

# NEW ENGLANDER

## Chess Club Update – June 2015

### Chairman's Chatter

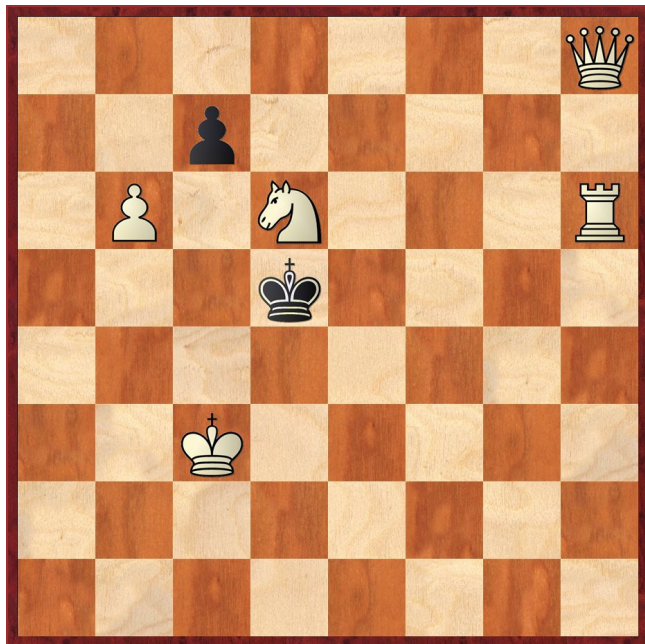
No-one likes taking the wooden spoon in any competition and this year, the club managed it in both Cambridgeshire divisions. Our worst season yet may seem like a disaster but looking back over the eight years of our existence, our current points total has only been bettered by the bottom team once in each section. We struggled certainly but the competition has also become tighter with no-one thoroughly outclassed. Just look at the difference a single point could have made and think how close we were to achieving it on several occasions. Let us make that improvement next season!

"Make 'em laugh, make 'em cry, make 'em wait!" The enforced early issue of this newsletter before the last night of the competitive season means the winners of the internal competitions cannot be named yet. Final tables will appear in the next edition...

*Paul Hanks*

### Puzzle Problem

This is really throwing down the gauntlet! The position below comes from the problem night when we concluded the initial position was incorrect because the solution seemed incomplete. Can you do better than the hapless solvers on the night? White to play and mate in 2!



Last Month's solution (Lindner 1933)

Position : 8/2p5/5Q2/2k5/2P5/2PK4/8/8

1 Kc2 Kxc4 2 Qc6# [1 ... c6 2 Qd4#]

### Diary Dates

The outline summer schedule will be :

27 <sup>th</sup> May	Final Ladder competition matches Club Championship postponements
3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Opening theory by S Caraway
17 <sup>th</sup> June	Masterclass by P Hanks weekly thereafter except
Summer Sprint	10 <sup>th</sup> June, 8 <sup>th</sup> & 22 <sup>nd</sup> July and 26 <sup>th</sup> August

### Website to Watch

The Stavanger region of Norway hosts "one of the world's strongest chess tournaments" from 16<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> June. It is hard to disagree – the top six in the Elo rankings are there in a field of ten with only local representative Hammer outside the top twenty. The website is [2015.norwaychess.com](http://2015.norwaychess.com).

Another traditionally strong event starts in Dortmund on 27<sup>th</sup> June and spans the boundary between months. Kramnik, Caruana and So are among eight contestants who will play eight rounds and as they say on the site [www.sparkassen-chess-meeting.de/2015](http://www.sparkassen-chess-meeting.de/2015), "folgt uns!"

### Window on the Web

<http://timkr.home.xs4all.nl/chess/chess.html> is the website of the Netherlands player Tim Krabbe, who has titled it "*Chess Curiosities*". It contains his chess diary, last updated in September 2014, which began in 1999 and contains 396 entries with positions and full game scores, many of them annotated.

In addition to the diary, there are many articles such as *The 110 Greatest Moves ever played*, which are mostly from GM play and all involve the common factor that a leap of faith was necessary to find the move. There is a compilation of *Babson Tasks*. A Babson Task is a very difficult chess problem to compose and solve. White mates in  $n$  moves. After White's first move, Black promotes a pawn to a queen, rook, knight or bishop and White then promotes a pawn to the same piece that Black promoted to. The solution of the problem has only one first move for White followed by four different correct solutions, one variation for each different promotion.

*The Mother of All Forks* discusses what a fork actually is and in an example, Black makes a rook move immediately activating a fork, not by the rook, but by his king. *Promotion to Rook and Bishop* in Games discusses over 40 examples of under promotion.

You will find much more in this site than I have room to mention here.

*Ron Jones*

## Result Round-up

### Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

Division 1	P	W	L	D	Points	
					Game	Match
Royston	10	10	0	0	41½	20
Peterborough A	10	5	2	3	26½	13
Cambridge Scholars	10	4	4	2	24½	10
Warboys A	10	3	5	2	23	8
St Neots	10	1	6	3	11	5
New England A	10	0	6	4	17½	4

Division 2	P	W	L	D	Points	
					Game	Match
Spalding	10	6	1	3	27	15
Peterborough B	10	5	1	4	22½	14
Warboys B	10	6	4	0	21	12
Buckden	10	2	5	3	19½	7
Warboys C	10	2	6	2	18	6
New England B	10	3	7	0	12	6

### Team 550 Competition

North Division	P	W	L	D	Points	
					Game	Match
Warboys N	8	5	1	2	19½	12
Godmanchester	8	2	2	4	16	8
New England Patriots	8	3	4	1	16	7
New England Cavaliers	8	3	4	1	15	7
Spalding	8	2	4	2	13½	6

### New England Club Ladder

Position	Change		Player	Record 20/05/15
	Month	Overall		
1	-	+8	P Hanks	1,1,½
2	-	-	D Lane	1,1,1
3	-	+2	J Parker	0,1,1,1,1
4	-	-3	M Tarabad	0,1,1,1,1
5	-	+5	S Wozniak	1
6	-	-	P O'Gorman	1,1,1,0,½,1
7	-	-4	N Wedley	0,0,0,1,0,1,1
8	-	-4	I Garratt	0,1,0,0,0,1,0,0,0,0,0
9	-	-2	N Foreman	0,0,0
10	-	+2	S Caraway	½
11	-	-	S Walker	½
12	-	-4	P Stevens	0,0,0,0

## Club Championship

Round 4			
C Russell (1)	0	1	M Dunkley (1½)

Final Round 6			
P Hanks (4½)	P	P	J Sadler (3½)
S Caraway (4)	1	0	D Lane (3)
S Walker (3)	1	0	P Turp (3)
J Parker (2½)	0	1	M Dunkley (3)
P O'Gorman(1)	P	P	N Wedley (2½)
C Russell (2)	½	½	S Wozniak (2)
I Garratt (1)	P	P	B Sadler (1)

Match night : 6th May      Deadline : 31st May

### New England Grand Prix

Player	Champ	Ladder	League	Cup	Team 550	Total	TPR*
P Hanks	4½	2½	4	0	3	14	162
D Lane	3	3	3½	0	3	12½	109
M Tarabad	3	4	2		3	12	100
J Parker	2½	4	3		1½	11	95
M Dunkley	4		4	½	4	12½	160
S Caraway	5	½	3	0	2	10½	159
P O'Gorman	1	4½	0		3½	9	83
J Sadler	2½		2		3	7½	124
P Turp	3		2	0	2	7	144
N Wedley	2½	3			½	6	101
S Walker	3	½	1½	0	1	6	95
S Wozniak	2½	1	½		2	6	114
P Spencer	2		1		1	4	133
R Jones	1		1	0	1½	3½	126
I Garratt	1	2				3	55
C Russell	2½		0		0	2½	100
N Foreman	0	0				0	46
B Sadler	0					0	30
P Stevens		0				0	29

\* Tournament Performance Rating is approximate & includes Summer Sprint

### Problem Night : 13th May 2015

Pos	Pair	Rd 1	Rd 2	Tot
1	Des, Peter & Norman	16	17	33
2	Chris & Sam	14	14	31
3	Phil & Ivan	16	7	23

Player	Round					Total
	1	2	3	4	5	
S Caraway	0	1	1	1	1	4
P Turp	1	1	1	0	0	3
M Dunkley	-	1	0	1	1	3
P Hanks	-	1	0	1	1	3
S Walker	1	0	½	0	1	2½
N Wedley	1	0	½	1	0	2½
D Lane	0	0	1	0	0	1
I Garratt	0	0	0	0	0	0

### Match of the Month

Last month, Phil Turp pondered the problem of encountering a much stronger opponent. This month, the boot is on the other foot! Here, Phil is nominally the better player with a grade hovering around 150 whereas I am currently a mere 104 underdog.

In general, I had done some preparation for the game, hoping and thinking Phil would play the Dutch Defence. This is what he tried in our last game and I got hammered!

#### S Walker v P Turp

New England Club Championship Rd 6, 06.05.2015

**1 d4 Nf6**

I had a set plan of attack prepared for the Dutch Defence so when he played 1 ... Nf6, I had to totally rethink my strategy over the board.

**2 Nc3 d5**  
**3 Bf4 c6**

I asked Paul after the game for the name of this opening and he was equally perplexed. He replied "I have looked in several books and cannot find anything more specific than 'Queen's Pawn Game'. If you had played an early e2-e3 and Bf1-d3 before Bc1-f4, it would have become a Colle System but no-one seems to develop the white queen's bishop so soon. The nearest I can find is 1 d4 Nf6 2 Nc3 d5 3 Bf4 a6 4 e3 (Jobava v Savchenko, Minsk 2014 which White won in 35 moves) but the magazine in which the game appears puts it in an article on offbeat variations!" I have no qualms about turning conventional opening theory on its head!

**4 Nf3 e6**  
**5 Ne5 Bb4**  
**6 Bg5 Qa5**  
**7 Bd2**

The Georgian Jobava is considered a slightly eccentric grandmaster (with ELO 2700+) who tries to avoid opening preparation. My reason for following unknowingly in his footsteps with 3 Bf4 was to try to take control of the e5 square. Unfortunately, I had to relinquish it and bring the bishop back to d2 to protect

my knight on c3. This bishop turned out to be a very strong piece in the end and helped me win the game.

**7 ... 0-0**  
**8 a3 Bxc3**

Black has no need to give up the bishop pair and Fritz even prefers 8 ... Be7. This walks into a discovered attack but if you have the confidence and analytical power of a computer, you do not worry about such things.

**9 Bxc3 Qc7**  
**10 Bb4**

The text move was played to knock the rook away from protecting f7. My plan was to hit this square later in the game as happened on moves 19 and 20. An unopposed bishop can be a terrible weapon and here it threatens to run riot on the dark squares. The drawback has been that this probing has consumed five of the first ten tempi. Black, on the other hand, has not raced into a development lead.

**10 ... Re8**  
**11 e3 b6**  
**12 Bd3 c5**  
**13 Bc3 c4**

The pawn moves c5 and c4 by Black close off the queenside which only helps my attack on the kingside.

**14 Bf1**

I thought that moving 14 Be2 would have blocked in my queen and hence I chose back to base with the bishop. I did have thoughts of attacking f7 either from f3 or h5 with my queen and also wanted to open the f file (which did happen after 15 f4 bringing my king's rook into the attack).

Inevitably, therefore, I was creating a hole for an enemy knight on e4 but by bringing the king's bishop later to e2 and f3, I could drive it away or force an exchange. This would be necessary because I felt my position was a bit paralysed/threatened by the advanced knight and I kept thinking my structure could be bad if Phil decided to take my bishop on c3. Fortunately for me, Phil had other ideas.

**14 ... Nbd7**  
**15 f4 Ne4**

Over the next five moves, Phil has the opportunity to exchange his knight on e4 for my bishop on c3. I guess Phil came to wish he had made the capture. He would have also doubled my queenside pawns and exchanged my stronger minor piece. He did say after the game that he wanted to leave this commanding outpost - for one thing, it was inhibiting my choices of castling.

I was considering castling on the queenside (after my queen had left for the attack) as this would also have protected the c2 pawn from attack by Black's bishop moving to a4. I did not like the black queen on the c file or the advanced pawn on c4. A possible Ne4-f2 after 0-0-0 was further disuasion and instead of kingside castling, my central king would be preventing these knight thrusts. I think I was stuck with a poor



compromise and I suspected I had to get in with my attack first and very quickly.

**16 Qh5 Nxe5**

Out of interest, Phil spent 15 minutes thinking before making this move. Perhaps he was contemplating 16 ... Ndf6 17 Qh4 Nxc3 18 bxc3 Ne4 when the outpost is maintained and White's kingside chances much diminished.

**17 fxe5 Bd7**  
**18 Be2 f6**

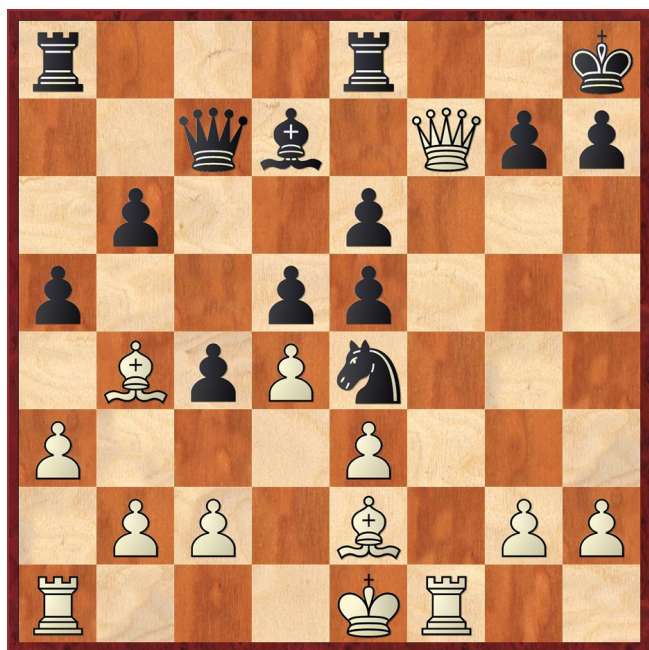
Phil also used up a lot of time (another 15 minutes) over this move/position. With a defensive line of pawns f7-c4, the position looks suitable for trench warfare with slow, cumbersome manoeuvres and I think Black's problem is deciding how to land a blow. It is strange for Black to make his game more difficult to play by opening the position where he is weakest though objectively, neither side has an advantage.

I was surprised Phil played this move. It was fraught with danger and eventually allowed me to give check on the seventh rank f7 with my Queen on move 20.

**19 Rf1 fxe5**  
**20 Qf7+ Kh8**  
**21 Bb4**

Actually, it must have been difficult for Phil to see the power of 21 Bb4! over the board. He had used up a lot of his time but I had over ½ hour more time left on the clock.

**21 ... a5**



**22 Bf8! 1-0**

I quite like the finale. At first glance, it looks like the bishop on f8 can be taken by the black rook but it can't without allowing checkmate on the back rank. I have never reached an ending before where I can checkmate an opponent in two different ways from one bishop move!

*Steve Walker*

As a postscript, 21 ... h6 is the post-mortem favourite to avoid the sudden death that occurred in the game because 22 Bf8 Rxf8 23 Qxf8+ Rxf8 24 Rxf8 is no longer checkmate. You may think that after 21 ... h6, White can force a similar conclusion by 22 Bh5 and 23 Bg6. However, the sedate pace suddenly changes with 22 Bh5 c3 23 Bg6 cxb2 24 Rd1 Qxc2 25 Bf8 Qxd1+ 26 Kxd1 b1Q+ 27 Ke2 Bb5+ etc.

Less obvious is 21 ... exd4 when 22 Bf8 meets 22 ... Qe5. White has 22 exd4 when Black still has a range of options including 22 ... Qc8, Rg8 or agin h6.

### Eye Opener

**A Flitney (1999) v Q Johnson (2145)**  
Nelson Open, 07.10.2007

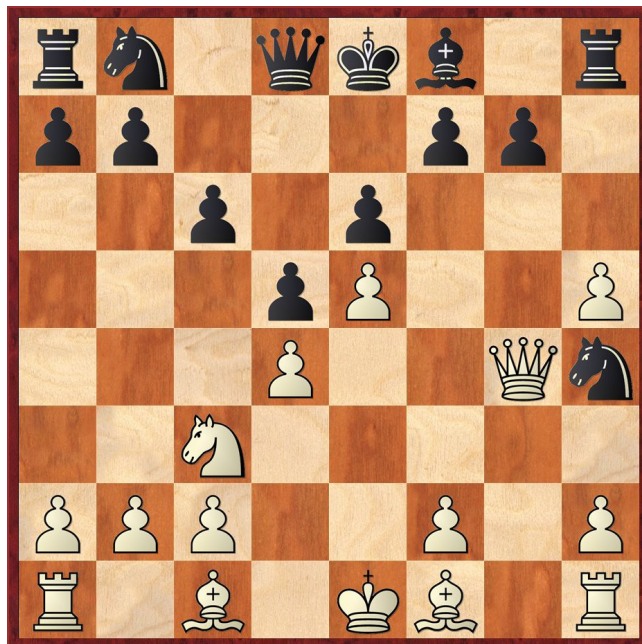
<b>1</b>	<b>e4</b>	<b>c6</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>d4</b>	<b>d5</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>e5</b>	<b>Bf5</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Nc3</b>	<b>e6</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>g4</b>	<b>Bg6</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Nge2</b>	<b>h5</b>

The first departure from standard theory of the Advance Variation of the Caro Kann Defence. 6 ... c5 7 h4 h5 is normal. Now, both sides make the best responses and White simply wins a pawn.

<b>7</b>	<b>Nf4</b>	<b>Ne7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Nxg6</b>	<b>Nxg6</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>gxh5</b>	<b>Nh4</b>

A knight on the rim is dim, as the saying goes. Here, however, Black is dangling a carrot.

**10 Qg4**



**10 ... c5**  
**11 Bg5 Qxg5 0-1**