

# NEW ENGLANDER

## Chess Club Update – May 2016

### Chairman's Chatter

Traffic problems are causing havoc with our schedule. Closure of the A14 meant that the match against Cambridge had to be postponed and the extra fixture on 4<sup>th</sup> May will affect when we stage the internal events at the end of the season. We also need to squeeze in the Fenland Trophy final. Please play Ladder and Club Championship games when possible and await further announcements.

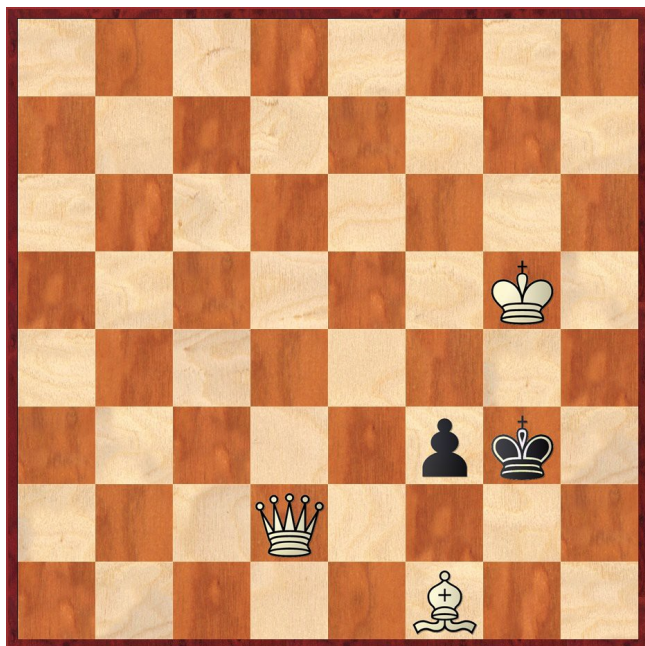
*Paul Hanks*

### Diary Dates

4<sup>th</sup> May Cambridge v New England A  
5<sup>th</sup> May League Jamboree at Godmanchester  
11<sup>th</sup> May Club Championship Round 6  
18<sup>th</sup> May Mini-Lightning  
25<sup>th</sup> May Problem Night (postponed from 4th)  
The Masterclasses and the Summer Sprint (or its replacement) will now start in June.

### Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



Last Month's solution (Lincoln 1988)

Position : 8/8/5K2/5R2/4k3/1R2B3/2P1n3/8

1 Bf2 Nf4 2 Re5# [1 ... Nd4 2 Re3#; 1 ... other 2 Rb4#]

### Website to Watch

The Gashimov Memorial attracts the strongest young grandmasters and the 2016 event (23<sup>rd</sup> May to 2<sup>nd</sup> June) even without Carlsen should be no exception.

Website : [www.newenglandchess.org.uk](http://www.newenglandchess.org.uk)

The advertised website is [www.shamkirchess.az](http://www.shamkirchess.az) but it struggles to display and a more general viewer such as [www.chessbomb.com](http://www.chessbomb.com) may be preferable.

The European Individual Chess Championship in Gjakova, Kosovo from 11<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> May has a working website at [www.eicc2016.com](http://www.eicc2016.com).

### Window on the Web

Anyone interested in chess news should visit <http://www.hotoffthechess.com/> which made its first appearance on the web in January this year. The site's mission is to provide free quality reliable chess news and media services for all chess players and to promote and encourage chess at all levels.

Currently the site has the first part of a guide to playing chess, aimed at beginners, which seems to cover the basics in a comprehensive manner. There are clear explanations of how the pawns and pieces move, the *en passant* rule, pawn promotion, castling, check, mate, pins, perpetual check and stalemate, accompanied by diagrams.

If you were in any doubt that chess is good for you, the home page contains a link to *The Top 10 Benefits of Chess*, suggesting that chess, amongst other things, improves memory, helps to prevent Alzheimer's, improves recovery from a stroke and exercises the brain.

The main intention of the site, however, is to provide up to date news on chess events. There are round by round reports on the Gibraltar Tournament which was won by Nakamura, the FIDE Candidates Tournament won by Karjakin and several other events, including the US Chess Championships in St Louis. The reports contain a selection of games which can be played through. All the reports are available, beginning with the 2015 London Chess Classic. This is a relatively new chess website that shows a lot of promise.

*Ron Jones*

### Result Round-up

#### Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

Cambridge	P	New England A	P
Postponed to 4 <sup>th</sup> May			
New England A	3	St Neots	2
R Taylor	1	R Gompelman	0
F Bowers	½	P Brown	½
S Caraway	½	P Barkas	½
P Hanks	1	Default	0
C Russell	0	R Palumbo	1

<b>New England B</b>	<b>2½</b>	<b>Warboys B</b>	<b>1½</b>
P Walker	0	B Duff	1
P Turp	1	J Beck	0
R Jones	½	P Baddeley	½
D Lane	1	P Wells	0

#### Club Championship

<b>Round 5</b>			
M Dunkley (3½)	0	1	P Walker (3½)
R Taylor (3)	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>	P Hanks (3)
R Jones (2½)	0	1	F Bowers (2½)
S Caraway (2½)	1	0	P Turp (2½)
J Parker (2)	0	1	D Lane (2)
S Walker (2)	1	0	M Tarabad (2)
N Wedley (1½)	1	0	S Wozniak (2)
P Weinberger (1)	0	1	C Russell (1½)
N Foreman (½)	0	1	I Garratt (0)

<b>Round 6</b>			
P Walker (4½)			S Caraway (3½)
F Bowers (3½)			R Taylor (3+P)
P Hanks (3+P)			M Dunkley (3½)
D Lane (3)			S Walker (3)
P Turp (2½)			J Parker (2)
C Russell (2½)			R Jones (2½)
I Garratt (1)			N Wedley (2½)
N Foreman (½)			P Weinberger (1)
P O'Gorman (1½)			S Wozniak (2)
P O'Gorman* (1½)			M Tarabad (2)
Match night : 11 <sup>th</sup> May. Deadline : 31 <sup>st</sup> May.			
* extra game due to odd number of competitors - to be arranged by contestants			

#### New England Club Ladder

<b>White</b>		<b>Black</b>	
N Wedley	1	0	N Foreman
M Tarabad	1	0	I Garratt
M Tarabad	0	1	J Parker
N Wedley	0	1	S Walker
N Foreman	1	0	I Garratt
N Foreman	0	1	P Weinberger
J Parker	0	1	S Walker
P Walker	1	0	N Wedley

<b>Position</b>	<b>Change</b>		<b>Player</b>	<b>Record @ 27/04/16</b>
	<b>Month</b>	<b>Overall</b>		
1	-	+12	S Caraway	1,1,1
2	-	+1	F Bowers	1,1,1,1,½,1,1,1,1
3	-	+6	P O'Gorman	1,0,0,0,0,1,1,1,1,1,0,1
4	+12	+12	S Walker	1,1
5	-1	+7	P Hanks	1,1,½,1,1
6	+3	-2	J Parker	0,0,0,1,1,0,0,1,1,1,0
7	+7	+8	P Walker	0,1
8	-1	+6	R Jones	1,1,1
9	-4	-8	N Wedley	1,1,1,1,½,0,½,1,0
10	-4	+1	M Tarabad	1,0,1,0,½,1,1,0
11	-3	-1	D Lane	0,0,½,0,1,1
12	-	-4	P Weinberger	0,0,0,1,0,1,0,0,1
13	-3	-11	N Foreman	0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,1,0
14	-3	-7	P Turp	1
15	-2	-10	I Garratt	1,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0

#### 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>
F Bowers	3½	8½	4	½	1½	18	169
S Caraway	3½	3	5½		4	16	171
D Lane	3	2½	6		3½	15	109
P Hanks	3	4½	6	½	½	14½	166
R Jones	2½	3	5½		3	14	130
P Turp	2½	1	8		2	13½	154
P O'Gorman	1½	7			3	11½	95
M Tarabad	2	4½	2½		1½	10½	85
N Wedley	2½	6				8½	106
M Dunkley	3½		3	0	1½	8	152
J Parker	2	5			1	8	94
S Walker	3	2	1½		1	7½	107
R Taylor	3		3			6	165
P Walker	4½	1	½			6	171
P Weinberger	1	3			1	5	80
C Russell	2½		0	½	1	4	107
S Wozniak	2		½		½	3	104
I Garratt	1	1			1	3	50
N Foreman	½	1			0	1½	44

\* Tournament Performance Rating is approximate & includes Summer Sprint

## Match of the Month

Most games in this feature are annotated at least in part by one of the players. They can enliven the commentary with remarks about the sporting situation at the time and compare their vision at the board with what they found in post-mortem study.

The present case is a slight exception. It is viewed from the standpoint of an onlooker and is no less exciting for that. Each move had a sense of expectation. Not only was there a battle between the contestants over who had the superior understanding of the position but was it better than that of a bystander who lacked the competitive spirit to emulate their fierce powers of concentration?

Further spice was added to the occasion from the game taking place barely a month after **NEW ENGLANDER** carried a soul-searching article about an earlier encounter between the same opponents (December 2015). Had they learned the lessons from that game?

### S Walker v D Lane

NE Patriots v NE Cavaliers, 06.01.16

1 e4 c5  
2 Nf3 Nf6

Des varies from the previous game in which he did not develop this knight and should have suffered by not covering the d5 square. Here, he deploys the piece immediately and provocatively. Nimzovich favoured Black's move as shown by the inclusion of no less than five examples in his seminal book *Chess Praxis*.

3 Nc3

Surprisingly, White gains nothing from chasing the knight by 3 e5 Nd5 4 Bc4 Nb6 5 Be2 Nc6 as in Yates v Nimzovich, London 1927 for which Black won a "best played game" prize. Instead, White relies on orthodox development.

3 ... b6  
4 Bc4

In contrast to a move earlier, the d5 square is no longer available to the black knight and so 4 e5 comes back into consideration. 4 ... Ng4 5 h3 Nh6 6 d4 will give White a pleasant game.

4 ... Bb7  
5 e5 Ng8  
6 d4 cxd4  
7 Qxd4

Fritz takes some time trying to resolve the minor differences between the text move, 7 Nx4 and 7 Nb5. I find this hesitation strange because Qd1xd4 is recommended in some lines of the Sicilian Defence but only when Black does not have Nb8-c6 in reply. By exposing his queen, White surprised me.

7 ... Nc6

So far, the moves of the previous game have been repeated except for the recapture on d4 (Qd1xd4 rather than Nf3xd4) and the early development of Black's knight subsequently allowing the pawn advance on move 5.

It reminds me of Eric Morecambe on the piano – all the right notes but not necessarily in the right order!

8 Qf4 e6  
9 Be3 Nb4

This move violates the principle of not moving a piece twice until all your forces have been mobilised. 9 ... Bb4 would start to bring Black's kingside into play.

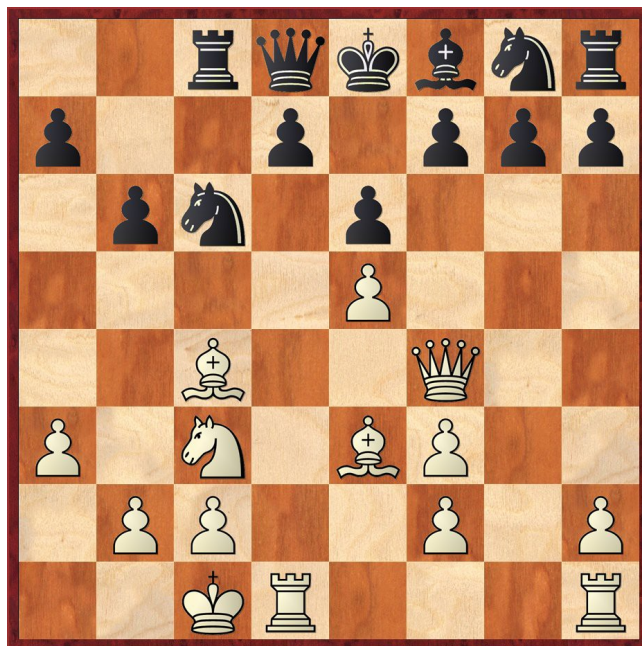
10 0-0-0 Rc8  
11 a3 Bxf3  
12 gxf3 Nc6

Fortunately, my game in the Club Ladder finished at this point and I became a full-time spectator in the internal match between our teams in the "550" competition. My first impression was the Black had misplayed the opening. Neglecting to stabilise his king's knight with d7-d6 has cost him two tempi and more were lost by the other knight's foray. White has the worse pawn structure but that is a long-term problem. Immediately, the lead in development should be much more important.

It reminded me of something I read by Russian grandmaster Kotov who, in turn, was quoting the great Steinitz. "The player who has the advantage must willy-nilly go over to the attack." On current evidence, I shall have to look up the precise meaning of willy-nilly!

13 Nb5

White does indeed strike out but the threats to occupy d6 are nebulous and by exchanging there, Black may ease his development problems.



Instead, 13 Ba6 Rb8 (13 ... Rc7 14 Nb5) would remove the black rook from the open file. Then, 14 Nb5 would give White a chance to exploit his superior deployment. Over the board, this is as far as club players (and onlookers) could be expected to see provided it came with the realisation that Black's game is very cramped, maybe fatally so. The details of what is over the horizon in this variation were supplied by the computer and generally elaborate the possibilities that your intuition should suspect. Steinitz was right!

If Black continues passively e.g. 14 ... Nh6, White can attack the uncastled king by 15 Rxd7 Qxd7 16 Rd1 Qe7 17 Qc4 when the attack on c6 and the x-ray to the square beyond will be decisive. 16 ... Qxd1+ is probably best though White retains an initiative.

In fact, such is Black's constriction that he has few constructive alternatives at move 14. White has concentrated sufficient firepower to deter the freeing d7-d6/d5 and Black's pieces have few active squares.

- 14 ... Bc5 fails to 15 Bxc5 bxc5 16 Nd6+ checkmating
- 14 ... Be7 15 Rhg1 g6 (15 ... Kf8 16 Bd2 Nh6 17 Rxc7 Kxc7 18 Qxh6+ etc) 16 Rd3 and enormous pressure through doubling rooks on the d file
- 14 ... f6 15 exf6 Nxf6 (15 ... Qxf6 is marginally better) 16 Nc7+ with a massive attack e.g. 16 ... Kf7 17 Nxe6 Kxe6 18 Bxb6 Qxb6 19 Rhe1+ Kf7 20 Bc4+.

Do we all need practice in identifying and executing attacks like this?

**13 ... Nxe5**

The text move is Black's best practical chance – distracting White with tactical complications.

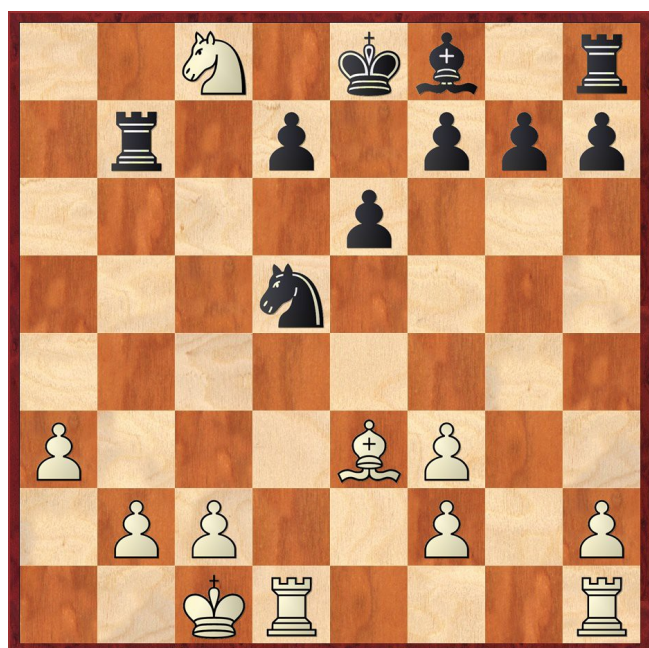
**14 Qxe5**

14 Bxe6 fxe6 15 Qxe5 Nf6 16 Nxa7 is similar to the game but White keeps an extra pawn.

**14 ... Rxc4**  
**15 Nxa7 Qc7**  
**16 Qxc7 Rxc7**  
**17 Bxb6 Rb7**  
**18 Be3 Nf6**

A series of "best" moves according to Fritz! I contemplated 19 a4 which was much safer because it gives the white knight an escape route via b5. Now it is in danger of being trapped.

**19 Nc8 Nd5**



**20 Rd3**

20 Rhe1 has a nasty hidden threat i.e. 20 ... Kd8 21 Rxd5 exd5 22 Bb6+ Kxc8 23 Re8# and neither is 20 ... Nxe3 effective any more because 21 Rxe3 precludes 21 ... d5 22 Rxd5 and therefore the knight can flee to d6.

Black has to see all this and play 20 ... f6 when

- 21 Na7 Nxe3 wins a piece
- 21 Rd4 Kf7 22 Rc4 - otherwise Bf8-c5 - 22 ... Rb8 23 Na7 Rb7 24 Nc8 with a draw by repetition
- 21 Rxd5 is the winning attempt 21 ... exd5 22 Bc5+ Kf7 (22 ... Kd8 23 Bb6+ again) 23 Bxf8 Kxf8 (23 ... Rxf8 24 Nd6+) 24 Nd6 Rb8 - forced to prevent Re8# - 25 b4 when Black is tied up and facing advancing passed pawns.

I was trying to fathom these continuations but could not justify them in my own mind. My difficulty arose because I only linked the opening of the e file with the bishop moving to f4 or g5. I need to remember that minor pieces can often reach their target squares by more than one route. Like the kerb drill of yore, look both ways!

**20 ... Nxe3**

Well done Des! I assumed 20 ... Kd8 was the killing move but as Fritz corrects me, it allows 21 Rxd5 exd5 22 Nb6 with material equality and passed pawns for White.

**21 fxe3 d5**  
**22 Rc3**

I was unable to see how Steve could survive and he must have been having similar problems. The white knight cannot go anywhere after Ke8-d7 so simply moving the bishop to unmask the forgotten rook on h8 will end its adventure.

Actually, White can still maintain approximate equality with 22 Rb3 though the knight can be dominated by 22 ... Rxb3 (22 ... Rc7 23 Nd6+ Ke7 (23 ... Bxd6?? 24 Rb8+) 24 Rb6) 23 cxb3 Bc5. However, the bishop is similarly restricted and 24 Kd2 Kd7 25 b4 Bxb4+ 26 axb4 Rxc8 will probably end in a draw.

**22 ... Kd7**

White is struggling. Psychologically, it is difficult to plan objectively starting at the current position rather than thinking regretfully about what might have been.

**23 Rg1**

23 e4 d4 24 Rd1 e5 25 f4 f6 26 Rc4 makes Black work to win the piece 26 ... g6 27 c3 Bh6.

**23 ... g6**  
**24 Rg4 Bg7**  
**25 Rb4 Rxb4**  
**26 axb4 Bxc3**  
**27 Nb6+ Kc6 0-1**

La plus ça change, la plus c'est la même chose.

*Paul Hanks*