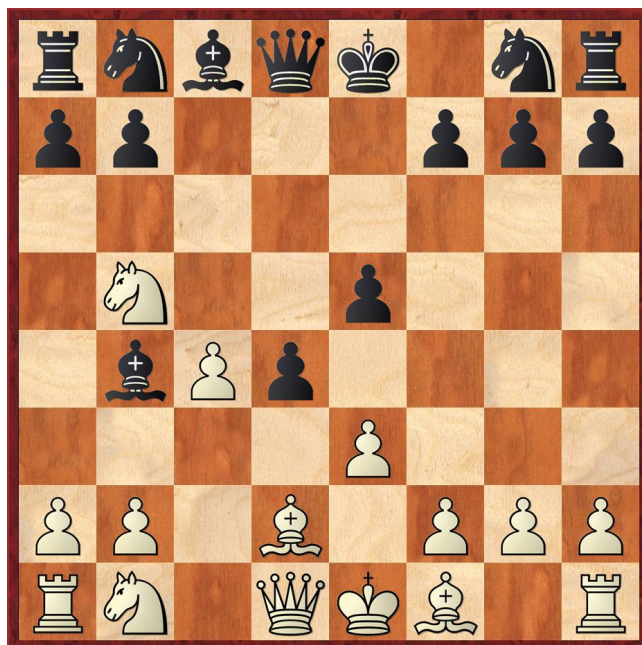
K Kuenitz v D Bauer

Tradewise Gibraltar Open 2015

1 d4 c5 2 Nf3 cxd4 3 Nxd4 d5 4 c4 e5 5 Nb5 d4 6 e3 Bb4+

Black can claim a slight advantage after 6 ... a6 7 Qa4 and can calmly play 7 ... Bd7 or 7 ... Nc6.

7 Bd2



7 ... dxe3
8 Bxb4 exf2+ 0-1

There is no point in continuing. 9 Kxf2 [9 Ke2 Bg4+] 9 ... Qxd1.