

# NEW ENGLANDER

## Chess Club Update – September 2016

### Chairman's Chatter

After our AGM on September 7<sup>th</sup>, we shall be starting the new season and welcoming some new faces. As usual, our calendar of events is packed with league and cup matches, the club championship, several internal competitions and don't forget the Club Ladder whenever you have no formal commitment. I hope that will give plenty of events for everyone to enjoy. See you at the AGM and throughout the season!

*Paul Hanks*

### Diary Dates

7<sup>th</sup> September Club AGM starting at 7-30pm

21<sup>st</sup> September Round 1 of the Club Championship

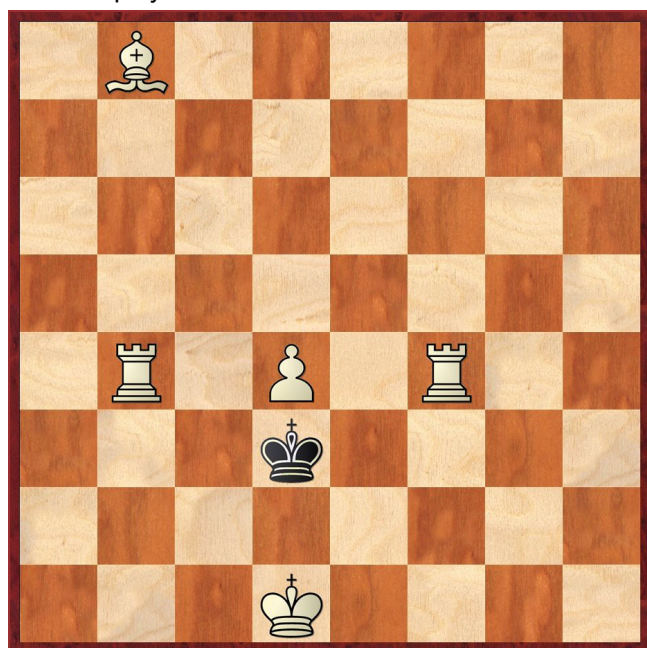
25<sup>th</sup> September Cambridgeshire Rapidplay held at Whittlesford Memorial Hall, CB22 4NE is a 5 round tournament starting at 10am

26-27<sup>th</sup> November Cambridgeshire County Championship at Peterborough Bridge Club, PE1 2PE is a 5 round Swiss tournament with a 9-30am start on each day.

Please consult the appended club fixture list for details of our league match commitments.

### Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



Last Month's solution (Lindner 1933)

Position : 8/8/2p5/2Q5/4k3/4N3/2P2K2/8

1 c3 Kf4 2 Qf5# [1 ... Kd3 2 Qd4#]

### Window on the Web

The British Chess Championships 2016 took place in Bournemouth between 23rd July and 6th August. Michael Adams scored 10/11 to become British Champion and Jovanska Houska won the women's event. Adams equalled the record score set by Julian Hodgson in 1992 but is unlikely to have the opportunity to better it next year because it is planned to reduce the length of the event to only 9 rounds in future.

The ECF has a page dedicated to the competition found at <http://www.britishchesschampionships.co.uk/>. The site includes videos of the game of the day for each round, presented by IM Andrew Martin. The link *Andrew Martin – videos* takes you to the ECF's YouTube channel, where videos of games from this and the previous two championships can be viewed, together with live commentary from 2015. Possibly live commentary from this year will be added in due course. *Pairings and Results* takes you to lists of participants for the various competitions with cross-tables.

PGNs2016 enables you to play through all the games of the 26 different competitions, round by round, including the "Weekender" tournaments. There are several pages of photographs of the participants.

If you wish to it is possible to download the games in pgn format.

*Ron Jones*

### Result Round-up

#### Club Championship

Round 1		
P Weinberger (0)		R Ilett (0)
S Walker (0)		S Wozniak (0)
S Caraway (0)		M Tarabad (0)
N Foreman (0)		G Dharmasena (0)
P O'Gorman (0)		P Turp (0)
C Russell (0)		I Garratt (0)
P Walker (0)		D Lane (0)
J Parker (0)		F Bowers (0)
R Jones (0)		N Wedley (0)
Match night : 21 <sup>st</sup> September. Deadline : 26 <sup>th</sup> October Next draw : 1 <sup>st</sup> November		
Round 1.5		
I Garratt (0)		P Hanks (0)

## Website to Watch

Can the England chess team build on the success of Team GB in Rio? The World Chess Olympiad takes place from 1<sup>st</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> September in Baku, Azerbaijan and England boast an average ELO of 2672 which makes them 7<sup>th</sup> seeds. Live games can be followed on [www1.bakuchessolympiad.com](http://www1.bakuchessolympiad.com).

## Serious Study

If I were ever to grow older, I might realise how the world is changing. Fashions fade from the meory and new-fangled technology is mistaken for progress but I refer to the important things in life – in this case, our language. I hope I am not alone when I cringe at the acceptance of bad grammar in common parlance and bemoan the gradual decline of traditional idiom. For instance, I haven't heard the expression "donkey's years" ... well, for donkey's years.

If the aforesaid donkey had a life span of over forty years, it could possibly penetrate the mists of time and remember this month's game. It really was so long ago that I forget in which year I sat down opposite Bob Taylor who, last year, re-appeared and became a welcome addition to the New England tribe. This article is therefore a personal chess memoir ... and an overdue apology.

To explain, I need to take you back to a bygone era and delve into the complexities of the Max Lange Attack.

### P Hanks v R K Taylor

University Club Championship Rd 6, 1974?

1	<b>e4</b>	<b>e5</b>
2	<b>Nf3</b>	<b>Nc6</b>
3	<b>Bc4</b>	<b>Nf6</b>

The Two Knights Defence is rarely seen nowadays on the grandmaster scene but could be a favourite at club level. Its tactical complications, however, hold few terrors in the computer age but this game was played when such a prospect was still science fiction.

4	<b>d4</b>
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The Max Lange Attack is a standard gambit in which White gives up a pawn in order to castle rapidly and attack down the open e file. This positional feature proves to be remarkably persistent.

4	<b>...</b>	<b>exd4</b>
5	<b>0-0</b>	<b>Nxe4</b>

This is a riskier alternative to the normal 5 ... Bc5 6 e5 d5 7 exf6 dxc4 8 Re1+ Be6 9 Ng5 Qd5 (9 ... Qd7 10 Nxe6 fxe6 11 Qh5+ and Qxc5) 10 Nc3 Qf5. A few years earlier at school, we used to pass around copies of *Chess* magazine (yes, times really have changed!) because it contained analysis, I believe, by Tim Harding advocating lines with g2-g4 in a position such as this. A vivid example by a school friend was 11 Nce4 Bb6 12 fxc7 Rg8 13 g4 Qg6 14 Nxe6 fxe6 15 Bg5 h6 16 Qf3 hxg5 17 Nf6+ Kf7 18 Rxe6 Kxe6 19 Re1+ Ne5 20 Qd5+ 1-0 (Miles v Nunn, British U18 Championship 1969).

6	<b>Re1</b>	<b>d5</b>
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Over the years, Bob found himself in this position during serious play at least 8 times!

7	<b>Bxd5</b>	<b>Qxd5</b>
8	<b>Nc3</b>	<b>Qa5</b>
9	<b>Nxe4</b>	<b>Be6</b>
10	<b>Neg5</b>	<b>0-0-0</b>

Black returns the pawn so that his king reaches safety.

11	<b>Nxe6</b>	<b>fxe6</b>
12	<b>Rxe6</b>	<b>Be7</b>
13	<b>Qe2</b>	<b>Bf6</b>
14	<b>Bd2</b>	<b>Qf5</b>
15	<b>Re4</b>	<b>Rd5</b>
16	<b>Rd1</b>	<b>Rhd8</b>
17	<b>Qd3</b>	<b>g5</b>

The game has settled into a pattern with White attacking the pawn on d4 and Black concentrating his defence there. Black does have more space and can generate an initiative on the kingside.

18	<b>g4</b>	<b>Qd7</b>
19	<b>Kh1</b>	<b>h5</b>
20	<b>Rg1</b>	<b>h4</b>

Black need not block the pawns because the latent attack on g5 can be parried by 20 ... Qf7 21 gxh5 Qxh5.

21	<b>Rge1</b>	<b>Kb8</b>
22	<b>h3</b>	<b>Rc8</b>

At first, I did not understand this move but with the kingside at a standstill, Black must try to break open the position with Nc6-e7 and c7-c5-c4.

23	<b>Re6</b>	<b>Qg7</b>
24	<b>Qb3</b>	

Black's pieces are losing co-ordination and 24 c4 could start to exploit this.

24	<b>...</b>	<b>Rc5</b>
25	<b>Qd3</b>	<b>Nd8</b>
26	<b>R6e4</b>	<b>Rd5</b>
27	<b>b4</b>	<b>Qd7</b>
28	<b>a3</b>	<b>Ka8</b>
29	<b>Kg2</b>	<b>c5</b>
30	<b>bxc5</b>	<b>Rcxc5</b>
31	<b>Bb4</b>	<b>Rc6</b>
32	<b>Be7</b>	<b>Rc3</b>

32 ... Bxe7 would be a half a pawn better according to Fritz and then 33 Rxe7 Qd6 34 Re8 Rc3.

33	<b>Qd2</b>
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White has a number of reasonable options at this point but the text is probably the worst!

- 33 Bxf6 Rxd3 34 cxd3 Qc6 (White threatened 35 Bxd8 Qxd8 36 Re8) 35 Bxg5 with plenty of material for the queen
- 33 Qxc3 dxc3 34 Bxf6 transposes into the above variation with a slightly different pawn structure
- 33 Bxd8 Rxd3 (33...Bxd8 is correct) 34 Bxf6 Rc3 35 Re7 and the queen cannot maintain the protection which would allow the rook to interpose on c8.

- 33 Qe2 is also playable.

**33** ... **Qc6**

Instead, both sides would hold trumps after 33 ... Bxe7 34 Rxe7 Qc6 35 Re8 a6.

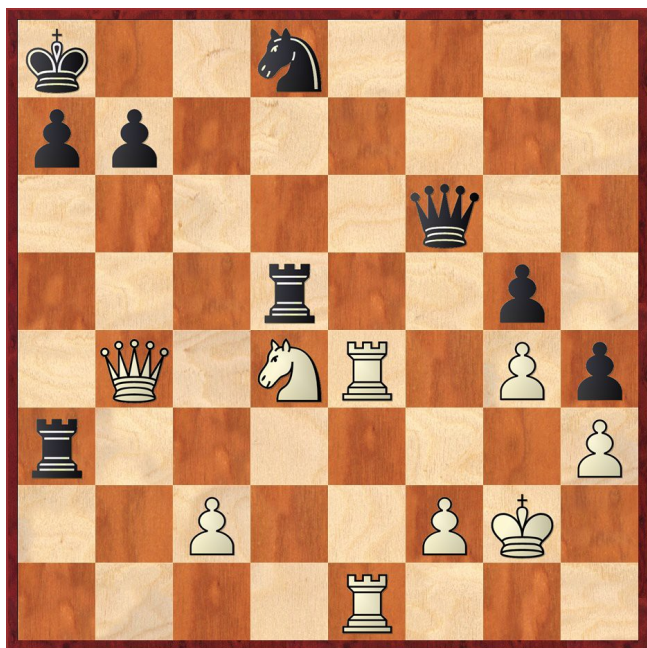
**34** **Bxf6** **Qxf6**

**35** **Nxd4** **Rxa3**

Black's position is going downhill just before the time control.

**36** **Qb4**

Please examine this position and determine Black's next move.



**36** ... **1-0**

The peremptory conclusion came as a result of one of my chess sins. We had reached the time control before an adjournment (remember them?) and Bob opted to finish the session with a sealed move (or them?). I sensed it was a good time to take a break because with the benefit of some overnight analysis, Who'd should pose some serious problems in the next few moves though, of course, Black would have an equal opportunity to find a defence.

As it happened, a passing kibitzer was none other than Tony Miles. He was at university with us at the time and he had been paying attention to our game possibly due to his knowledge of the opening. Remarking on White's superior prospects much to Bob's disbelief and chagrin, Tony willingly took up the challenge to justify his opinion. I was happy to join the discussion in the hope of confirming my intuition and maybe saving some effort before the resumption.

Little did I suspect that Tony would so clearly demonstrate the gulf in class between a grandmaster and the rest of us. At a glance, he unleashed a string of devastating variations showing greater vision that the game contestants and quickly dismissed the less favoured alternatives.

- 36 ... Qd6 37 Qxd6 Rxd6 38 Nb5

- 36 ... Raa5 37 Ne6 since the back rank weakness costs the black queen after 37 ... Nxe6 38 Rxe6 and 37 ... Nc6 38 Nc7+. In passing, he noted 37 Re8 with a fatal pin of the knight e.g. 37 ... Qb6 (37 ... a6 38 R1e7 Ka7 39 Rxd8 Rxd8 40 Qxb7#) 38 Qxb6 axb6 39 Ne6.

Even in the main line, Tony expertly weighed tempi and had the confidence to ignore minor issues like a massive material deficit.

**36** ... **Qa6**

My move would probably have been 37 Nb5 which Tony showed would give a workable advantage after 37 ... Rxb5 (37 ... Qxb5 38 Qxa3) 38 Rd1 Qf6 (38 ... Nc6 39 Re8+ Nb8 40 Rxb8+ Kxb8 41 Qf8+ Kc7 42 Qd8+ Kc6 43 Qd6#. Ruthless!) 39 Qxa3. Instead, Tony went for the jugular...

**37** **Re8** **Ra4**

**38** **Ne6** **Rxb4**

**39** **Nxd8** **b6**

39 ... Qa5 40 Nc6+ Rd8 41 Nxd8 Qd5+ 42 Kg1 b6 43 Nc6+ and 44 Nxb4.

**40** **R1e7** **Qc8**

**41** **Nc6**

with checkmate on c8 or a7.

Faced with these variations, Bob admitted 36 ... Qa6 was his sealed move though, in those days, it would actually have been 36 ... Q-QR3 and promptly resigned. This has always rankled with me. Even though the debate was good-natured, there was a slight whiff of brow-beating and I feel that I won the game unfairly with Tony's assistance. At long last, I hope to have set the record straight.

But was Tony right? Well, yes and no. Based on his analysis, the continuation may well have been 36 ... Qa6 37 Re8 Ra4 38 Ne6 Rxb4 39 Nxd8 but then, then computer finds the resource 39 ... Rxc4 40 h3+ 41 Kxh3 b6 when the difference is revealed by 42 R1e7 Qf1+ 43 Kg3 Qg1+ when, at best, White has to submit to perpetual check. Other options also fail to secure any advantage e.g.

- 41 Kg3 b6 42 R1e7 Qa3+ 43 Kh2 Qxe7
- 41 Kh2 Qd6+ 42 Kxh3 Qxd8

In fact, White does retain a small plus (Fritz equates it to nearly 2 pawns) in all variations but only by changing direction in this line with yet another queen sacrifice - 38 Qc5. The threat of Qc5-c8# and Qc5xd5 mean that 38 ... Qc4 39 Qxc4 Rxc4 40 Ne6 Rc8 41 c4 Rd7 42 Nxg5 Kb8 (42 ... Rxc4 43 Nf7) would lead to an endgame which may not be easy for White to win.

Would Bob have found 39 ... Rxc4+? I can't say but I am sure I should have given him the chance. In either event, post-mortem analysis, as featured in this summer's articles, is fascinating and an excellent way to improve your game – even if the process does take donkey's years!

## New England Chess Club Fixtures 2016-17

Updated 19 August 2016

Club Championship		League Match		Internal Event			
H = home A = away		Fenland Trophy		County Event			
Day	Date	All Club	A Team	B Team	Patriots	Cavaliers	
Wed	7 Sep	<b>Club AGM</b>	←	←	←	←	
Wed	14 Sep	Club Ladder	↔	↔	H v Cavaliers	A v Patriots	
Mon	19 Sep		A v Royston	↔	↔	↔	
Wed	21 Sep	<b>Round 1</b>	←	←	←	←	
Sun	25 Sep	County Rapidplay	←	←	←	←	
Wed	28 Sep	Club Ladder	↔	↔	↔	A v Warboys	
Wed	5 Oct	Club Ladder	↔	↔	H v Spalding	←	
Thurs	6 Oct		A v Pboro B	↔	↔	↔	
Wed	12 Oct	Club Ladder	H v St Neots	←	←	←	
Mon	17 Oct		↔	↔	↔	A v St Neots	
Wed	19 Oct	Club Ladder	↔	↔	H v Peterborough	←	
Wed	26 Oct	Club Ladder	↔	H v Warboys B	←	←	
Wed	2 Nov	Club Ladder	A v Warboys A	←	←	←	
Wed	9 Nov	Club Ladder	↔	↔	H v Godmanch'r	H v Spalding	
Wed	16 Nov	Club Ladder	H v Pboro A	←	←	←	
Wed	23 Nov	Club Ladder	↔	H v Spalding	←	←	
Sat	26 Nov	County Champ	←	←	←	←	
Sun	27 Nov	Pboro	←	←	←	←	
Wed	30 Nov	<b>Round 2</b>	←	←	←	←	
Mon	5 Dec		↔	↔	↔	↔	
Wed	7 Dec	Club Ladder	↔	↔	A v Warboys	←	
Wed	14 Dec	Club Ladder	↔	H v Warboys C	←	←	
Wed	21 Dec	<b>Xmas Special</b>	←	←	←	←	
Wed	28 Dec	No meeting	↔	↔	↔	↔	
Wed	4 Jan	Club Ladder	H v St Neots	←	←	←	
Mon	9 Jan		↔	↔	↔	↔	
Wed	11 Jan	Club Ladder	H v Royston	←	←	←	
Wed	18 Jan	Club Ladder	A v Cambs	←	←	←	
Wed	25 Jan	Club Ladder	H v Pboro B	←	←	←	
Tues	31 Jan		↔	↔	A v Spalding	↔	
Wed	1 Feb	Club Ladder	↔	↔	↔	H v Warboys	
Wed	8 Feb	Club Ladder	↔	A v Warboys B	←	←	
Wed	15 Feb	Club Ladder	↔	↔	A v Cavaliers	H v Patriots	
Wed	22 Feb	Club Ladder	H v Warboys A	←	←	←	
Mon	27 Feb		↔	↔	A v Godmanch'r	↔	
Tues	28 Feb		↔	↔	↔	A v Spalding	
Wed	1 Mar	<b>Round 3</b>	←	←	←	←	
Wed	8 Mar	Club Ladder	↔	A v Warboys C	←	←	
Wed	15 Mar	<b>Handicap</b>	←	←	←	←	
Wed	22 Mar	<b>Round 4</b>	←	←	←	←	
Thurs	23 Mar		A v Pboro A	↔	↔	↔	
Mon	27 Mar		A v St Neots	↔	↔	↔	
Wed	29 Mar	<b>Rapidplay</b>	←	←	←	←	
Tues	4 Apr		↔	A v Spalding	↔	↔	
Wed	5 Apr	Club Ladder	↔	↔	H v Warboys	H v Godmanch'r	
Wed	12 Apr		H v Cambs	←	←	←	
Wed	19 Apr	<b>Round 5</b>	←	←	←	←	
Wed	26 Apr	Club Ladder	↔	H v St Neots B	←	←	
Wed	3 May	Club Ladder	League & Cup postponements				←
Wed	10 May	<b>Problem Night</b>	←	←	←	←	
Wed	17 May	<b>Round 6</b>	←	←	←	←	
Wed	24 May	<b>Mini-Lightning</b>	←	←	←	←	
Wed	31 May	<b>Masterclasses and Summer Sprint until 26 Aug</b>				←	←