

NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – October 2015

Chairman's Chatter

No more results were received for the Summer Sprint competition so the standings published last month were the final table. Welcome back to Francis Bowers who marked his return with victory in this event.

We also greet new members Bob Taylor, Peter Cairns and Peter Weinberger and wish them enjoyable chess with the club.

Paul Hanks

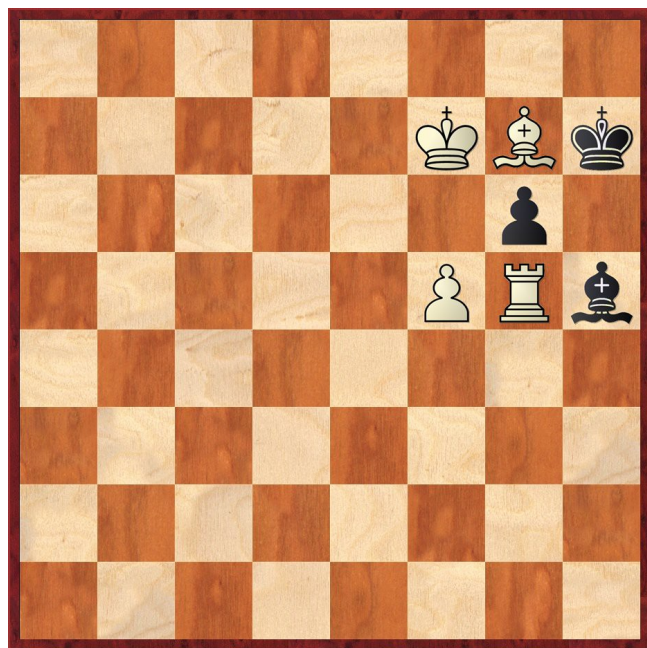
AGM Summary

As we held a Special General Meeting in July to decide teams and captains for next year, the AGM had less to discuss than usual. The main points were :-

- the club maintains a sufficient balance to cover normal running costs and can keep subscriptions at £23p.a. (£18p.a. for OAPs) + ECF membership
- the Committee members were re-elected en bloc
- club internal competitions will continue as last year with Sam Caraway organising summer events when no Masterclass can be provided.

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



Last Month's solution (Kaiser 1939)

Position : 8/8/8/8/K7/3B4/4Q3k7

1 Qe7 Ka2/Kb2 2 Qa3#

Diary Dates

11th October Cambridgeshire Rapidplay at Whittlesford Memorial Hall

28-29th November County Championship at Peterborough Bridge Club, Lincoln Road.

Website to Watch

Do you have a penchant for long website names? If so, try www.europeanchessclubcup2015.com. It is for the European Club Cup being held in Skopje, Macedonia over 18th-24th October. Whereas this tournament will feature a galaxy of grandmasters, the Bilbao Masters is a more select affair. Taking place from 26th October to 1st November, the event was originally intended to star the winners of the major tournaments throughout the year but has been reduced to a contest between four top players – previous world champion Vishy Anand taking on young hopefuls Anish Giri, Ding Liren and Wesley So. See www.bilbaochess2015.com.

Window on the Web

Most of us have probably learned chess from books, perhaps spending a small fortune in the process. My own chess library contains several books on specific openings. Most of them old (predating the internet) and some covering openings I have never got round to playing. A better option now might be to find a website offering free instruction in many openings.

<http://www.eudesign.com/chessops/index.htm> is such a site; it provides training mainly on openings but with some endgame hints. The material is more suited to beginners and ungraded players wishing to improve, rather than experienced club players, but anyone could benefit from brushing up on some basics or exploring the more obscure openings that crop up every now and then. The site was established many years ago and employs descriptive notation but it's easy to get used to it. The interface is somewhat outdated, but thankfully there is a user guide.

Chessops has a drop-down menu with links to such headings as *Chess Basics*, *Notation*, *Gambits* and *Chess History*, with explanatory text. The site claims to have over 9,000 interactive positions covering all major openings, defences and variations. There is a section on early mating with examples of *Blackburne Shilling Mate*, *Boden's Mate* and *Sea Cadet Mate* as well as the more well known mates.

There is also a section giving the foreign names of the pieces where we can learn for example that the knight is a cavalier in French and a caballo in Spanish. The site cannot compete with modern opening explorers

but it does bring together plenty of information in one place with no charge and no need to register.

Ron Jones

Result Round-up

Club Championship

Round 1			
R Taylor	P	P	S Caraway
C Russell	½	½	N Wedley
R Jones	P	P	N Foreman
J Parker	1	0	I Garratt
F Bowers	½	½	S Wozniak
M Dunkley	P	P	P Turp
P O'Gorman	0	1	S Walker
M Tarabad	P	P	D Lane
Deadline : 30th November. Next draw : 1 st December			

Round 1.5			
N Wedley			P Hanks
Round 2			
P Hanks			C Russell

Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

Warboys A	2½	New England A	2½
D McFarlane	½	R Taylor	½
R Mann	0	S Caraway	1
J Beck	1	M Dunkley	0
N Greenwood	½	P Hanks	½
B Duff	½	F Bowers	½

New England B	1½	Buckden	2½
P Turp	0	P Barkas	1
R Jones	0	S Buttercase	1
S Wozniak	½	C Norton	½
D Lane	1	B Taylor	0

Team 550 Competition

Spalding	3½	NE Cavaliers	½
P Golimowski	1	P Turp	0
J Smith	½	R Jones	½
P Szutkowski	1	D Lane	0
F Robinson	1	M Tarabad	0

Warboys		NE Patriots	
R Mann	0	S Caraway	1
B Duff	½	P Hanks	½
M Onyons	1	J Parker	0
P Wells	1	N Foreman	0

New England Club Ladder

White		Black	
N Foreman	0	1	N Wedley
J Parker	0	1	F Bowers
P Cairns	0	1	I Garratt

Position	Change		Player	Record ^{23/09/15}
	Month	Overall		
1			N Wedley	1
2			N Foreman	0
3			F Bowers	1
4			J Parker	0
5			I Garratt	1
6			P Cairns	0

New England Grand Prix

Player	Champ	Ladder	League	Cup	550 Team	Total	TPR*
S Caraway			1		1	2	193
F Bowers	½	1	½			2	172
N Wedley	½	1				1½	112
P Hanks			½		½	1	146
S Wozniak	½		½			1	143
S Walker	1					1	138
D Lane			1		0	1	111
J Parker	1	0			0	1	84
I Garratt	0	1				1	42
R Taylor			½			½	173
C Russell	½					½	103
R Jones			0		½	½	93
M Dunkley			0			0	102
P Turp			0		0	0	108
M Tarabad					0	0	59
N Foreman		0			0	0	51
P O'Gorman	0					0	50
P Cairns		0				0	9

* Tournament Performance Rating is approximate & includes Summer Sprint

Match of the Month

I have a confession to make. Recently, I almost lost a game in three moves! After 1 d4 Nf6 2 Bf4 c5 3 e3, I was seriously considering gaining the bishop pair with 3 ... Nh5. It just goes to show how you can be caught cold either early in a game or in the season.

For whatever reason, we can all suffer a dip in form and know how depressing it can be. Perhaps the best tonic is to realise that you are not alone.

Here, Black plays fearlessly for the initiative and gradually builds up threats against the enemy king. As the time control approaches, the position looks formidable and at times, the computer evaluates Black's advantage to be worth more than a rook. Yet the full game point (and a match victory) still evades Black. There was a time scramble but that would be a poor excuse. It may be old-fashioned but the way to prevent another similar debacle is practice, practice and more practice.

N Greenwood v P Hanks

Warboys A v New England A, 16.09.2015

1	e4	e6
2	d4	d5
3	e5	c5
4	c3	Nc6
5	Nf3	

So far, it is a standard Advance Variation of the French Defence. It would normally continue 5 ... Qb6 which gives White some attacking options (see **NEW ENGLANDER**, July 2008).

5	...	Bd7
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This is still a main line which can transpose to the previous comment after 6 Bd3 cxd4 7 cxd4 Qb6.

6	Be2	Nge7
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An alternative strategy is 6 ... Rc8 but I intended to keep my opponent guessing about my castling intentions.

7	0-0	
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White cannot hold the extra pawn after 7 dxc5 Ng6 8 Be3 Nge5.

7	...	Nf5
8	g4	

The book I have on this opening recommends the paradoxical 8 Bd3 despite the loss of tempo. The idea is to give up the bishop pair to shatter Black's pawn structure e.g. 8 ... cxd4 9 Bxf5 exf5 10 Nxd4 and if 10 ... Nxd4 (10 ... Be7 is supposed to be better) 11 Qxd4 Be6 12 Rd1 Qc7 13 Nd2 Be7 14 Nf3 0-0 15 Bg5 with a small advantage (Psakhis) though the computer is not so convinced.

8	...	Nfe7
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Before my seventh move, I looked at White's reply and thought White had merely weakened his kingside. I decided at that point that I could re-route the knight to g6 to exploit an entry point on f4. 8 ... Nh4 is also possible but I do not see the benefit even though the

computer assesses my move as worse by the equivalent of a pawn!

9	Na3	a6
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Having chosen my knight deployment, Fritz tells me to get on with it with 9 ... Ng6. If 9 ... cxd4, I thought allowing 10 Nb5 with the threat of 11 Nd6# was just too cheeky.

10	Nc2	Ng6
11	Bg5	Be7
12	Qd2	f6

A thematic but committal move which is especially dangerous here with Black's king uncastled.

13	exf6	gxf6
14	Be3	cxd4
15	Ncxd4	Rg8

At the start of the season, my brain was even duller than usual and I was being confronted with several juicy continuations at each turn. I wanted to make use of White's loose g pawn but I also had 15 ... e5 or 15 ... Nce5. I rejected the former on the basis of 16 Nf5 but my choice was largely intuitive.

16	Nxc6	bxc6
17	h4	e5
18	h5	Nf8
19	Nh2	f5

By conventional principles, Black is undeveloped and should not be undertaking a kingside attack. I reckoned White's king was the more exposed and Black had the latitude to maintain the initiative.

20	f4	
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This was totally unexpected. I had only looked at 20 f3 when Black can slowly build pressure while bringing further pieces into play. 20 ... Qc7 21 Rae1 f4 22 Bf2 Ne6 etc.

20	...	e4
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20 ... exf4 21 Bxf4 fxf4 wins a pawn but Black's kingside threats have been blunted. I must pay attention to my king's safety and 22 Rae1 g3 23 Nf3 Bh3 24 Nd4 Bxf1 25 Bxf1, for instance, indicates some of the risks. Instead, 20 ... fxf4 21 fxe5 Qc7 22 Bf4 Qb7 23 Bg3 is unclear.

21	g5	Ne6
22	Rf2	Qc7
23	Rg2	Qd6

I was worried that now the position has become blocked, White could ignore any tactics and turn the kingside advance into an advantage. I wanted to open the position with d5-d4 and protect the pawn on a6 so that I could improve the position of the queen's rook (e.g. by castling). 23 ... Bd6 was an option against g5-g6 but only for one move because 24 Rf1 protects f4 and Black still has to find a way through.

24	g6	hgx6
25	Rxg6	

Another surprise. I anticipated 25 hxg6 when Black can blockade the passed pawn with Ne6-g7 if necessary but 25 ... c5 26 Bh5 0-0-0 was more likely.

25 ... Kf7
 26 Rxc6 Rxc6+
 27 Kh1 c5

The computer likes 27 ... Rg3 which, not surprisingly, I did not consider (and still do not understand).

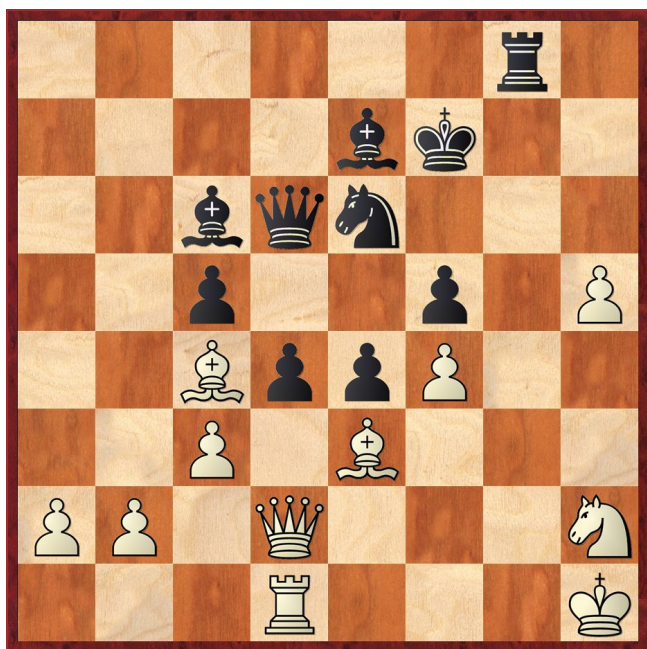
28 Rd1 Bc6
 29 Bxa6

I spoke earlier of the number of choices confronting us and both players were starting to run short of time. White had 29 h6 Rh8 30 Bh5+ Kf8 31 Qg2 Rxc6 32 Rg1 and 29 Bc4 Nc7 as options.

29 ... d4

29 ... Ba4 would win material but you would need to fathom and assess 30 Qxd5 Bxd1 31 Qxf5+ Ke8 32 Bb5+ Kd8 33 Qxe4.

30 Bc4



30 ... Bf6

Initially, my eyes lit up seeing combinations like 30 ... dxe3 31 Qxd6 Bxd6 32 Rxd6 e2 33 Bxe2 e3+ until I saw 34 Rxc6 (amongst other inaccuracies). Then, I had hopes of making 30 ... Qxf4 31 Bxf4 e3+ 32 Nf3 Bxf3+ 33 Kh2 exd2 work but again, there is a defence by 31 cxd4 cxd4 32 Qxd4 when sadly, 32 ... Nxd4 is illegal. Supporting the black queen by 30 ... Rd8 relinquishes the kingside files to White e.g. 31 Qg2 Rg8 32 Qh3.

30 ... Bd5 is correct and after 31 Bxd5 Qxd5 32 Qe2 Rg3 33 cxd4 cxd4 34 Nf1 Rh3+ 35 Kg2 d3 36 Qe1 Rxh5, Black controls the board.

31 Rg1 Rh8
 32 Qd1 Ke7
 33 Bxe6 Kxe6

We were both rushing to meet the time control. 33 ... Qxe6 was superior when 34 Nf1 (34 Bc1 e3+ 35 Nf3 e2) 34 ... dxe3 (or even 34 ... Be8).

34 Rg6 Ke7

At first, I thought I had a direct win by 34 ... dxe3 35 Qxd6+ Kxd6 36 Rxf6+ Ke7 37 Rxc6 e2 and only then realised 35 Rxf6 turns the tables.

The winning move is 34 ... Rd8 when the bishop cannot retreat because 35 Bc1 e3+ 36 Kg1 Qd5 is decisive.

35 Rxf6

White does not need to panic but the seconds are ticking away. 35 cxd4 cxd4 36 Kg1 saves the bishop through 36 ... dxe3 37 Qxd6+ Kxd6 38 Rxf6+.

35 ... Qxf6
 36 cxd4 Rd8

Nine ... eight ... seven ... My last move is overcomplicated. Simply, 36 ... cxd4

- 37 Bxd4 e3+ 38 Kg1 Rg8+ 39 Kf1 Bb5+ 40 Ke1 Qh4#
- 37 Qxd4 Qxd4 38 Bxd4 e3+ 39 Kg1 Rg8+ 40 Kf1 Bb5+ 41 Ke1 Rg1+
- 37 Bc1 e3+ 38 Nf3 Qh4+ 39 Kg2 Qf2+ 40 Kh3 Rh5+

would secure the point. In seven seconds ..?

37 d5 Rxd5
 38 Qc2 Kd6

38 ... Qh4 was my immediate and justified reaction 39 Bxc5+ Kd7 40 Be3 (40 Bf2 Qxf4; 40 Qf2 Rd1+ 41 Kg2 e3+) 40 ... Qe1+. Having missed many of my opponent's moves, however, I thought, "Why not save the c pawn and bring the king into a solidly protected zone?"

39 Qb3 Rd3

I made this oversight with full confidence that my opponent was about to resign. How could I miss his next move?

40 Qb8+ Kd5
 41 Qg8+ Qe6
 42 Qd8+ Kc4

42 ... Qd6 submits to a perpetual check. I tried to fight on but fatigue had already set in.

43 b3+ Kc3
 44 Qa5+ Kb2
 45 Qxc5 Kxa2

I could see no headway after 45 ... Rd1+ 46 Kg2 Qg8+ 47 Kh3 (47 Kf2 allows mate in 2) but 47 ... Qe8 48 Kh4 Rh1 49 Qd4+ Kb1 50 Bg1 e3, although too complex for human analysis, is satisfactory according to the computer.

46 Qc2+ Ka1 1/2-1/2

A little practice with chess problems made me avoid 46 ... Ka3 47 Bc5#. If White gets too ambitious with 47 Bc1, Black can bail out with 47 ... Qxb3 but 47 ... e3+ 48 Kg1 leads to Black delivering checkmate. But that is a little chess problem for you!