

NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – August 2017

Chairman's Chatter

What is special about the number 131? Well, with 13 issues of the newsletter per year, this edition marks the start of the second decade for New England Chess Club. In that time, we have won the CCCA 1st Division (2010-11), the 2nd Division (2012-13), the Team 550 competition (2016-17) and tied for first place at the Jamboree (2009-10). We have yet to make a showing in the Fenland Cup so we have still have a fresh objective for next season!

If you notice a new face at the club, it belongs to Emil Serban. I am sure we all wish him a warm welcome to the club.

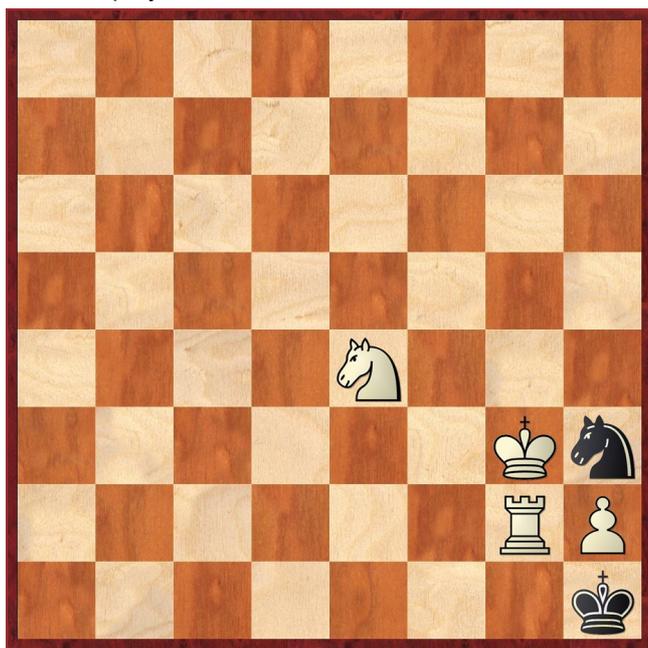
Paul Hanks

Diary Dates

- 23rd August Final round of Summer League
6th September Season restarts
24th September Cambridgeshire Rapidplay at St Faith's School, Cambridge. Entry forms from the CCCA website.
18-19th November Cambridgeshire Individual Championships at Peterborough Bridge Club, Lincoln Road includes Open, U140 and Junior sections. Entry forms are available from F Bowers.

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



Last Month's solution

Position : 2K1B1RQ/2R2b1P/4n1Nk/6p1/6P1/6p1/3p1q2/8

1 Qa1 Kxh7 2 Qh8# [1 ... Bxg6 2 Rxxg6#; 1 ... Bxg8 2 hxxg8N#; 1 ... N any 2 Qg7#; ; 1 ... Qf6/Qd4 2 Qh1#; 1 ... other 2 h8Q#]

Website to Watch

The 2017 British Championships obviously contain all the local interest but this year, missing Adams and Short, the field does not look as strong as previously. The nine rounds can be followed from 29th July to 6th August on www.britishchesschampionships.co.uk.

The elite grandmasters will be contesting the Sinquefeld Cup in St Louis, USA from 2nd to 12th August. This is part of the Grand Chess Tour and Carlsen heads a field of 10. The website <http://grandchesstour.com> does not make it clear whether they will carry live games and the same site is also cited for a Rapidplay and Blitz event at the same venue from 14th to 18th August. This is worth a mention because it features Kasparov's return from retirement.

Result Round-up

Summer League

Player	FB	IG	PO	ES	NF	Total
F Bowers	X	1		1	-	2
I Garratt	0	X			1	1
P O'Gorman			X	0	-	0
E Serban			1	X	-	1
N Foreman	-	0	-	-	X	

Match of the Month

In this 10th anniversary issue, it seems appropriate to take a trip down Memory Lane. Those of you who did not compete for or against New England Chess Club before April 2012 may not remember Chris Ross. You can find his name on our Honours Board as he won the Club Championship for four year in succession. He also bore the brunt of playing on top board in the club's early years and steered us to our triumph in the league in 2010-11. He is an honorary member and still occasionally passes comment from afar on the content of the newsletter.

Recently, Chris represented England on top board at the 15th International Braille Chess Olympiad in Ohrid, Macedonia. The team was seeded 16th and with a record of four wins and a draw from nine matches, reached a position of 13th from among the 29 competing countries. This conceals Chris's own

achievement. He started with a blistering 6½/7 before conceding draws in the last two rounds. The game below is from the first round against a highly-rated Serbian but Chris also meted out the same punishment to Turkey, Romania, Moldova, Denmark and Slovenia!

C Ross (2158) v P Dimic (2349)
 England v Serbia
 15th IBCA Olympiad, Ohrid, 19.06.2017

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Bb5	

I remember Chris chortling in his final appearances for the club about the superiority of this Rossolimo Variation over the Open versions of the Sicilian Defence. White threatens to inflict damage to Black's pawn structure and this appealed to his positional sensibilities.

The variation attracted attention shortly afterwards when it featured in the World Championship match between Anand and Gelfand in Moscow, May 2012.

3	...	Nf6
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In the title match, the grandmasters essayed 3 ... e6 4 Bxc6 bxc6 5 b3 (game 10 and tie-break game 2) and 5 d3 (game 12). Although the lack of decisive games detracted from the spectacle, Anand received praise for his preparation which gave White an easy advantage whilst Gelfand improvised well and with positional pawn sacrifices, often demonstrated the eventual power of the bishop pair.

3 ... Nf6 is not mainstream and appeared in Amin v Wang Yue, Antalya 2013 with 4 Nc3 Qc7. An analysis footnote in Informator 128 mentions 4 e5 Nd5 5 Nc3 Nc7 6 Bxc6 dxc6 with options 7 h3 and 7 0-0 leading to equality though 7 Ne4 Ne6 is dismissed perfunctorily as "unclear".

Nowadays, 3 ... g6 is the most popular reply and was chosen when Anand again met Gelfand (Moscow 2016). An example of this line is given in the *Eye Opener* section.

4	Bxc6	dx6
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This recapture is also hardly thematic. Most grandmaster games include bxc6 in order to build a strong pawn centre (normally in connection with the kingside fianchetto). That said, 3 ... g6 4 Bxc6 dxc6 has celebrity endorsement (Caruana v Carlsen, Wijk aan Zee 2015) and so, it is probably Black's next manoeuvre that would raise eyebrows.

5	d3	Bg4
6	h3	Bxf3

Black has surrendered the bishop pair leaving White to develop with a pleasant position.

7	Qxf3	g6
8	0-0	Bg7
9	Nc3	0-0
10	Be3	Nd7
11	Qg3	e5

White has constructed a position in which the pawn breaks d3-d4 and f2-f4 are possible. Black tries to prevent both alternatives but at the cost of some freedom of movement for his pieces. Looking a little deeper, Black's position is very passive because the only natural counterplay would come from f7-f5 but with White's queen on g3, opening files on the kingside is very unattractive.

12	Kh1	Re8
13	Rad1	b6
14	Ne2	Nf8
15	c3	

This is necessary preparation for f2-f4 to prevent activity from the dragon bishop.

15	...	Ne6
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Strangely, the computer is not convinced by White's recent play but having superior development (just look at the rook on a8) and several options to clarify the centre are surely advantages for White to the human eye.

16	f4	exf4
17	Nxf4	Qd7
18	Ne2	Nf8

18 ... Rad8 seems more consistent with the principle of improving your worst piece.

19	a3	c4
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This move resolves the problem of the doubled pawns but subsequent play will leave the black queen isolated and exposed whilst still failing to involve the queen's rook in the game.

20	dx6	Qe6
21	Bd4	

21 Nd4 Qxc4 22 Qc7 c5 23 Nc6 heads for some clumsy tactics e.g. 23 ... Rxe4 24 Bd4 cxd4 25 Ne7+ which Black can avoid (22 ... Bxd4 23 cxd4 Rxe4 24 d5 Rxe3 (24 ... cxd5 25 Qxf7+ Kh8 26 Bh6 Ne6 27 Bg7+ Nxg7 28 Qf8+ mating) 25 Qxf7+ with a perpetual check) and meanwhile, he strengthens his grip on the d4 square.

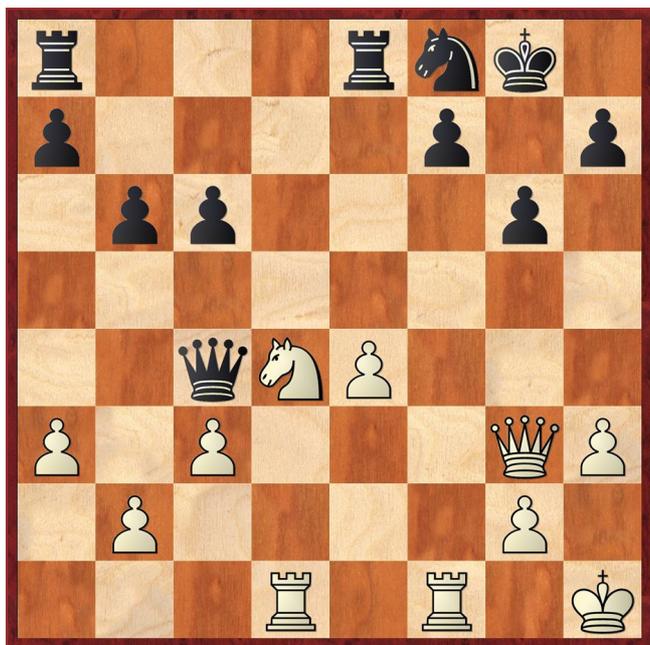
21	...	Qxc4
22	Bxg7	Kxg7

Instead of the automatic recapture, Black could consider 22 ... Qxe2. The weakness of Black's dark squares is not pretty but can White exploit it? A possible continuation is 23 Rde1

- 23 ... Qxb2 24 Rxf7 Kxf7 25 Qc7+ Re7 (25 ... Kg8 26 Rf1 mates) 26 Rf1+ Kxg7 27 Qxe7+ Kg8 28 Qf7+ is almost a forcing sequence that sadly, earns no more than a draw
- 23 ... Qc4 24 Bh6 (24 Bf6 Rxe4) 24 ... Rad8 (24 ... Rxe4 25 Qf2 f5 26 Rxe4 Qxe4 27 Re1 Qd5 28 Qh4 with plenty of compensation) 25 Qf4 is evaluated by the computer as equal but it must be easier for White to play.

23	Nd4	Kg8
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23 ... Rxe4 24 Nf5+ Kg8 25 Nd6 is winning simply but White could also continue with 25 Nh6+ as in the game.



24 Nf5 Qxe4
25 Nh6+

25 Nd6 Qe3 is now not as strong.

25 ... Kg7
26 Nxf7

White could close in with 26 Qg5 Qe6 (26 ... f5 27 Nxf5+ Kg8 28 Nh6+ Kg7 29 Rf7+ Kh8 30 Qf6#) 27 Rxf7+ Kh8 28 Rc7 and Black cannot continue to cover f6 while defending against 29 Rd6 Qxd6 30 Nf7+.

26 ... Qe3
27 Qh4 Re4

Black has to protect the f6 square but even after, 27...Re6 28.Ng5 the black rook is en prise and the threat on f7 has been renewed e.g. 28 ... 28...Re7 29.Rde1 Qc5 30.Qd4+ wins significant material.

28 Qf6+ Kg8
29 Qh8#

Paul Hanks

Eye Opener

J Polgar v P Chilingirova
Women's Olympiad, Thessaloniki 1988

1 e4 c5
2 Nf3 Nc6
3 Bb5 g6
4 0-0 Bg7
5 c3 e5

As in the main game, Black combines a kingside fianchetto with e7-e5. This again leaves the f6 weak particular if the dark-squared bishop can be tempted away.

6 d4 exd4
7 cxd4 Nxd4
8 Nxd4 cxd4
9 e5 Ne7

Not 9 ... Bxe5 because 10 Re1 and 11 f4 will win the pinned bishop. If, instead, Black were tempted by 9 ... Qb6, White has 10 Na3 with the threat of 11 Nc4

because 11 ... Qxb5 fails to the fork 12 Nd6+. As a result, the computer recommends the awkward 10 ... Kf8.

10 Bg5 0-0

10 ... Bxe5 is still impossible due to 11 Bxe7 Qxe7 12 f4 when the bishop dare not move to permit 13 Re1. Note the move order since complications continue after 12 Re1 0-0 13 f4 Qb4 14 Rxe5 d6 15 Rg5 h6 16 Rd5 Be6 17 Qxd4 Qe1+ 18 Bf1 Bxd5 19 Qxd5 Qe6+ 20 Kh1 Qc1 etc.

11 Qxd4 Nc6

11 ... Nf5 would have the same idea and keep the knight closer to the defence of the king.

12 Qh4 Qb6
13 Nc3 Bxe5

Judit was a promising twelve-year-old when this game was played but no doubt, she analysed to the conclusion before allowing Black to gain a piece. Can you?

14 Rae1 Bxc3
15 bxc3 Qxb5
16 Qh6 Qf5



Black protects against the threat of 17 Bf6 but has overlooked the alternative.

17 Qxf8+ 1-0

It is checkmate after 17 ... Kxf8 18 Bh6 Kg8 19 Re8#.