

# NEW ENGLANDER

## Chess Club Update – March 2017

### Chairman's Chatter

Success has its problems. This season, we have sufficient active members to fill the teams but sadly, this also reduces proportionately the opportunities to represent the club. I have noticed discontent that some players feel they are not being selected and it has sparked discussion (and some remedial action) that, no doubt, will continue at the AGM!

Spare a thought for Steve Walker, however. He was due to make his debut in the Team 550 competition when his appendix intervened. We wish him a speedy recovery.

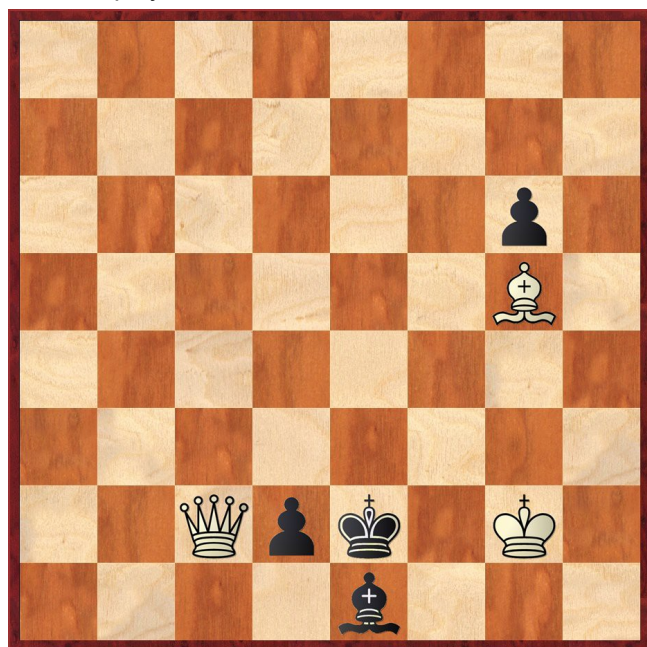
*Paul Hanks*

### Diary Dates

1<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup> March Club Championship Rds 3 and 4  
15<sup>th</sup> March Club Handicap  
29<sup>th</sup> March Lancaster Club AGM. Please remember there will be no formal club night  
9<sup>th</sup> April EACU Team Championship in Bury St Edmunds. Please contact F Bowers if you wish to play.

### Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



Last Month's solution (Eaton 1952)

Position : b6B/r5R1/R1n1Pk2/3Q4/5P1b/8/8/7K

1 Qh5 Rxc7 2 Qf7# [1 ... Kxe6 2 Qe5#; 1 ... Rxa6 2 Qg6/Qf7#; 1 ... Ne7+ 2 Rg2#; 1 ... N other+ 2 Rb7#; 1 ... B any 2 Qg6#]

### Website to Watch

March looks a lean month for grandmaster chess. The USA Championships start just before the end of the month and from 27<sup>th</sup> March to 11<sup>th</sup> April, can be followed at [www.uschesschamps.com](http://www.uschesschamps.com).

### Window on the Web

The website of Vladimir Kramnik, who was World Champion from 2000 to 2007, has had an update and facelift since I last mentioned it in 2013. The link <http://www.kramnik.com/> will take you to the site. There is a description of his defeat of Kasparov in London in 2000 to become Classical World Champion, his successful defence of that title in 2004 against Leko and his defeat of FIDE World Champion Topolov in 2006 which made Kramnik the unified World Champion.

There is a comprehensive biography where we learn that the artistic side of his chess was probably inherited from his sculptor father and music teacher mother. He won the U18 World Championship at only 16 in 1987, eleven years after learning the game. His career is documented until 2013.

There is a *Games* link to an index of Kramnik's games between 1987 and 2013. Clicking on a year enables you to play through the games although they are not annotated. There are hundreds of games, but there are significant differences in the numbers for each year, such as 2 for 1988 and 56 for 1991. The link to the games of 1990 does not work. It is clear that in the early years he preferred when White to play 1 e4 but later changed to 1 d4 and sometimes 1 Nf3.

There is now a link to a library of videos featuring some interviews of Kramnik and some of his games, including a selection of his rapid games.

*Ron Jones*

### Result Round-up

Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

New England A	1½	Warboys A	3½
R Ilett	0	C Watkins	1
P Walker	½	M Misson	½
F Bowers	0	R Mann	1
S Caraway	½	J Beck	½
P Turp	½	N Greenwood	½

<b>Warboys B</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>New England B</b>	<b>3</b>
N Greenwood	0	S Caraway	1
P Baddeley	½	P Turp	½
D Polehonski	½	R Jones	½
K Harbour	0	D Lane	1

#### Team 550 Competition

<b>NE Cavaliers</b>	<b>1½</b>	<b>Warboys</b>	<b>2½</b>
P Walker	½	C Watkins	½
R Jones	½	B Duff	½
D Lane	½	P Baddeley	½
P O'Gorman	0	D Polehonski	1

<b>NE Cavaliers</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>NE Patriots</b>	<b>2</b>
N Wedley	1	C Russell	0
M Ingram	0	P Weinberger	1
P O'Gorman	0	J Parker	1
M Tarabad	1	N Foreman	0

<b>Godmanchester</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>NE Patriots</b>	<b>1</b>
J Wright	½	C Russell	½
A Rankine	½	P Weinberger	½
M English	0	J Parker	1
B Smith	1	I Garratt	

<b>Spalding</b>	<b>1½</b>	<b>NE Cavaliers</b>	<b>2½</b>
P Golimowski	1	F Bowers	0
P Szutkowski	½	R Jones	½
J Smith	0	D Lane	1
F Robinson	0	M Ingram	1

#### Club Championship

<b>Round 3</b>			
S Caraway (1½)			R Ilett (2)
C Russell (1½)			N Wedley (1½)
P Turp (2)			F Bowers (1½)
N Foreman (1)			P Hanks (½+P)
J Parker (1)			G Dharmasena (1)
P Walker (1)			R Jones (½+P)
P Weinberger (1)			S Wozniak (½+P)
S Walker (½)			D Lane (0)
P O'Gorman (0)			M Tarabad (0)
Match night : 1 <sup>st</sup> March. Deadline : 16 <sup>th</sup> March Next draw : 17 <sup>th</sup> March			

<b>Round 1.5</b>			
I Garratt (0)	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>	P Hanks (0)

<b>Round 2</b>			
S Wozniak (½)	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>	R Jones (½)

<b>Round 3.5</b>			
M Tarabad (0)	1	0	I Garratt (0)
I Garratt (0)	0	1	M Ingram (0+P)
M Ingram (1+P)	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>	P O'Gorman

#### 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	1½	6½	0	3½	12½	167
M Tarabad	1	6½	2	½	3	12	88
S Caraway	1½	1½	6½	½	2	12	155
D Lane	0	4	3½	0	4½	12	120
R Ilett	2	4	3½	½		10	171
F Bowers	1½	3	3½	½	1	9½	156
P Hanks	½	3½	4	½	½	9	156
P Weinberger	1	5			2½	8½	99
N Wedley	1½	5½			1	8	118
J Parker	1	4½			2	7½	104
R Jones	½	1	2		2	5½	114
C Russell	1½			1	3	5½	131
P Turp	2		2		1	5	129
S Walker	½	3½				4	100
M Ingram	1	1½			1	3½	97
P O'Gorman	0	3			0	3	70
I Garratt	0	1			½	1½	49
N Foreman	1	0			0	1	50
G Dharmasena	1					1	72
S Wozniak	½			0	0	½	89

\* Tournament Performance Rating is approximate

#### New England Club Ladder

<b>White</b>		<b>Black</b>	
S Caraway	1	0	P Weinberger
N Wedley	½	½	M Ingram
M Tarabad	0	1	S Walker
P Weinberger	0	1	N Wedley
J Parker	1	0	P O'Gorman
F Bowers	0	1	R Ilett
S Caraway	½	½	P Walker
P Weinberger	0	1	J Parker
M Tarabad	½	½	N Wedley

Position	Change		Player	Record @ 22/02/17
	Month	Overall		
1	+2	+1	R Ilett	½,1,0,1,½,1
2	-	+10	D Lane	1,1,½,½,1
3	-2	-2	F Bowers	½,½,1,1,0
4	+7	+1	J Parker	1,0,½,0,1,1,1
5	+1	+9	S Walker	0,1,½,1,0,1
6	-2	+5	P O'Gorman	½,0,1,0,0,½,0,0,1,0,0
7	-2	+8	M Ingram	0,1,½
8	+1	-5	P Hanks	1,1,½,1
9	-2	-	M Tarabad	1,1,1,0,1,0,1,0,1,0,0,½
10	-	-3	N Wedley	1,0,1,1,½,½,1,½
11	+5	+5	S Caraway	1,½
12	-4	-4	P Weinberger	1,1,0,1,1,1,0,0,0
13	-	-	P Walker	½,½,½
14	-	-10	I Garratt	0,0,0,1,0,0,0,0,0
15	-3	-5	R Jones	1,0
16	-1	-10	N Foreman	0,0,0,0,0,0

### Match of the Month

I had played Ray Ilett early in the season and the game resulted in a draw. Being the very first encounter in this season's Club Ladder competition had two consequences : a) we occupied the two leading positions and b) I was on top due purely to the random nature of the initial draw. Subsequent games (see the January issue of **NEW ENGLANDER**) had seen Ray leapfrog over me and so another challenge was necessary.

Initially, I had agreed to play Peter Walker but was left high and dry when he was called up to play in the re-arranged match against Spalding. When Ray advertised for an opponent, I was first to respond.

**R Ilett v F Bowers**  
New England Club Ladder 07.12.2016

<b>1</b>	<b>d4</b>	<b>c5</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>d5</b>	<b>e6</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>c4</b>	<b>e5</b>

It is a good job the Czech Benoni is such a solid opening that it permits Black to make a gift of one tempo at such an early stage. The normal move order is 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 c5 3 d5 e5 though the opening is not very popular at the highest level.

I had seen Ray's impressive handling of the Benoni at County matches and so, it was necessary to spring a surprise with an offbeat variation. Even so, he outclassed me in the initial phase.

<b>4</b>	<b>e4</b>	<b>d6</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Nc3</b>	<b>f5</b>

It is White that should be playing the Four Pawns Attack! My move is ultra-aggressive in order to profit from the delay in bringing out my king's knight. The computer is not convinced even though nothing clear-cut emerges over the next six moves which are virtually Fritz's recommendation for best play by both sides.

<b>6</b>	<b>exf5</b>	<b>Bxf5</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Bd3</b>	<b>Qd7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Nf3</b>	<b>Be7</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>Bxd3</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Qxd3</b>	<b>Na6</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>a3</b>	<b>0-0-0</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Ne4</b>	

At this point, the computer prefers either 12 b4 or 12 Be3. The former offers a pawn but acceptance looks risky i.e. 12 b4 cxb4 13 axb4 Nxb4 14 Qb1 Na6 (14 ... a5 15 Rxa5) 15 Nb5 Kb8 16 Nxa7 Kxa7 17 Be3+ Kb8 (17 ... Ka8 18 Qb6) 18 Rxa6 Qc7 (18 ... Nf6 19 Qb6 and 20 Ra8+) 19 Qb5 and 20 Rfa1. As a result, with more prudence by Black, the variations converge - 12 b4 Kb8 13 Be3 etc.

<b>12</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>h6</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>Bd2</b>	<b>g5</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Bc3</b>	<b>g4</b>

With the centre blocked and castling on opposite wings, mutual flank attacks with pawn storms are natural strategically. My pawns are ahead initially but White has better piece co-ordination behind his.

<b>15</b>	<b>Nfd2</b>	<b>h5</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>b4</b>	<b>b6</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>b5</b>	

White slows his own assault somewhat. 17 bxc5 would give Black an awkward choice. Recapturing 17 ... dxc5 18 Bxe5 Rh6 19 f4 gxf3 20 Nxf3 leaves White dominating but either 17 ... bxc5 or 17 ... Nxc5 18 Nxc5 bxc5 will see White subsequently double rooks on the open b file.

<b>17</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>Nc7</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>a4</b>	<b>Nh6</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>a5</b>	<b>h4</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>axb6</b>	<b>axb6</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>Ra7</b>	<b>Rdg8</b>

I cannot ultimately prevent a nasty build-up on the a file with 21 ... Kb8 because 22 Rfa1 g3 23 Bxe5 dxe5 (23 ... gxf2+ 24 Nxf2 Rhf8 25 Qa3) 24 Qa3. Distraction may be my best chance with 21 ... g3 but White can plough ahead with 22 Ba5 bxa5 23 b6 Qg4 (23 ... Kb8 24 Qa3) 24 Qa3 with checkmate on the horizon for those with strong nerves e.g. 24 ... gxh2+ 25 Kh1 Rdg8 26 b7+ Kb8 (26 ... Kd7 27 Qa4+ Kd8 28 b8Q+ Qc8 29 Rxc7) 27 Ra8+ Nxa8 28 bxa8Q+ Kxa8 29 Qxa5+ Kb7 30 Rb1+ Kc8 31 Qa8+ Kd7 32 Rb7#.

<b>22</b>	<b>Nb3</b>	<b>Nf5</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>Na5</b>	

Right idea but the execution is slightly awry. After 23 Ba5, the bishop cannot be accepted because 23 ... bxa5 24 b6 Qe8 (24 ... Qa4 25 Nexc5 dxc5 26 Qxf5+ Kb8 27 d6 Bxd6 28 Qe4) 25 Rxc7+ Kb8 (25 ... Kd8 26 Nf6 Bxf6 27 Qxf5 and 28 Qc8#) 26 Nxa5 Nd4 27 Qa3

and my king will go back into the box after 28 Nc6+ Nxc6 29 dxc6. Neither can it be declined because 24 Bxb6 comes to pretty much the same thing.

Even so, the text move is very dangerous.

**23 ... Qg3**

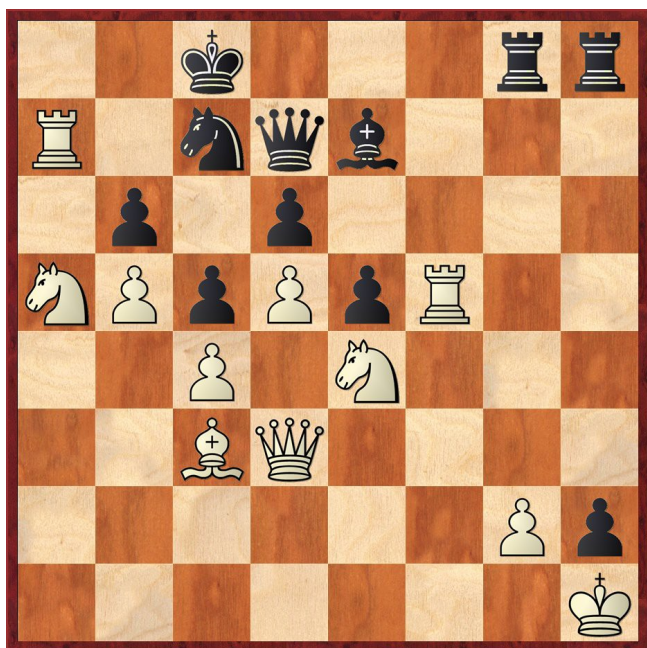
As in the above paragraph, the piece is untouchable due to 23 ... bxa5 24 b6

- 24 ... Qa4 or 24 ... Qe8 25 bxc7 when White will start a winning attack e.g. 25 ... Nd4 26 Bxd4 exd4 27 Qb1 and the black king cannot escape 25 ... Kd7 26 Nf6+ Bxf6 27 Qxf5+
- 24 ... Kb8 25 Rxc7 or 25 Ra1 or 25 Qb1 or 25 Bxa5 or ...

**24 fxg3 hxg3**  
**25 Rxf5**

After 25 h3, Black's attack will struggle to break through but why not accept the piece that I have lost to 25 ... Qxf5 26 Nxd6+? I am getting the open counterattacking lines I have been seeking since move 12 and these give me a sudden change of fortune.

**25 ... gxh2+**  
**26 Kh1**



**26 ... Rg2**

I had foreseen this real treat a few moves ago.

**27 Rf1**

27 ... Rg1# is threatened and not surprisingly, 27 Kxg2 leads to checkmate - 27 ... h1Q+ 28 Kf2 (28 Kg3 Qh2+ 29 Kf3 Qxf5+ 30 Ke3 Qff4#) 28 ... Qxf5+ 29 Ke2 Rh2+ 30 Ke3 Qhf3#. In the event of 27 Qf1, 27 ... Rg1+ 28 Qxg1 hxg1=Q+ 29 Kxg1 Qxf5 leaves White helpless.

**27 ... Qg4**  
**28 Ng3**

I have too much force concentrated on g1 due to the double check that concludes 28 Qe3 Rg1+ 29 Rxg1 hxg1=Q#.

**28 ... Rg3**  
**29 Qxg3 Qxg3**  
**30 Nc6 Bf6**  
**31 Be1 Qd3 0-1**

There is no reply to 32 ... Qxf1+ and 32 ... Qe4+. Never say die!

*Francis Bowers*

## Eye Opener

In recent years, the Berlin Defence has drawn much of the sting from the Ruy Lopez and grandmasters are turning to new ways to try for an advantage after 1 e4 e5. A fashionable choice is to revert to the Giuoco Piano which is probably the first opening we learn as beginners. It has a proud history and if you choose this path, you need to be happy with sharp tactics typical of the romantic era.

One little known sideline is the Jerome Gambit which is regarded as unsound but could pose very tricky problems if you meet it with no preparation. White sacrifices two pieces to expose the black king. In the following miniature, Black is in light-hearted mood and is happy to display his mastery.

**NN v J H Blackburne**  
England 1880

**1 e4 e5**  
**2 Nf3 Nc6**  
**3 Bc4 Bc5**  
**4 Bxf7+ Kxf7**  
**5 Nxe5+ Nxe5**  
**6 Qh5+ g6**

6 ... Ke6 7 f4 d6 is the 'silicon' defence chosen by computers.

**7 Qxe5 d6**

"Not to be outdone in generosity" – Blackburne. This move gives away the advantage (7 ... Qe7 is preferable) but Black banks on his superiority in a knife-edged position.

**8 Qxh8 Qh4**  
**9 0-0 Nf6**  
**10 c3**

10 Qd8 is the only way to continue when Black will struggle for equality.

**10 ... Ng4**  
**11 h3 Bxf2+**  
**12 Kh1**

Not 12 Rxf2+ Qxf2+ 13 Kh1 Qf1#.

**12 ... Bf5**  
**13 Qxa8 Qxh3+**  
**14 gxh3 Bxe4# 0-1**

If you think White is being just too speculative, you are probably right! That said, practice has shown White has good chances over the board and further details can be found online at [jeromegambit.blogspot.co.uk](http://jeromegambit.blogspot.co.uk).