

NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – December 2016

Chairman's Chatter

It is with great sadness that I have to report that a good chess friend succumbed to the final checkmate on 18th November.

Harry Currie was a member of New England and before that, Perkins chess club for many years. He served as treasurer for both the club and County association and he was instrumental in finding our current venue when the previous premises became unsuitable. It is thanks to him that we were able to continue successfully after the grim times of 2010.

Harry continued to play with us until Christmas 2012 but thereafter, declining health was to deprive us of his joyful giggle and the waspish fun he had in his rivalry with Des Lane. Even so, he remained fairly well until early 2016. He died at home as he had wished attended by his wife Jenny, son and daughter to whom we send heart-felt condolences.

Paul Hanks

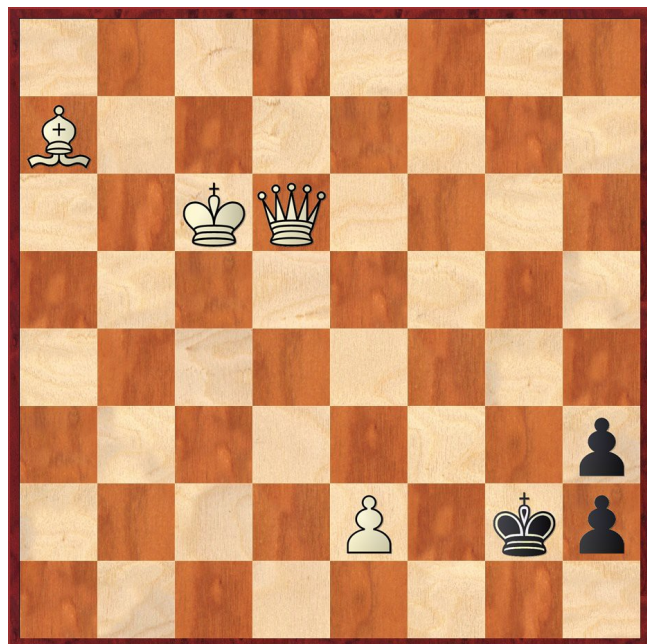
Diary Dates

21st December Club Christmas Special

28th December No formal club session

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



Last Month's solution (Erohin 1986)

Position : K7/8/8/n7/8/4N3/R3P2R/4k3

1 Ng4 Kf1 2 Ra1# [1 ... Kd1 or 1 ... N any 2 Rh1#]

Website to Watch

The London Chess Classic is a strong elite event over nine rounds taking place from 9th to 18th December. For those who wish to travel and see Anand, Kramnik, Topalov *et al* in the flesh, the weekend games start at 2pm but otherwise, they are inconveniently late from 4pm. Perhaps, www.londonchessclassic.com is the best place to follow the event.

Window on the Web

The English chess historian and journalist Edward Winter was once described by Yasser Seirawan as "the chess world's foremost authority on its rich history". Now living in Switzerland, Winter is the author of several chess books. He began writing *Chess Notes* (a printed periodical) in the early 1980s as a forum for comments, questions and answers submitted by anyone interested in chess. Although the publication ceased some years ago, the format continues and the forum can now be found at <http://www.chesshistory.com/>.

The home page has links to the current month's *Notes* and over 10,000 previous articles can be found in the *Archives* going back to 2004. Many describe chess players and tournaments from the 19th century (although more modern events and characters are also covered) with a sprinkling of items on openings, strategy and tactics. So many articles obviously need an index and this can be found by following the *Factfinder* link from the main page. The main Archive page has a helpful list of featured articles. Here there are links to such items as *Chess Cunning*, *Gamesmanship and Skulduggery*, *Chess and Alcohol*, *Chess and Murder* and *The Fox Enigma*. This is a vast archive of chess-related history and information.

Ron Jones

Result Round-up

Team 550 Competition

NE Patriots	4	Godmanchester	0
S Caraway	1	J Wright	0
C Russell	1	M English	0
J Parker	1	B Smith	0
P Weinberger	1	A Ellul	0
NE Cavaliers	2	Spalding	2
P Walker	1	P Golimowski	0
P Turp	½	T Nottingham	½
R Jones	0	J Smith	1
D Lane	½	R Coats	½

Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

Warboys A	2	New England A	3
C Watkins	1	R Ilett	0
B Duff	½	F Bowers	½
R Mann	0	P Hanks	1
J Beck	0	S Caraway	1
M Misson	½	P Walker	½

New England A	3	Peterborough A	2
R Ilett	1	G Tandy	0
F Bowers	½	C Tandy	½
P Hanks	½	A Summers	½
S Caraway	½	M Dunkley	½
P Walker	½	M Connolly	½

New England B	P	Spalding	P
Re-arranged for 7 th December			

New England Grand Prix

<i>Player</i>	<i>Champ</i>	<i>Ladder</i>	<i>League</i>	<i>Cup</i>	<i>550 Team</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>TPR*</i>
P Walker	1	½	1½	0	3	6	165
R Ilett	2	1½	1½	½		5½	173
M Tarabad	0	4	1	½	1	5½	85
P Hanks	½	2½	2	½		5½	154
F Bowers	1½	1	2	½		5	157
S Caraway	1½		2	½	1	5	153
D Lane	0	2½	½	0	2	5	110
C Russell	1½			1	2	4½	159
N Wedley	1½	3				4½	119
P Weinberger	1	2			1	4	105
J Parker	1	1½			1	3½	95
R Jones	½	1	½		1	3	109
P Turp	1		½		½	2	130
S Walker	½	1½				2	86
P O'Gorman	0	2				2	72
G Dharmasena	1					1	72
N Foreman	1	0			0	1	56
I Garratt	0	1				1	53
S Wozniak	½			0	0	½	94

* Tournament Performance Rating is approximate

Club Championship

Round 1.5			
I Garratt (0)	P	P	P Hanks (0)

Round 2			
F Bowers (1)	½	½	S Caraway (1)
R Ilett (1)	1	0	P Walker (1)
P Turp (1)	P	P	N Foreman (1)
P Hanks (P)	½	½	C Russell (1)
S Wozniak (½)	P	P	R Jones (½)
N Wedley (½)	1	0	S Walker (½)
G Dharmasena (0)	1	0	P O'Gorman (0)
M Tarabad (0)	0	1	J Parker (0)
D Lane (0)	0	1	P Weinberger (0)
Match night : 30 th November. Deadline : 31 st January Next draw : 1 st February			

New England Club Ladder

White		Black	
M Tarabad	1	0	I Garratt
J Parker	0	1	N Wedley
N Wedley	1	0	M Tarabad
P O'Gorman	0	1	D Lane
S Walker	0	1	P O'Gorman
P O'Gorman	0	1	S Walker
D Lane	½	½	F Bowers
I Garratt	0	1	R Ilett
M Tarabad	1	0	P Weinberger
S Walker	½	½	P O'Gorman

<i>Position</i>	<i>Change</i>		<i>Player</i>	<i>Record @ 30/11/16</i>
	<i>Month</i>	<i>Overall</i>		
1	+1	+1	R Ilett	½,1
2	-1	-1	F Bowers	½,½
3	+6	+6	M Tarabad	1,1,1,0,1
4	+1	+8	D Lane	1,1,½
5	-2	+3	P Weinberger	1,1,0
6	-2	-3	P Hanks	1,1,½
7	-1	+3	R Jones	1,0
8	+2	-1	N Wedley	1,0,1,1
9	-2	-4	J Parker	1,0,½,0
10	-2	-6	I Garratt	0,0,0,1,0,0
11	+1	+2	P Walker	½
12	-1	-1	P O'Gorman	½,0,1,0,0,½
13	+1	+1	S Walker	0,1,½
14	-1	-8	N Foreman	0,0,0,0

Match of the Month

I last played for "New England" during the period 2001 to 2004 when it was still known as Perkins Chess Club. My fondest memory of that era was going to the Christmas Special and returning home with a pudding; my worst was losing twice to Francis in the Club Championship.

P Hanks v P Walker

New England Club Championship Rd 4, 02.03.2016

1	d4	Nf6
2	Nf3	

This was something of a surprise as Paul played 2 c4 against me in 1990. But then, I suppose 26 years is a long time in chess.

2	...	d5
3	c4	dxc4
4	Nc3	Nc6

The purpose move is to put immediate pressure on White's exposed d pawn. It is provocative but occurs surprisingly infrequently in grandmaster games.

5	e3	
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I was more worried about 5 d5 and 5 e4, both of which give White more space.

The critical test for the concept 4 ... Nc6 is, of course, the central advance 5 d5. It is playable for White due to the hidden tactic 5 ... Na5 (5 ... Nb8 6 e4 gives White a huge lead in development) 6 Qa4+ c6 7 b4

- 7 ... cxb3 8 axb3 winning the trapped knight because 8 ... b6 9 dxc6 and 10 b4 (though even that is not the end of the story!) as 9 ... Qc7 10 Nb5 Qxc6 11 Ne5 yields a massive attack.
- 7 ... b5 8 Qxa5 Qxa5 9 bxa5 b4 10 Nd1 cxd5 with sharp play but Black has to justify his sacrifice.

5	...	Bg4
6	Bxc4	e6
7	0-0	Bd6

From here, the bishop supports a later e6-e5.

8	Qe2	
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8 e4 is available now despite Black's last move appearing to prevent it by 8 ... Nxd4 9 Qxd4 Bxf3 10 gxf3 Bxh2+. Sadly, White has the simple 10 e5 to refute Black's play.

8	...	0-0
9	b3	

I was expecting 9 Rd1 here.

9	...	e5
10	d5	Ne7

I thought 10 ... e4 was bad because of 11 dxc6 exf3 12 gxf3. Indeed, it tends to favour White after 12 ... Bc8 (12 ... Bh3 13 cxb7 Rb8 [13 ... Bxf1 14 bxa8Q Bxe2 15 Qxd8 and Black loses a piece] 14 Rd1) 13 cxb7 Bxb7 14 Rd1 though there is a second continuation 11 ... bxc6 12 Nxe4.

11	e4	Nd7
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My plan was to relocate the knight to c5 and play f7-f5 later.

12	h3	Bxf3
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With the centre now blocked, I thought that knights would be better than bishops in this position.

13	Qxf3	Ng6
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Having given up bishop for knight, I changed my mind about playing f7-f5 because it would open the position for the bishops.

14	Qg3	Nf4
15	Nb5	Qf6
16	Nxd6	

I was not worried about this, as I still had confidence in my knights.

16	...	cxd6
17	f3	

Due to the knight manoeuvre, White trails slightly in development and perhaps should have attended to it with a move such as 17 Bd2.

17	...	Rac8
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Both sides battle for the only open file on the board.

18	Bxf4	exf4
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My pawns are scattered but I have control over the dark squares.

19	Qf2	a6
20	Rfc1	Rc5

White had overlooked Black's move thinking 21 b4 would cause a retreat but it fails to 21 ... Rxc4 22 Rxc4 Qxa1+.

21	Bf1	Rfc8
22	Qd2	g5
23	Rxc5	Rxc5
24	Rd1	

I was expecting Paul to play for a draw here with 24 Rc1 but he has other ideas!

The black knight has entry points through the pawn chains whereas the white bishop has poor prospects. This extra activity is likely to increase if pieces are exchanged by 24 Rc1 Rxc1 25 Qxc1 Qd4+ 26 Kh2 Nc5 but Fritz evaluates the position as dead level possibly because 27 Qe1 gives sufficient counterplay if the white queen can reach d8 via a5.

24	...	Kg7
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24 ... Qc3 was better – still trying to exchange material.

25	Qb4	
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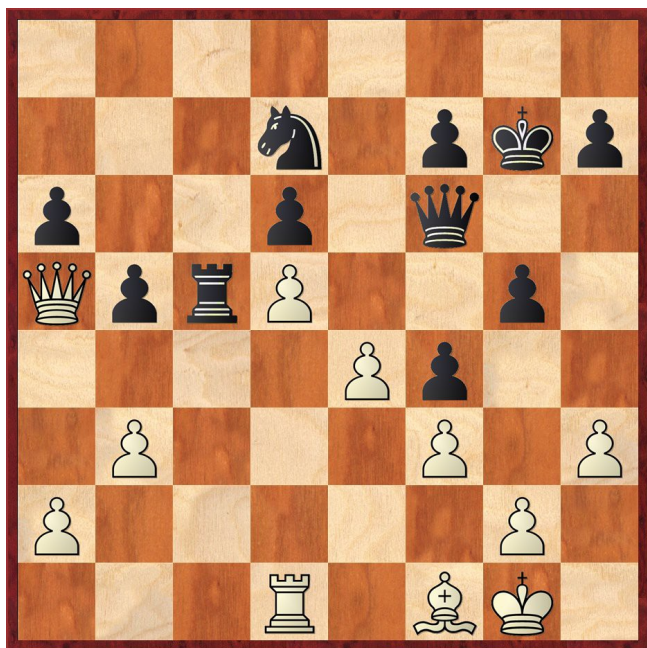
I had not seen this coming and I suddenly realised Black is in trouble. Unless Black plays the passive 25 ... Rc7, White mops up the queenside pawns but allows himself to come under a fierce attack. At this distance, it seemed that White's grip on the light squares (particularly g2) should enable him to defend successfully.

25	...	b5
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The best defence was 25 ... Rc2 26 Qxb7 Nc5 when a possible line is 27 Qb6 g4 28 hxg4 Qh4 with a perpetual check by the queen on f2 and h4.

26 Qa5

About to lose a pawn and short of time, I was reluctantly forced to attack. White's position is very solid and in order to demolish the fortress in front of his king, I had the vague plan of sacrificing a knight on f3. I tried to visualise where my other pieces should go to make the idea work and decided that the rook would be best on c2 and the queen on c3. So, working backwards, I had to play Rc2, then Qc3, then Ne5 and finally Nxf3. I crossed my fingers and hoped White would not find a winning resource in the next 4 moves...



26 ... Rc2
27 Qxa6 Qc3
28 Qxd6

In the post-mortem, Paul suggested 28 Bd3 which had attracted him during the game and initially, I tried to make progress with 28 ... Rc1 but without rooks, the attack is severely weakened. Instead, 28 ... Rb2 29 Qxb5 Qd4+ 30 Kh1 Ne5 has many threats e.g. 31 Be2 Qf2 32 Bf1 g4 33 fxf4 f3.

28 ... Ne5

So far, my position had not fallen apart altogether. Fritz concludes there is only one way for White to win from this position.

29 Qd8??

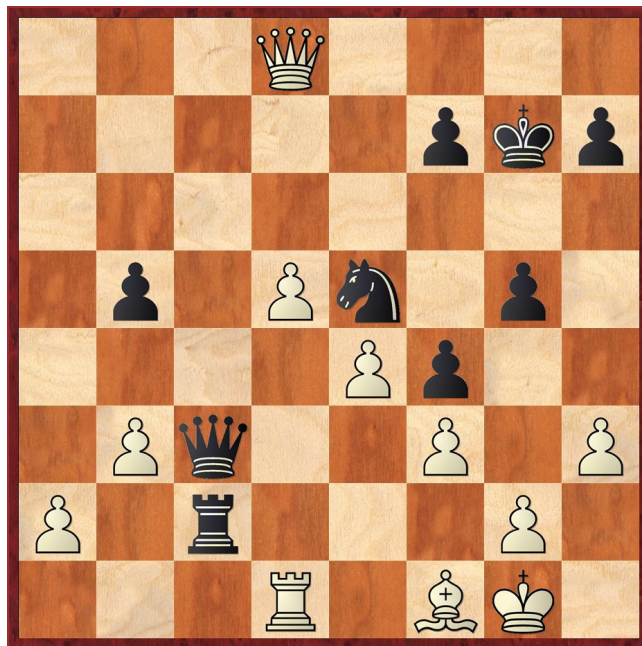
This threatens 30 Qxg5 but fortunately for me, that square is defended after 29 ... Nxf3. The winning move is 29 Qb6 which defends the g1-b6 diagonal and foils Black's plan.

The text move mistake that shows how difficult White's position is in practical play. If 29 Qb6 had been played, Fritz expects the continuation to be 29 ... g4 (29 ... Qxf3 might have come as a shock but it works on the basis of 30 gxf3 Nxf3+ 31 Kh1 Rh2# so White would have to recover his composure and try

30 Qd4 f6 31 Rd3) 30 Qd4 Qxd4+ 31 Rxd4 gxf3 32 Rd1 Rxa2 33 d6 fxf2 34 Bxg2 Ra8 with equal prospects.

29 Kh1 would have made for an exciting time scramble with both sides pressing for a win. 29 ... Nxf3 30 e5

- 30 ... Qxe5 31 Qxe5+ Nxe5 32 d6 is actually good for White
- 30 ... Qe3 31 Qf6+ Kg8 (31 ... Kf8 32 Qh8+ leads to a lengthy checkmate because the bishop can join the attack by 32 ... Ke7 33 d6+ Kd7 34 Bxb5+) 32 Qd8+ with perpetual check.
- 30 ... Nxe5 31 Qe7 h6 32 d6 f3 33 d7 and who is your money on then?



29 ... Nxf3+

This move is White's undoing. On his previous turn, Paul had only analysed 30 gxf3 Qxf3 31 Qxg5+ with a perpetual check but the zwischenzug 30 ... Qe3+ forces checkmate by 31 Kh1 Qxf3+ 32 Kg1 Qf2+ etc.

30 Kh1 h6

I missed a quick win with 30 ... Qe3 31 Bxb5 Qf2 or 31 ... Rc1 and gave White a flimsy chance to escape.

31 Rd3

31 Qb6 would still thwart the attack but 31 ... Rxa2 restores material equality.

31 ... Qxd3 0-1

Now 32 Bxd3 allows 32 ... Rc8+ winning.

Peter Walker