

# NEW ENGLANDER

## Chess Club Update – January 2017

### Chairman's Chatter

I may have a fixation about food but I am not alone! Phil and Mahmoud mustered another fine banquet at the Christmas Special and Chris corrupted us some more with his sugary prizes. My thanks to all three.

Thanks also go to Francis for engraving the plaque on one of our chess clocks in Harry's memory. It will be a fitting tribute to a longstanding chess friend.

Happy New Year with success over the board in 2017!

*Paul Hankes*

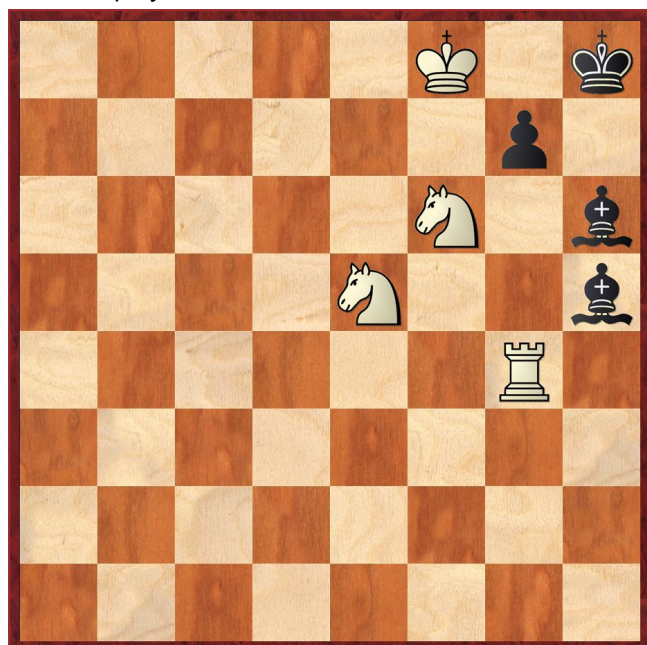
### Diary Dates

29<sup>th</sup> March The Lancaster Club will hold its AGM requiring our room and so, there will be no club night. A reminder will be sent out nearer the time.

3<sup>rd</sup> May The Rapidplay scheduled for 29<sup>th</sup> March has provisionally been re-arranged on the night set aside for League postponements. If there happen to be any, another night will need to be chosen.

### Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



Last Month's solution (Hulsen 1915)

Position : 8/B7/2KQ4/8/8/7p/4P1kp/8

1 Qc5 h1=Q/R/B 2 Qf2# [1 ... Kg3 2 Qg5#; 1 ... h1=N 2 Qg1#]

### Window on the Web

Matthew Sadler is the third strongest English player, below Adams and Short. He has an ECF grade of 282, which is beyond the dreams of most of us. The author of six chess books including the 2016 ECF Book of the Year, he has won the British Championship twice, but is no longer a professional player, preferring an IT career in the Netherlands.

Since February 2016, he has hosted his own website at <http://matthewsadler.me.uk/> where we can learn from his biography page that he learned chess at the tender age of 7, becoming an IM at 17 and a GM at 19. He has an up-to-date blog which currently has about eighty posts, the majority of which contain interesting excerpts from his games and the games of famous masters such as Alekhine, Morphy and Korchnoi. The moves are text only and the games can't be played through online. Although there are diagrams, the reader will need a chess set to play through the moves unless very good at visualising long variations between the diagrams.

How to play king, rook and pawn endings, attacking with F D Yates and "Alekhine's Themes" are the most common subject of the blogs. Other subjects discussed include which rook to put on an open file, rook endings and fighting hanging pawns. There is a link to several of GM Sadler's YouTube videos with instructive excerpts from his own games and those of, for example, Capablanca and Lasker.

*Ron Jones*

### Website to Watch

January is normally an easy month when it comes to finding where the action is. From 14<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup>, the chess year starts with the Wijk aan Zee tournament which can be followed at [www.tatasteelchess.com/](http://www.tatasteelchess.com/). It seems to lack the strength in depth of previous years but will still feature a Carlsen v Karjakin re-match.

The grandmasters that are not at Wijk will be in Gibraltar! The Tradewise Open from 24<sup>th</sup> January to 1<sup>st</sup> February is gaining legendary status for its strength and hospitality. [www.gibraltarchesscongress.com](http://www.gibraltarchesscongress.com) is the website.

### Result Round-up

Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

New England B	3	Spalding	1
P Walker	1	P Golimowski	0
P Turp	½	T Nottingham	½
R Jones	½	J Smith	½
D Lane	1	R Coats	0

<b>New England B</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Warboys C</b>	<b>2</b>
P Walker	1	N Greenwood	0
P Turp	0	M Misson	1
R Jones	0	P Wells	1
D Lane	1	B Taylor	0

#### Team 550 Competition

<b>Godmanchester</b>	<b>½</b>	<b>NE Cavaliers</b>	<b>3½</b>
J Wright	0	F Bowers	1
A Rankine	½	P Turp	½
M English	0	D Lane	1
B Smith	0	M Tarabad	1

<b>Warboys</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>NE Patriots</b>	<b>1</b>
R Mann	½	S Caraway	½
C Watkins	1	C Russell	0
M Onyons	1 <sub>d</sub>	P Weinberger	0 <sub>d</sub>
D Polehonski	½	I Garratt	½

#### Christmas Special : 21<sup>st</sup> December 2016

	<b>Player</b>	<b>Round</b>					<b>Total</b>
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	
1	F Bowers	1	1	Quiz Round Dead Heat	1	1	4
2	R Ilett	½	1		1	1	3½
3=	C Russell	1	0		1	1	3
	S Caraway	1	1		1	0	3
	N Wedley	1	1		0	1 <sub>d</sub>	3
6	P Walker	½	0		1	1	2½
7=	S Wozniak	0	1		0	1	2
	PTurp	1	0		1	0	2
9=	N Tarabad	0	0		0	1	1
	I Garratt	1	0		0	0	1
	M Ingram	0	1		0	0	1
	M Tarabad	0	0		1 <sub>d</sub>	0	1
13	P O'Gorman	0	0		0	0	0

#### New England Club Ladder

<b>White</b>		<b>Black</b>	
P O'Gorman	0	1	P Hanks
R Ilett	0	1	F Bowers
S Walker	1	0	M Tarabad
P Weinberger	1	0	N Forman
M Tarabad	1	0	I Garratt
P O'Gorman	0	1	F Bowers
S Walker	0	1	R Ilett
P Walker	½	½	R Ilett

<b>Position</b>	<b>Change</b>		<b>Player</b>	<b>Record @ 21/12/16</b>
	<b>Month</b>	<b>Overall</b>		
1	+1	-	F Bowers	½,½,1,1
2	+1	+7	M Tarabad	1,1,1,0,1,0,1
3	-2	-1	R Ilett	½,1,0,1,½
4	+9	+10	S Walker	0,1,½,1,0
5	-1	+7	D Lane	1,1,½
6	-1	+2	P Weinberger	1,1,0,1
7	-1	-4	P Hanks	1,1,½,1
8	-1	+2	R Jones	1,0
9	-1	-2	N Wedley	1,0,1,1
10	-1	-5	J Parker	1,0,½,0
11	-	+2	P Walker	½,½
12	-2	-8	I Garratt	0,0,0,1,0,0,0
13	-1	-2	P O'Gorman	½,0,1,0,0,½,0,0
14	-	-8	N Foreman	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>
P Walker	1	1	3½	0	3	8½	172
D Lane	0	2½	2½	0	3	8	119
M Tarabad	0	5	1	½	2	7½	89
F Bowers	1½	2	2	½	1	7	165
R Ilett	2	3	1½	½		7	168
P Hanks	½	3½	2	½		6½	156
S Caraway	1½		2	½	1½	5½	154
P Weinberger	1	3			1	5	105
N Wedley	1½	3				4½	119
C Russell	1½			1	2	4½	149
R Jones	½	1	1		1	3½	106
J Parker	1	1½			1	3½	95
S Walker	½	2½				3	94
P Turp	1		1		1	3	124
P O'Gorman	0	2				2	74
I Garratt	0	1			½	1½	56
G Dharmasena	1					1	72
N Foreman	1	0			0	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 (½)
Round 2			
P Turp (1)	P	P	N Foreman (1)
S Wozniak (½)	P	P	R Jones (½)
Deadline : 31 <sup>st</sup> January		Next draw : 1 <sup>st</sup> February	

## Match of the Month

Even the greatest players have a particular opponent that they find especially difficult and so, it is no surprise that I have at least one. I cannot remember ever beating Francis but when our match against Spalding was postponed, we agreed to play a challenge match in the Club Ladder competition on the spur of the moment.

### D Lane v F Bowers

New England Club Ladder, 23.11.16

1 d4

This is not my usual first move as White but given the strength difference between us, I had only one thought in my mind – attack!

1 ... Nf6  
2 Nf3 c5  
3 c3

Transposition into a Benoni structure with 3 d5 was possible but that opening gives Black plenty of opportunity to seize the initiative.

3 ... d5  
4 e3

4 Bf4 is more conventional heading for a London System but with the bishop outside the pawn chain, it can easily be exchanged under unfavourable circumstances for White.

4 ... Nc6  
5 Bb5

I never considered 5 dxc5 and 6 b4 to hold the gambit pawn because Francis is too strong to gift the queenside pawns as easy targets.

5 ... e6

Perhaps, 5 ... Qb6 would have challenged the bishop and supported the knight on c6.

6 Ne5 Bd7

Black cannot really avoid exchanging the bishop for the knight e.g. 6 ... a6 7 Qa4 when supporting c6 is essential with 7 ... Bd7 and then 8 Nxd7.

7 Nxd7 Nxd7  
8 0-0 Bd6  
9 Qg4 Qf6

Although not pretty, 9 ... 0-0 could be played but Francis has attacking intentions of his own.

10 f4 0-0-0  
11 Bxc6

As my aim is to open up the a6-c8 diagonal for the white queen, I could have tried a different move order with 11 Qe2. Black can only avoid 12 Bxc6 by 11 ... Ne7 (11 ... Kc7 looks terrible) when I can open the position with 12 e4 dxe4 13 Nd2.

11 ... bxc6  
12 Qe2 Kb7  
13 Nd2

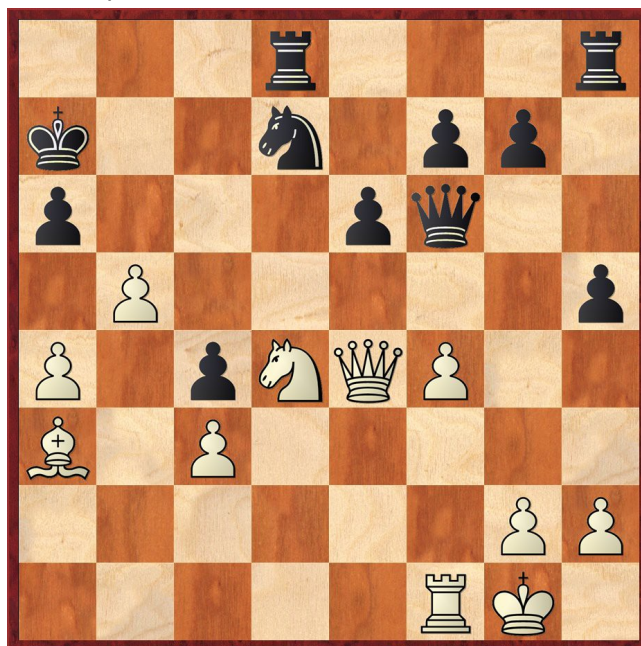
I was hoping this knight could head for a5 but Francis nips the plan in the bud.

13 ... Bc7  
14 a3 h5  
15 a4

Changing my mind costs a tempo.

15 ... a6  
16 Ra3 Ka7  
17 b4 c4  
18 b5 c5  
19 Nf3 Bd6  
20 Ra2

With his last move, Black creates a discovered attack on a3 and I reacted to it. On reflection, I might have called his bluff with 20 e4 when 20 ... cxd4 21 e5 d3 22 Qe3+ Bc5 23 exf6 Bxe3+ 24 Bxe3+ wins a piece. If instead Francis had tried 20 ... dxe4 21 Qxe4 cxd4 22 Nxd4 Bxa3 23 Bxa3, I would have a massive attack. Anand would appreciate this in the blink of an eye. These days, I am not quite as fast so I need to delve a little deeper.



I am the exchange down but have the threat Nd4-c6+ which does more than restore material equality because Nc6xRd8 will come with a discovered check. If Black tries to hang on to his gains, play might continue :-

- 23 ... Rc8 24 Nc6+ Kb6 (24 ... Kh8 25 Na5+; 24 ... Rxc6 25 Qxc6 with 26 Qxa6 Kb8 27 Bd6# soon afterwards) 25 Qe3+ Kb7/c7 26 Qa7#.

- 23 ... Rde8 24 Nc6+ Kb6 (24 ... Kb7 25 Na5+ Kb6 26 Qc6+ Kxa5 27 Qxa6#) 25 Qe3+ Kc7 26 Qa7+ Kc8 27 Bd6
- 23 ... axb5 (trying to weaken White's hold on c6) 24 Nxb5+ Kb6 25 a5+ Kxb5 (25 ... Kxa5 26 Qc6 when 27 Bb4+ Ka4 28 Nd5+ is deadly) 26 Rb1+ Kxa5 27 Qb7.

It seems that the dividends of opening lines towards the black king will reward the material investment – and I should know about that! 22 ... Bxa3 is probably too greedy and more defensive cover with 22 ... Bc5 or 22 ... Nc5 might be needed.

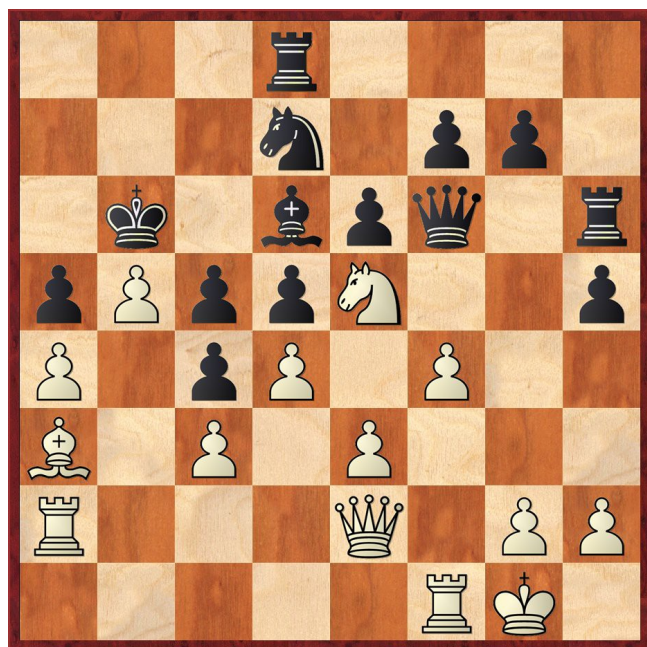
20 ... a5  
 21 Ne5 Kb6  
 22 Ba3

Once more, I could have tried to reach the enemy king by unzipping the central pawns with 22 e4 and then,

- 22 ... dxe4 23 Qxe4 Bxe5 (23 ... Nb8 24 Qa8 [threatening Nc4+] 24 ... Bxe5 25 dxc5+ Kxc5 26 Qa7+ Kd6 27 Ba3+ Kd5 28 Qb7+) 24 Qc6+ Ka7 25 fxe5 Qe7 26 Qc7+ Ka8 27 b6
- 22 ... cxd4 23 Nxd7+ Rxd7 24 e5 Bc5 25 exf6 d3+ 26 Qf2
- 22 ... Bxe5 23 fxe5 Qg6 24 exd5 exd5 25 Be3.

In all cases, White poses great problems not only for the defence but also in terms of time. I was getting well ahead on the clock even in the game continuation.

22 ... Rh6



23 Qd2

Yet again, the computer points out 23 e4 Bxe5 24 fxe5 Qe7 25 Qe3 when a line with reasonable, but not forced, play by both sides might be 25 ... Rg6 26 Raf2 Rf8 27 dxc5+ Nxc5 28 Rxf7 Rxf7 29 Rxf7 Qxf7 30 Qxc5+ Kb7 31 Qc6+ Ka7 32 Bc5+ Kb8 33 Bd6+ Ka7 34 Qa6#.

23 ... Bxe5

24 fxe5 Qe7  
 25 dxc5+ Nxc5  
 26 Qd4

There was a pawn on offer by 26 Bxc5+ Qxc5 27 Rxf7.

26 ... f5  
 27 Raf2

27 exf6 Rxf6 28 Raf2 Rxf2 29 Rxf2 Rc8 30 Bxc5+ Rxc5 31 Qe5 threatens 32 Qb8+ Qb7 33 Qd6+ winning the black rook and more prosaically, 32 Qxh5 with an extra pawn.

27 ... Rg6  
 28 Rf4 Rc8  
 29 R1f3 Rg4  
 30 Rg3 g5

My recent rook moves have been attempting to enforce e3-e4 and show that that bird has not quite flown. I was also snuffing out Black's growing kingside activity though here, in Fritz's opinion, 30 ... Rxg3 31 hxg3 is roughly equal.

31 Rgxg4

On principle, the computer likes seizing the open file with 31 Rfxg4 hxg4 32 h3 gxh3 33 Rxh3 but after 33 ... Qg7, it is hard to see how White can make use of it. The favourite continuation is then 34 Bxc5+ Rxc5 followed by the extremely strange move 35 Rh1 which suggests there are some obscure zugzwang motifs in the air.

31 ... hxg4  
 32 Rf1 Qa7  
 33 g3 Kb7  
 34 Bxc5 Rxc5

By continuing, Francis declined my offer of a draw. 34 ... Qxc5 35 Qxc5 Rxc5 would make it difficult for either side to make progress.

35 Rb1 Qb6  
 36 Kg2 Qc7  
 37 Rb2 Qe7  
 38 Qd2 Rc8  
 39 Kg1 Rh8  
 40 Ra2 f4

Francis is probably pushing too hard for winning chances especially as it is now vital to conserve time.

41 exf4 gxf4

41 ... Qh7 would have a sneaky undertone i.e. 42 fxg5 Qb1+ 43 Kg2 Qe4+ which is a perpetual check. So I should have had to notice this trick and find 42 Rb2 when Black can seek counterplay by 42 ... gxf4 43 Qxf4 Qd3. After the text move, he is simply a pawn down.

42 Qxf4 Qc5+  
 43 Kg2 Rf8 1/2- 1/2

I think my position is better and I am ahead on the clock but tiredness and respect for my opponent encouraged me to settle at Francis's suggestion for what is still a memorable result.

*Des Lane*