

# NEW ENGLANDER

## Chess Club Update – January 2016

### Chairman's Chatter

Another year past means another one about to start! Time to make the most of those good intentions...

Before 2015 is history, though, we must thank Phil and Claire Turp (not necessarily in that order!) for the sumptuous catering at the Christmas Special. We shall look in envy at the waists of the unlucky few who were unable to be there. Many thanks!

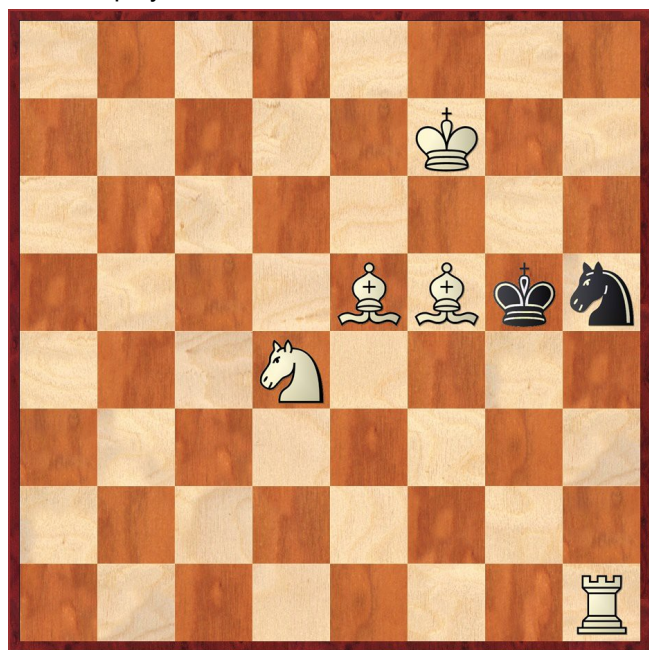
*Paul Hankes*

### Diary Dates

There are no special, internal events in January – just eight leagues matches!

### Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



Last Month's solution (Elekes 1926)

Position : 1k1nn3/R2Q4/6K1/8/8/8/8/8

**1 Qe7 Kc8 2 Ra8#**[1 ... Nb7/c6/e5/f7 2 Qb7#; 1 ... Nc7/d6/f6/g7 2 Qc7#]

Christmas solutions

1 SOCO report : 57 ... Be5+ 58 Kd7/e7 Rc7+ 59 Ke8 Bf6 (threatening 60 ... Re7#) 60 Qb4 Kg8 when 61 ... Ng7# can only be delayed by 60 Qf8+ Nf8 and 61 ... Rc8#. 59 ... Bd6 is equally effective when 60 Qxe6 is ruinous as is 58 Qxe5. Several other moves are also adequate.

2 Before the 1982 Lucerne Olympiad when the game was played, White defected from the USSR and Soviet players were advised to shun their disloyal opponents.

3 Black rejected variation ii due to 18 Ke2 Rxh1 19 Qxe7 when the passed pawns are too powerful e.g. 19 ... Nf6 20 b6 Rb1 (20 ... Re8 21 Qxe8) 21 b4.

4 White defends : 23 Ba5 b2 24 Nd2 or 22 Qb3

5 Alburv v Kasparov

### Website to Watch

Not many tournaments can afford to bring together 14 top grandmasters but they do at Wijk aan Zee (and a fearsome second division!) From 16<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> January, you can follow the stars at [www.tatasteelchess.com](http://www.tatasteelchess.com).

An ELO rating of 2700 only gets you ninth seeding at the Tradewise Gibraltar Chess Festival which starts on 26<sup>th</sup> January. The website may yet carry live games - it is [www.gibraltarchesscongress.com](http://www.gibraltarchesscongress.com).

### Window on the Web

*The New Yorker* is an American magazine published nearly every week containing articles and commentary on many subjects and topical events. In March 2011, one issue contained an interesting article on Magnus Carlsen and chess generally, which can be found at : <http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2011/03/21/the-princes-gambit>

The article begins by describing tournament chess, the use of computers and the transmission of moves over the internet. It moves on to discuss Carlsen's fortunes in the 2010 *London Chess Classic*, which he had won the year before. He needed to win his 6<sup>th</sup> round game against Kramnik, having earlier lost two games. The description of the game is surprisingly exciting given that it uses only prose and no chess notation. Kramnik appeared to be winning for most of the long game but missed a winning move and had to settle for a draw. There are comments on the rivalry and possible ill-feeling between the two players.

There is a description of Carlsen's lifestyle and a brief history of his life from starting to play chess at the age of 8 through winning junior tournaments, having tuition from top coaches, playing over 7000 online games and beating Karpov at blitz at 13 to becoming world number 1 after being trained by Kasparov. Even then, he would have preferred to be a sports star.

Following that is a history of chess, including its domination by the Soviets in the pre-Fischer era and the impact of the coming of computers such as *Deep Blue*, which, it is argued, has altered the way humans play the game. The article then describes Carlsen's fortunes at Wijk aan Zee 2011 and ends with his preparation for the Monaco *Amber* tournament 2011.

This is an illuminating description of the highest level of chess and the life of one of its top stars.

*Ron Jones*

## Result Round-up

### Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

<b>Peterborough B</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>New England A</b>	<b>2</b>
A Summers	1	R Taylor	0
A Kamarauskas	½	S Caraway	½
G Tandy	½	P Hanks	½
M Connolly	½	P Turp	½
N Fisher	½	R Jones	½

<b>New England B</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Peterborough C</b>	<b>3</b>
P Turp	½	N Fisher	½
R Jones	0	D McClennan	1
D Lane	0	J Conlan	1
M Tarabad	½	P Silman	½

### Team 550 Competition

<b>NE Patriots</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Spalding</b>	<b>4</b>
S Caraway	0	P Golimowski	1
S Wozniak	0	P Szutkowski	1
J Parker	0	J Smith	1
N Foreman	0	F Robinson	1

<b>NE Cavaliers</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Godmanchester</b>	<b>1</b>
F Bowers	½	A Rankine	½
R Jones	½	M English	½
D Lane	1	J Bygrave	0
M Tarabad	1	D Green	0

### Club Championship

<b>Round 2</b>			
S Walker (1)	0	1	R Jones (1)
S Wozniak (½)	1	0	J Parker (1)
P Hanks (1)	1	0	C Russell (½)
P Turp (0)	1	0	P O'Gorman (0)
N Foreman (0)	0	1	M Tarabad (0)
S Caraway (½)	½	½	F Bowers (½)
D Lane (1)	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>	M Dunkley (1)
P Weinberger (1)	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>	R Taylor (½)
I Garratt (0)	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>	P Cairns (0)
Deadline : 31 <sup>st</sup> January.		Next draw : 1 <sup>st</sup> February	

### New England Club Ladder

<b>White</b>		<b>Black</b>	
D Lane	½	½	N Wedley
N Wedley	0	1	M Tarabad
P Hanks	½	½	F Bowers
N Foreman	0	1	P O'Gorman

<b>Position</b>	<b>Change</b>		<b>Player</b>	<b>Record @ 23/12/15</b>
	<b>Month</b>	<b>Overall</b>		
1	+11	+10	M Tarabad	1,0,1
2	+1	+1	F Bowers	1,1,1,1,½
3	-1	+9	P Hanks	1,1,½
4	-3	-3	N Wedley	1,1,1,1,½,0
5	-1	+9	R Jones	1
6	-1	+1	P Turp	1
7	+3	+3	P O'Gorman	1,0,0,0,1,1
8	-2	-6	N Foreman	0,0,0,0,0
9	-2	-4	I Garratt	1
10	-2	-6	J Parker	0,0,0,1,1,0
11	-2	-5	P Cairns	0,0
12	-1	-4	P Weinberger	0,0,0
13	1	-3	D Lane	0,0,½
14	-1	-1	S Caraway	1,1

### New England Grand Prix

<b>Player</b>	<b>Champ</b>	<b>Ladder</b>	<b>League</b>	<b>Cup</b>	<b>550 Team</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>TPR*</b>
P Hanks	2	2½	3	½	½	8½	161
F Bowers	1	4½	1	½	1½	8½	167
S Caraway	1	2	2½		2	7½	173
P Turp	1	1	4½		1	7½	146
R Jones	2	1	2½		1	6½	124
N Wedley	½	4½				5	108
D Lane	1	½	2½		2	6	105
M Tarabad	1	2	1½		1½	6	88
J Parker	1	2			1	4	89
P O'Gorman	0	3			1	4	82
S Wozniak	1½		½			2	123
C Russell	½			½	½	1½	110
R Taylor	½		½			1	153
M Dunkley	1		0	0		1	133
S Walker	1					1	93
P Weinberger	1	0				1	53
I Garratt	0	1				1	42
N Foreman	0	0			0	0	39
P Cairns	0	0				0	13

\* Tournament Performance Rating is approximate & includes Summer Sprint

## Christmas Special

Player		Round					Quiz	Total
		1	2	3	4	5		
1	P Turp	5	5	0	2	5	0	17
2	F Bowers	5	5	0	5	-	1	16
	C Russell	0	5	0	5	5	1	16
	S Wozniak	5	0	0	5	5	1	16
5	S Caraway	5	5	0	0	5	0	15
6	I Garratt	5	5	0	0	0	1	11
7	D Lane	0	0	0	5	0	2	7
8	P Cairns	0	0	0	5	-	1	6
9	N Foreman	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
	P O'Gorman	0	5	0	0	0	0	5
11	J Parker	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

### Match of the Month

It has doubtless not gone unnoticed that I started last season on board one and I am still there this year! Having dropped down a division may shield me from the titans at Royston and Cambridge but at Warboys, it hardly makes any difference to the strength of the opposition.

#### P Turp v C Watkins

New England B v Warboys B; 11.11.2015

1 Nf3 Nf6  
2 c4 e6

Depending on your point of view, the range of possible transpositions at this point is either a joy or a headache. In a single move, you could be playing a Queen's Gambit (3 d4 d5) or a Queen's Indian Defence (3 d4 b6). I opted for the quieter and less explored pathways of the English Opening.

One advantage of my kingside fianchetto is that it makes Black's text move quite committal. With e7-e6, Black has blocked the natural diagonal for his light-squared bishop and it will have to emerge via b7 or a6. My counterpart bishop will exert gentle but nagging pressure on b7 and make my opponent exercise a little care deploying his queenside.

3 g3 c5  
4 Bg2 Nc6  
5 0-0 Be7  
6 b3 0-0  
7 Bb2 Rb8

Black decides to take the rook off the a8-h1 diagonal both to avoid any future tactics and to prepare a queenside pawn advance. In the same vein, another idea might be to forge ahead immediately with 7 ... a6 8 e3 b5 9 Ne5 Bb7 10 Nxc6 Bxc6 11 Bxc6 dxc6 12 Qe2 which went on to be drawn after 57 moves, G Schwartzman v E Schmittiel, Wijk aan Zee 1993.

8 Nc3 d5

If Black is too supine, White can gain the initiative in the centre e.g. 8 ... a6 9 d4 d6 10 d5 Na7 11 e4 b5 12 e5, J Jacobs (2290) v S Jaradat, Dallas 1996 and White won in 32 moves.

More straightforward development allows Black to contest the centre and gain easy equality e.g. 8 ... b6 9 e3 Bb7 10 d4 cxd4 11 exd4 d5 12 Ne5 Na5 13 Re1 dxc4 14 bxc4 Bxg2 15 Kxg2 Rc8 16 d5 Nxc4 17 Nxc4 Rxc4 18 dxe6 fxe6 19 Rxe6 Qxd1 20 Rxd1, T Lammens (2321) v T Kasparova (2109), Roosendaal 2012 which was eventually drawn.

9 e3

I wanted to make sure d4 was covered. This is a typical idea in this variation. However I think Fritz's suggestion (9 cxd5 exd5 10 d4 Be6 with a slight edge for White) would have been better.

9 ... a6

Preparing b5 at some stage. 9 ... d4 10 exd4 cxd4 11 Na4 would also be level.

10 d4 cxd4

There are many equally tempting continuations here and it is hard to be motivated by a general guiding principle. I think Black has to try to avoid an isolated queen's pawn as might arise if he fails to initiate pawn exchanges for instance, 10 ... Qa5 11 cxd5 exd5 (11 ... cxd4 12 Nxd4 Nxd5 13 Nxd5 exd5) 12 dxc5.

The alternative to the move played 10 ... dxc4 11 bxc4 can transpose but as an independent option, 11 ... b5 12 cxb5 axb5 13 dxc5 Bxc5 14 Qe2 leaves White with pleasant open lines.

11 exd4 dxc4  
12 bxc4

I know hanging pawns are not good (see **NEW ENGLANDER**, August 2014) but I think I got away with them on this occasion. Strategically, they provoke a battle between a) White's inclination to push the pawns and disrupt Black's piece coordination and b) Black's hope to immobilise the advance with a blockade and target the backward pawn.

In the present position, it is clear I shall be unwilling to play c4-c5 because the resulting hole on d5 just plays into Black's hands. Nevertheless, Black could offer the invitation by putting pressure on c4 with 12 ... Na5 13 Qe2 Qc7 14 Nd2 b5 15 cxb5 axb5 16 Nxb5 Qc2 with several threats (17 ... Qxb2, 17 ... Rxb5 18 Qxb5 Qxd2, 17 Rab1 Ba6 etc.) Instead, the race is on to win the debate over the viability of the adjacent advance!

12 ... Qa5  
13 Qe2 Rd8  
14 Rfd1

Both sides have consistently brought more and more force to focus on d5. Even so, Black still has minor pieces in the path of the pawn advance and this is not easy to correct due to his cramped position. Look, for example, at the lack of mobility of the knight on c6 (Nc6-b4 is simply forced to retreat by a2-a3) and Black has yet to resolve how to deploy his queen's bishop (see the comment to move 2!)

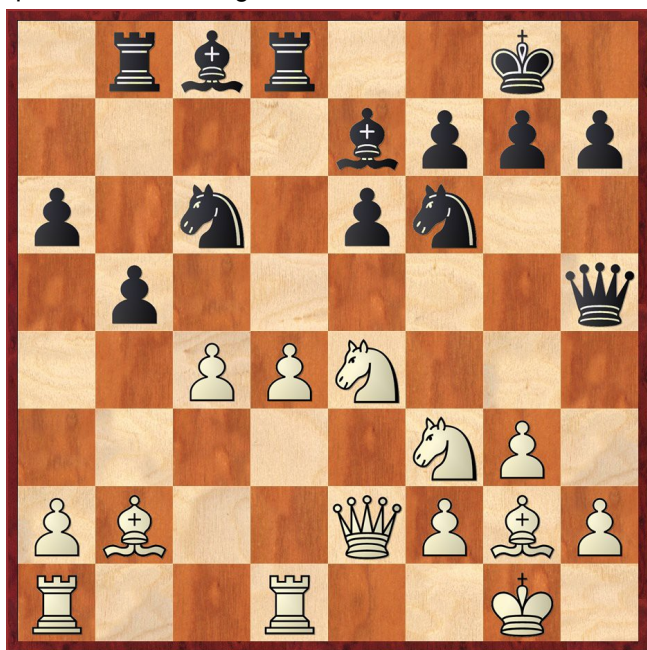


14 ... Qh5

I don't see the purpose of this move but then again, the same is true for the computer's recommendation 14 ... h6 15 a4. Following on from the above discussion of Black's congestion, one plan to free his game might be 14 ... Bb4 intending Nc6-e7 but after 15 Ne4, the bishop will have to consider its own safety. As a result, the more forcing 14 ... Ba3 has some human logic and is Fritz's second preference.

15 Ne4 b5?

Carl misses my move. 15 ... Nxe4!? 16 Qxe4 Bf6 looks better and although Black has gained some freedom, White is very much in control. In fact, Black can be reminded of his disconnected rooks and weak back rank by 17 d5 exd5 18 Rxd5 or 17 ... Na5 18 Bxf6 gxf6 19 Qf4 hitting f6 and b8. After the forced 17 ... Bxb2, 18 dxc6 gives Black a wide selection of poor options e.g. 18 ... Bxa1 19 Rxd8#, 18 ... Rf8 19 Rab1 bxc6 20 Qe2 winning the bishop, 18 ... Rxd1+ 19 Rxd1 g6 20 Rd8+ Kg2 21 Qf4. All this (sadly unseen by me) shows the power of opening lines when your opponent has neglected his development. Black should try to challenge the dominance of the white queen with 16 ... Qg6.



16 d5!

I was sure this looked good but couldn't work out all the consequences. Obviously, Black cannot allow the pawn to advance further e.g. 16 ... Na7 (where else?) 17 d6 Bf1 18 Bxf6 when recapture is ruled out by the knight fork. An intermediate exchange with 16 ... Nxe4 permits 17 dxc6 and Black must perform magic to defend the en prise knight and the pawn fork c6-c7. Even the best try from this position is forlorn 17 ... Rxd1+ 18 Rxd1 Nf6 (18 ... Nd6 19 Be5) 19 c7 Ra1 20 Rd8+ Bf8 21 Ba3 Nd7 22 Qe4. Wisely, Black rejects these variations and buys some breathing space eventually at the cost a pawn.

16 ... exd5  
17 Nxf6+ gxf6

Not 17 ... Bxf6 18 Rxd5 Bf5 19 Re1 when the computer confirms White has a strong initiative but it is not entirely obvious how to proceed. Black has to attend to White's Rd5xd8 and Qe2-e8+ and this gives White the time for h2-h3 and g3-g4 e.g. 19 ... h6 20 Bxf6 gxf6 (20 ... Rxd5 21 cxd5) 21 h3 Qg6 22 Nh4.

18 cxd5 Ne5

18 ... Rxd5?? taking the pawn will bring Black grief 19 Rxd5 Qxd5 20 Nd4 skewering the knight on c6 because White's piece activity is too great after 20 ... Nxd4. The tactical justification is long but supports the assessment by 21 Qxe7 Nf3+ (21 ... Qe5 22 Qd8+ and 23 Qxd4) 22 Kh1 Qf5 (22 ... Bg4 23 Qxf6 Kf8 24 Qh8+; 22 ... Bh3 23 Bxh3 Ng5+ 24 Bg2) 23 Qd6

- 23 ... Ra8 24 Bh3 Qg6 (24 ... Qxh3 25 Qd8+ mates) 25 Qc6
- 23 ... Rb7 24 Rc1 Bd7 25 Bxf6 when Black's scattered and incoherent forces cannot hold back White's tidal wave.

19 Bxe5 fxе5  
20 Qxe5 Qxe5  
21 Nxe5

I have won the battle to play d4-d5. The foregoing analysis has demonstrated that it was the more dynamic advance particularly due to the tempo gained by attacking/displacing the knight on c6. Furthermore, Black was ill-prepared to hold it back. Paradoxically, the best defence to d4-d5 may have been to concentrate on c4. Compelling c4-c5 would permit a piece to block the d5 square.

21 ... Bf6  
22 Nc6

I felt it was easier to avoid any problems with the pin and swap down a bit. However, perhaps 22 f4 Rb6 23 Rac1 Rbd6 was better.

22 ... Bxa1  
23 Rxa1 Bb7  
24 Nxb8 Rb8  
25 f4 Rd8  
26 Rd1 Kf8  
27 Kf2 Ke7??

An oversight.

28 d6+! 1-0

Thankfully 28 ... Rxd6 29 Rxd6 Bxg2 30 Rxa6 spared me from playing out the endgame and you from having to read about it!

Had Black played 27 ... Ke8 28 Re1+ Kd7 29 Re5, I was hoping that the rook could get into the kingside and mop up a pawn or two. I think White is much better but there is still work to do. A sample variation is 29 ... Kd6 30 Rh5 Rh8 31 Bf3 when Black is running out of constructive ideas e.g. 31 ... Kc5 32 Rf5 Rf8 33 d6+ Kb6 34 d7 and 35 Rxf7. Since passive defence is unsatisfactory, Black should try more active lines such as 30 ... Rc8 but after 31 Rh6+ Kc5 (31 ... Kd7 32 Be4) 32 Rxh7, I still hold the whip hand.

The main thrust of this game is the strategic battle in the centre. It is interesting that several variations

required assessment of a position 2-3 moves ahead due to my analysis ended in some murky tactics extending to typically 4-7 moves. Whereas the post-mortem has generally substantiated my judgement, I should have liked to claim that my vision encompassed the deeper continuations.

Despite the apparent complexity, there are only two basic strands. Firstly, Black did not develop his light-squared bishop, the rooks remained unconnected and the back rank became weak. Secondly, I acquired hanging pawns with a consequential space advantage, could advance them to open lines and gain tempi from Black's knight on c6. Concentrating on these fundamental factors may have guided me through the tactical maze.

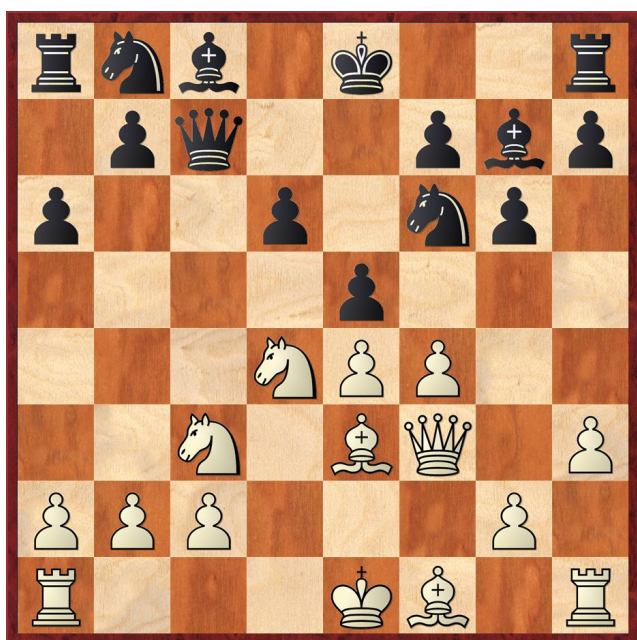
*Phil Turp*

### Eye Opener

Sometimes, the boot is on the other foot. Instead of a surprising resource that wins in short order, you come across an equally cryptic move but are left wondering if you have missed the point. It receives an exclamation mark but does not appear to be that strong.

**V Ivanchuk (2710) v G Kasparov (2805)**  
Amsterdam, 1994

1	<b>e4</b>	<b>c5</b>
2	<b>Nf3</b>	<b>d6</b>
3	<b>d4</b>	<b>cxd4</b>
4	<b>Nxd4</b>	<b>Nf6</b>
5	<b>Nc3</b>	<b>a6</b>
6	<b>f4</b>	<b>Qc7</b>
7	<b>Qf3</b>	<b>g6</b>
8	<b>Be3</b>	<b>Bg7</b>
9	<b>h3</b>	<b>e5</b>



10	<b>fxe5</b>	<b>dxе5</b>
11	<b>Bh6!</b>	

Here it is. In his recently published autobiographical trilogy, *Garry Kasparov on Garry Kasparov*, the former

world champion admits wanting to stop the clocks at this point and leave the tournament hall. But is Black's position really that bad?

Surely, it must have been the psychological impact that provoked the game continuation

11	<b>...</b>	<b>Bxh6</b>
12	<b>Qxf6</b>	<b>0-0</b>
13	<b>Nd5</b>	<b>Qa5+</b>
14	<b>b4</b>	<b>Qd8</b>
15	<b>Ne7+</b>	

winning comfortably. Kasparov gives both his eighth and ninth moves a ?! and recommends 8 ... b5 9 Bd3 Nbd7 as he later played in a rapid game. He also points to 14 ... Bg7 as an immediate improvement and after 15 bxa5 Bxf6 16 Nxf6+ Kg7 17 Nxh7 Kxh7 18 Nb3, White has the pawn advantage but his structure is not pretty (Fritz +0.4).

Scouting round for alternatives, however, is fairly depressing e.g. 11 ... 0-0 is natural but 12 Bxg7 Kxg7 13 Qxf6+ Kxf6 14 Nd5+ Kg7 15 Nxc7 - enough said (Fritz +3.5)!

The sequence of captures is hardly better. 11 ... exd4 12 Bxg7

- 12 ... dxc3 13 Bxh8 cxb2 14 Rb1 Qa5+ 15 c3 Qxa2 16 Bd3 Nfd7 17 0-0 when the b2 pawn is likely to fall and the black king is insecure (Fritz +1.7). If Black tries to plunder as much material compensation as possible with 14 ... Qxc2 15 Bd3 Qc3+ 16 Ke2 Nbd7 (16 ... Nfd7 17 Bxc3) 17 Rhf1 Ke7 18 Qf4 when 19 e5 is threatened (Fritz +2.7).
- 12 ... Rg8 13 Bxf6 dxc3 14 Bxc3 when White has a pleasant position and an extra pawn (Fritz +1.5).

Finally, 11 ... Nh5 12 Bxg7 Nxc7 when White has a choice between

- the tactical 13 Qf6
  - 13 ... 0-0 14 Nd5 Qa5+ 15 b4 Qa3 16 Qxe5 Be6 leaves Black with a slight material deficit but with a chance to fight on (Fritz +0.4).
  - 13 ... Rg8 is worse because 14 Nd5 Qd8 15 Qxe5+ Kf8 (15 ... Ne6 16 Nxe6 Bxe6 17 Nc7+) 16 Nf6 Rh8 17 Qc5+ (Fritz +4.6)
  - 13 ... exd4 14 Qxg7 Qg3+ 15 Kd1 Rf8 16 Qxd4 Be6 is not a total disaster for Black (Fritz +0.5 though even this evaporates with prolonged analysis)
- the positional 13 Nd5 which is supposed to give White a substantial plus after 13 ... Qa5+ 14 b4 Qd8 15 Nb3 0-0 16 0-0-0.

Would you have played on with confidence?