

NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – December 2017

Chairman's Chatter

It has been a busy month. Not only have we had a good crop of matches (and sadly, postponements) but there has been a heartening surge in the number of Ladder games being played. Keep up the good work.

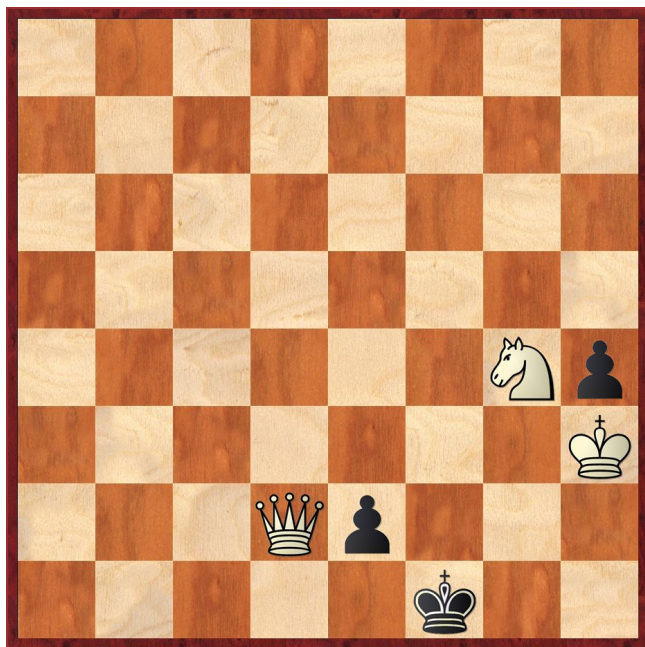
Paul Hanks

Diary Dates

20th December Don't forget the Christmas Special with its usual rounds of fun chess and, of course, mince pies!

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



Last Month's solution

Position : k1Kn4/p2p4/8/8/8/8/3R2Q1

1 Qb6 axb6 2 Ra1# [1 ... d6/5 2 Qb8#;; 1 ... Nb7/c6 2 Qxb7#]

Website to Watch

We do not have to go far for the big event this month. The London Chess Classic runs from 1st to 11th December (see www.londonchessclassic.com) mostly at the Olympia Conference Centre with tickets costing £20. The first round takes place conveniently near Kings Cross station but is sold out. The rounds begin at 2pm or 4pm except for the finale starting at midday. Let's hope the action is sufficiently interesting that we do not have to switch to the Russian Superfinal in St Petersburg from 2nd to 15th December.

Result Round-up

Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

New England A	2	Warboys A	3
R Ilett	0	M Misson	1
P Walker	1	C Watkins	0
F Bowers	½	R Mann	½
P Hanks	½	B Duff	½
E Serban	0	N Greenwood	1

New England B	1½	Spalding	2½
P Hanks	½	P Cusick	½
P Spencer	½	P Szutkowski	½
R Jones	½	T Nottingham	½
D Lane	0	R Coats	1

St Neots B	0	New England B	4
C Emery	0	P Hanks	1
D E Fault	0	R Jones	1
C Mazzarella	0	M Ingram	1
F Rock	0	M Tarabad	1

Warboys B	2½	New England B	1½
B Duff	1	P Spencer	0
P Baddeley	½	R Jones	½
D Polehonski	1	D Lane	0
K Harbour	0	P Weinberger	1

Fenland Plate

St Neots	P	NE Patriots	P
Re-arranged for 4 th December			

Team 550 Competition

NE Patriots	P	NE Cavaliers	P
Re-arranged for 13 th December			

NE Patriots	4	Godmanchester	0
P Spencer	1	J Wright	0
S Walker	1	M English	0
J Parker	1	A Ellul	0
P Weinberger	1	B Smith	0

NE Cavaliers	P	Spalding	P
Re-arranged for 14 th February 2018			

Club Championship

Round 1			
P Spencer	P	P	P Weinberger
Round 2			
E Serban (1)	1	0	M Tarabad (0)
P Hanks (1)	1	0	T Ingram (Rd 1)
T Ingram (0)	0	1	P Spencer
Round 3			
N Wedley (0)	½	½	C Russell (½)
R Jones (2)	0	1	P Walker (2)
R Ilett (2)			E Serban (2)
D Lane (2)			P Hanks (2)
P Spencer (1+ P)			J Parker (1)
S Wozniak (½)			P O'Gorman (1)
P Weinberger (1+ P)			F Bowers (1)
M Tarabad (0)			M Ingram (0)
T Ingram (0)			I Garratt (0)
M Tarabad (Rd 4)			S Walker (0)
Match night : 3 rd January Deadline : 3 rd January Next draw : 4 th January (1 st if possible)			

New England Club Ladder

White		Black	
R Ilett	1	0	M Ingram
N Wedley	1	0	P O'Gorman
P Walker	½	½	F Bowers
R Ilett	1	0	P Weinberger
J Parker	1	0	P O'Gorman
M Tarabad	0	1	N Wedley
F Bowers	½	½	R Ilett
P Hanks	1	0	D Lane
N Wedley	½	½	M Tarabad
T Ingram	1	0	I Garratt
P O'Gorman	0	1	M Ingram
M Ingram	½	½	J Parker
R Jones	1	0	D Lane
R Ilett	0	1	P Walker

Position	Change		Player	Record @ 22/11/17
	Month	Overall		
1	+1	+3	P Hanks	1,1
2	+1	+5	P Spencer	1
3	-2	-2	F Bowers	1,1,½,½
4	-	-1	N Wedley	½,0,1,1,1
5	+2	+1	P Walker	0,½,1
6	-1	-4	J Parker	0,½,1,0,0,1,½
7	+1	+1	R Ilett	1,1,½,0
8	+1	+1	M Ingram	0,1,½
9	-3	-4	S Walker	0
10	-	-	P O'Gorman	0,0,0
11	-	-	P Weinberger	0
12	-	-	M Tarabad	0
13	-	-	R Jones	1
14	-	-	T Ingram	1
15	-	-	D Lane	0,0
16	-	-	I Garratt	0

New England Grand Prix

Player	Champ	Ladder	League	Cup	550 Team	Total	TPR*
P Hanks	2	2	5½	½	½	9½	173
F Bowers	1	3	4	1		9	177
R Ilett	2	2½	1	½	½	6½	166
P Walker	3	1½	1½	½		6½	166
J Parker	1	3	0	0	2	6	103
N Wedley	½	4				4½	112
R Jones	2	1	1			4	130
P Spencer	1	1	1		1	4	139
P Weinberger	1		1		1	3	116
E Serban	2		1			3	147
M Ingram	0	1½	1		0	2½	96
M Tarabad		½	1	0	1	2½	85
P O'Gorman	1	0		½	1	2½	77
S Walker	0	0			2	2	101
D Lane	2	0	0		0	2	91
C Russell	1				½	1½	101
T Ingram	0	1				1	72
S Wozniak	½				0	½	89
I Garratt	0	0			0	0	22

* Tournament Performance Rating is approximate and excludes Summer League

Match of the Month

In my recent games, I had been sitting and looking at some miserable positions due to lifeless play on my part. I decided instead to take few more risks but in my poor form, that could mean I would not survive competitively until move 10!

A Kaszuba v P Hanks

Peterborough A v New England A, 26.10.2017

1 e4 e6
2 f4

My book of "Anti-French" variations by Lev Psakhis has seven rare continuations at move 2 but not this one! In *Taming Wild Openings*, it is called the de la Bourdonnais Variation.

2 ... d5
3 e5 c5
4 Nf3 Nc6
5 g3

The latter book quotes the game Weiss v Maroczy, Budapest 1895 which went 5 c3 d4 6 d3 Nh6 with equality. Certainly, the fifth move looks more thematic for White.

5 ... Nge7

As 5 ... Nh6 cannot run into doubled pawns and a wrecked kingside after Bc1xh6, this alternative route to f5 for the knight does not block e7 for the black bishop.

6 Bg2 Bd7
7 0-0 Nf5
8 g4

This did not perturb me because the White's kingside starts to look too open.

8 ... Nh4

8 ... Nfd4 is regarded as marginally better though White has a range of decent replies 9 c4, 9 c3, 9 Nxd4 etc. I was worried about my move as it could lead either my knight or worse, my queen into a cul-de-sac but my outlook steered me towards the more critical continuation.

9 Nxh4

Otherwise, I achieve my aim of securing the bishop pair. An attempt to preserve the bishop by 9 Bh1 c4 gives me the equivalent of a two pawn advantage due to Bf8-c5+ burying the cornered bishop by 10 Nxh4 Bc5+ 11 Kg2 Qxh4.

9 ... Qxh4
10 d3 h5

The retreat 10 ... Qe7 was hardly consistent but I was quite surprised Fritz did not condemn my temerity.

11 g5 Qg4

Fritz initially suggests 11 ... 0-0-0 and then 11 ... Nd4 but quickly discards them once it starts to worry (as did I) about the safety of the black queen after 12 h3.

12 Qxg4

Avoiding the swap with 12 Qe1 gives my queen some escape squares after 12 ... h4 13 h3 Qf/h5.

12 ... hxg4
13 Be3 Be7
14 Nd2 0-0-0
15 Bf2 f5
16 a3

I had spent several minutes looking at the pawn exchanges 16 exf6 gxf6 17 gxf6 Bxf6 18 Bxc5 Bxb2 19 Rab1 Bc3 20 Nb3 b6 . I thought it was White's best plan but felt in the final position, I was in control of some of the vital squares, c5, d4 etc. and was still blocking the long a8-h1 diagonal.

16 ... Rh7

16 ... Nd4 is tempting but it contains no threat because 17 Rae1 Nxc2 18 Rc1 Nd4 19 Bxd4.

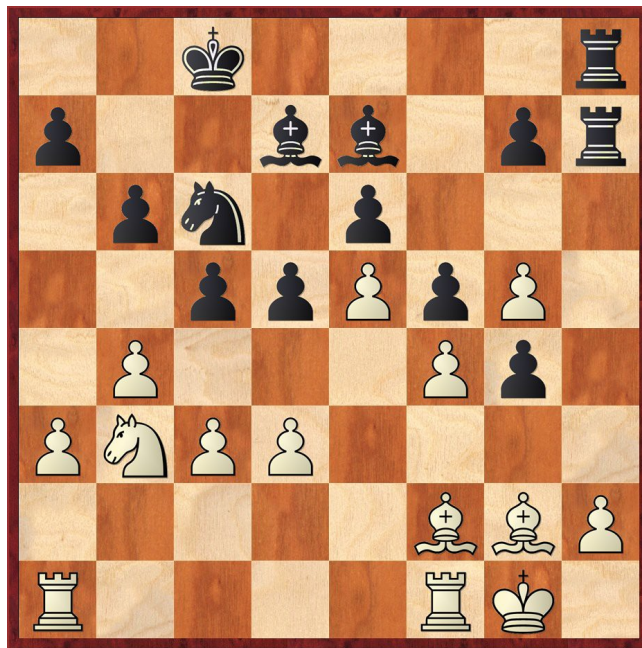
17 c3 Rdh8
18 b4 b6

18 ... Rxh2 is Fritz's choice but thereafter, the analysis gets murky. 19 bxc5 Na5 (it also considers the obscure 19 ... R2h3 20 Bxh3 Rxh3) 20 Rfb1 Bc6 21 Bd4 when it looks hard for either side to make progress.

I wanted to slow down White queenside assault but with the text continuation, I give away my small advantage according to Fritz. The main thing about my move, however, is that I had to find a response to 19 b4-b5. That forced me to discover a concept that I should otherwise have missed and one that would be stronger if I waited until White's knight moved from covering the f3 square...

19 Nb3

19 bxc5 bxc5 (19 ... b5 20 c4) 20 Bg3 would have led to a level position.



19 ... Nxe5

Here goes! Throwing caution to the winds leads to a strange occurrence. If I play 19 ... Rxh2 20 bxc5 Nxe5 21 fxe5 f4, it is supposed to be better for Black. My

analysis reached the same position by a different move order but Fritz wraps my knuckles.

20 fxe5 f4
21 bxc5

White played this move very quickly which suited me just fine. It showed he was underestimating the force of Black's attack. The attack can be rebuffed but the one thing you should not do is ignore it.

It is definitely time to take measures to solidify the kingside. 21 h4 is a defence I did not foresee and is the reason the move order given by Fritz is superior. This option just would not exist after 19 ... Rxf2. 21 ... f3 22 Bh1 (22 Bxf3 gxf3 23 bxc5 Bxg5) 22 ... Bxg5 23 bxc5 Bf4 24 cxb6 axb6 25 Nd4 (25 Bxb6 Rxf4) 25 ... g5.

These continuations confirm my overall assessment that White would do best to return the piece and my sacrifice will lead to an endgame e.g. 26 Nxf3 gxf3 27 Bxf3 gxh4. In the meantime, I might be giving White a few uncomfortable moments.

21 ... Rxf2
22 cxb6

One defence is the offbeat 22 Ra2 f3 23 Bg3 (23 Bxf3? gxf3 24 Bd4 Rxa2) 23 ... fxg2 24 Rf7 Rh1+ 25 Kxg2 Bxg5 26 cxb6 (26 Rxf7 Be3 - threatening 27 ... Rg1# - 27 Rxf7 d4 28 Nxd4 bxc5 with a continuing attack) 26 ... axb6 27 Rxf7 Be3 28 Rxf7 d4 29 Nxd4 Bxd4 30 Rxd4 Bc6+ 31 Kf2 R1h2+. I should have an advantage on the clock by then!

22 ... f3

At last, the penny drops for White but it is too late. Afterwards, my opponent admitted not seeing that Rxf2 is checkmate and that single oversight has allowed me to squeeze the maximum from my position - a mating net.

23 b7+

Not 23 Rfb1 Rxf2+ 24 Kf1 Rh1+ 25 Bg1 Rxf1#

23 ... Kxb7 0-1

Other moves also win but moving to a dark square allows a bishop check to avoid the checkmate. Now there is no defence. 24 Bxf3 gxf3 25 Bd4 [25 Rfc1 Rh1#; 25 Bh4 Rxf2+ 26 Kh1 Rxf4#] 25 ... Rg2#. A pleasingly economical attack.

Paul Hanks

Eye Opener

Correspondence chess is an almost forgotten form of our game. With computers has come a reduced reliance on the Royal Mail and we can no longer trust that we are facing a human opponent rather than a software package.

This is a great pity. I indulged in my student days as a way of staying in touch with school friends who had gone to different universities – a function now also usurped, this time, by Facebook. Encountering a tricky sacrifice on move 6, I can remember feeling really proud after staying up half the night in finding the only saving resource which led to a perpetual check about

10 moves later. My opponent found it rather tedious as he was regurgitating some analysis by Paul Keres and had not had to think for himself.

It is hard to imagine that there will be any short games when there are no limits on analysis. I also played a few competitive games in the British Correspondence Chess League where to speed up the games, it was not unknown to offer conditional continuations (often used in the case of forced replies). At that time, the Modern Defence was being touted as a versatile system that could be played against any opening by White. A colleague duly received his opponent's first move as White and was offered in the game with reversed colours **1 any g6 2 any Bg7**. The response was **1 d4 g6 2 Bh6 Bg7 3 Bxg7** and to add insult to injury, my team-mate added **3 ... any 4 Bxh8**. His opponent immediately resigned both games.

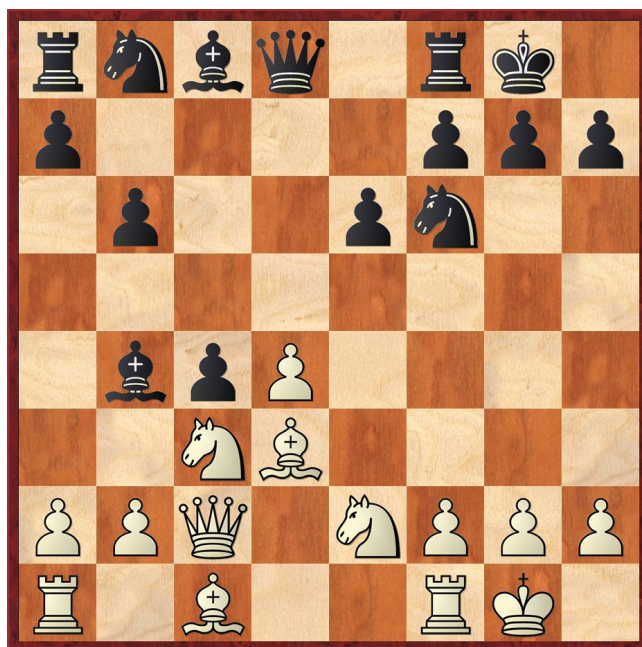
That is not what I meant, of course. It is possible to wrap an old trap in a new guise.

Nielsen v C J S Purdy
Correspondence, 1947

1 d4 Nf6
2 c4 e6
3 Nc3 Bb4
4 Qc2

The Classical Variation of the Nimzo-Indian Defence.

4 ... 0-0
5 e3 b6
6 Bd3 c5
7 Nge2 cxd4
8 exd4 d5
9 0-0 dxc4



10 Bxh7+ Nxh7
11 Qe4 Qc7 0-1

If 12 Qxa8 Nc6 will trap the white queen with 13 ... Bb7 to follow. This should come as no surprise if you regularly play the White side of the Queen's Gambit. White can almost obtain sufficient material for her majesty but would you play on at 65p per move?