

New Englander

Chess Club Update – May 2019

Chairman's Chatter

Oh, what a night! On 17th April, the club hosted two matches and in both, a league title was on the line. In the Cambridgeshire division 2, a big win against St Neots B would put us out of reach of the pursuers but as it happened, the 2½-1½ result was sufficient. Spalding were unable by ½ point to achieve the required whitewash of Warboys B. Maybe it was only by the smallest of margins but the B team are league champions!

On the other side of the room, Cavaliers were playing Warboys and the tension here was even greater. Both teams were in contention in the North Division of the 550 Competition with our opponents having a match in hand and with the event being decided on game points, every board counted. Again, we triumphed by 2½-1½ and became uncatchable.

Congratulations to all who participated throughout the season. The clean sweep on the bottom boards in the crucial encounters was particularly impressive and it has made the year our most successful to date. Something to celebrate at the AGM!

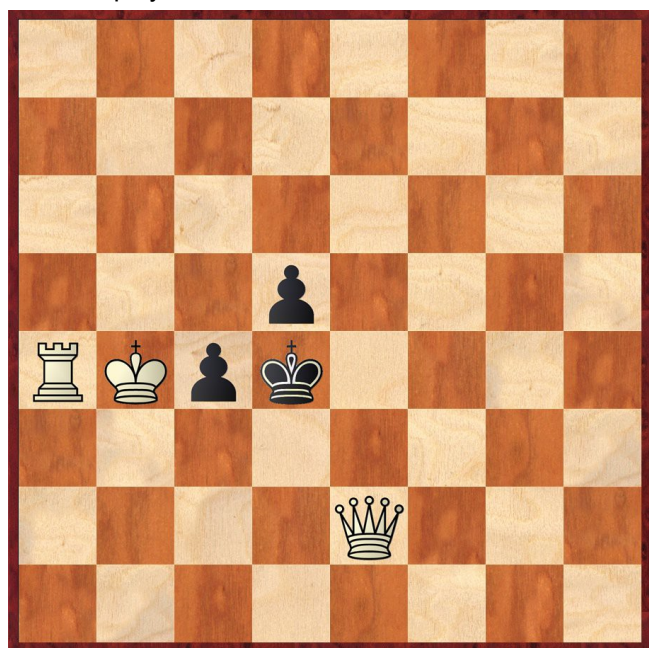
Paul Hanks

Diary Dates

8th May Problem night
15th May Club Rapidplay
29th May Club Annual General Meeting

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



Last Month's solution (Abdurahmanovic)

Position : 5QKB/2P5/8/3k4/8/1R4N1/8/8

1 **Ne4 Ke6 2 Qf7#** [1 ... Kc4 2 Qf7#; 1 ... Kc6 2 Qd6#; 1 ... Kxe4 2 Qf3#]

Website to Watch

From 17th May, FIDE restarts its Grand Prix series of tournaments to determine candidates for a future World Championship challenge. The format has changed to four knock-out rounds each with two classical games on successive days followed by tie-breaks on the third. It is free to watch at www.worldchess.com.

Result Round-up

Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

New England A	1½	Cambridge	3½
J Dilley	½	R McCorry	½
R Ilett	½	B Buisman	½
E Knox	0	J Daugman	1
J Sadler	½	M Fountain	½
P Weinberger	0	S Pride	1

Warboys B	1½	New England B	2½
N Greenwood	½	P Turp	½
D Polehonski	1	J Sadler	0
D Bently	0	R Jones	1
K Harbour	0	E Knox	1

New England B	2½	St Neots B	1½
P Spencer	0	J Dunn	1
C Russell	½	M Friday	½
P Weinberger	1	F Rock	0
S Walker	1	S Westwood	0

Division 1	P	W	D	L	Games	Pts
Peterborough A	10	9	0	1	35	18
Royston	10	7	1	2	32	15
Cambridge	10	6	1	3	30	13
St Neots A	10	2	1	7	19	5
Warboys A	10	2	1	7	17½	5
New England A	10	1	2	7	16½	4

Division 2	P	W	D	L	Games	Pts
New England B	8	5	1	2	19	11
Spalding	8	5	1	2	18½	11
Peterborough B	8	4	2	2	17½	10
Warboys B	8	2	3	3	14½	7
St Neots B	8	0	1	7	10½	1

Team 550 Competition

NE Cavaliers	2½	Warboys	1½
P Hanks	0	B Duff	1
P Turp	½	J Beck	½
J Sadler	1	P Wells	0
D Lane	1	D Polehonski	0

Spalding	½	NE Patriots	3½
J van Gemeren	0	R Ilett	1
T Nottingham	½	C Russell	½
T Bennett	0	S Wozniak	1
F Robinson	0	M Ingram	1

North Division	P	W	D	L	Games
NE Cavaliers	8	6	1	1	22
Warboys	8	6	0	2	21½
NE Patriots	8	4	0	4	16½
Spalding	8	2	2	4	13
Godmanchester	8	0	1	7	7

Fenland Knock-Out

St Neots	2½	New England	1½
P Brown	0	P Hanks	1
R Gompelman	½	R Ilett	½
C Emery	1	J Sadler	0
K Holditch	1	Default	0

Club Championship

Postponements			
N Wedley (1)	Rd	4	R Jones (1½)
P Spencer (3½)	Rd	5	P Turp (2½)
E Knox (3)	Rd	6	P Spencer (3½+P)
P Weinberger (3)	Rd	7	T Ingram (1½)

Redraw			
J Sadler (Rd 6)	0	1	P Spencer (Rd 7)
D Lane (Rd 4)			J Sutherland (Rd 6)

Round 8			
J Sadler (5)			P Hanks (6)
R Jones (4+P)			R Ilett (4½)
E Knox (4+P)			P Walker (4+2P)
P Spencer (4½+2P)			C Russell (3½)
S Wozniak (3½)	1	0	M Tarabad (3½)
P Weinberg'r (3+P)			P Turp (3½+P)
J Suth'land (1½+P)			E Smith (2)
D Lane (1+P)			S Walker (2½)
J Parker (1)			T Ingram (1½+P)
Match night : 1 st May		Deadline : 28 th May	

New England Club Ladder

White	Black	
D Lane	0	1 J Parker
P Weinberger	1	0 J Parker

Position	Change		Player	Record @ 24/04/19
	Month	Overall		
1	-	+2	P Walker	½,1,½,1,0,1,1
2	+9	+10	P Weinberger	0,1
3	-	+10	J Sadler	0,1,1,1,½
4	-2	-2	J Parker	0,0,1,1,0
5	-	+1	M Tarabad	1,0,1,1,1,1,0,0,½
6	-2	+4	N Wedley	0,1,0,0
7	+1	+4	E Smith	0,0,0,0
8	-2	-7	P Spencer	1,½,½,1
9	-2	-1	R Ilett	1,1,1
10	-1	-6	T Ingram	0,1
11	-1	-2	D Lane	0,1,0,0,0
12	-	-7	P Hanks	0
13	-	-6	P O'Gorman	0

New England Grand Prix

Player	Champ	Ladder	League	Cup	550 Team	Total	TPR*
R Ilett	4½	3	2½	2½	5	17½	166
P Spencer	4½	3	4		3½	15	144
J Sadler	5	3½	2	0	4	14½	126
M Tarabad	3½	5½		0	5½	14½	110
P Hanks	6	0	2	3	1	12	162
C Russell	3½		6	0	2	11½	118
P Walker	4	5	1			10	169
P Weinberger	3	1	2		3	9	100
P Turp	3½		2	0	3	8½	133
E Knox	4		1		2½	7½	110
S Wozniak	4½				2½	7	124
R Jones	4		2		1	7	111
S Walker	2½		2		2	6½	90
J Dilley			5			5	202
N Wedley	2½	1		½	1	5	94
D Lane	1	1	½		2	4½	91
J Parker	1	2			1	4	73
M Ingram	1			½	1½	3	96
T Ingram	1½	1				2½	86
J Sutherland	1½				1	2½	96
E Smith	2	0			0	2	61
P O'Gorman	1	0				1	74

* Tournament Performance Rating is approximate

Match of the Month

Being a newcomer to the club, I actually knew nothing about Phil's style and so did not really know what kind of game to expect. Having looked at a few past *Match of the Month* articles, it seemed Phil appeared to favour 1 Nf3 and d4, so a combative King's Indian Defence would be a possibility.

In the event, the game took a more positional turn. Fritz gives several equivalent continuations from almost every position – a sure sign that there are no tactical pitfalls – and the early part of the game needs little commentary. It is only towards the endgame that the gloves come off.

P Turp v E Knox

New England Club Championship Rd 7; 20.02.2019

1	Nf3	Nf6
2	g3	d6
3	d4	g6
4	Bg2	Bg7
5	0-0	0-0
6	c4	Nbd7

7 **Nc3** **e5**

We have reached the Fianchetto Variation of the King's Indian Defence.

8 **e4** **Re8**
9 **d5**

A large number of games on the Fritz database yield this position by various move orders but if you filter for only grandmaster clashes, there are far fewer. One such is Portisch v Kavalek, Tilburg 1979 which went 9 h3 c6 10 Be3 b6 11 Qc2 Ba6 12 b3 exd4 13 Nxd4 Rc8. White eventually won after 52 moves using his domination of the d5 square to prevent d6-d5 and piling pressure on the weak pawn on d6.

The text move 9 d5 has far-reaching strategic consequences. Normally, the light-squared bishop of the kingside fianchetto aims at c6 and b7 but the central pawn advance blocks the long diagonal. Portisch met Kavalek again and did indeed play d4-d5 but in a position in which Black had played c7-c6 and Bc8-e6 when the thrust forced exchanges to open the position. It will be interesting to see how the game hinges around the restricted scope of the white bishop.

9 ... **Nc5**
10 **Qc2** **a5**
11 **Ne1** **c6**
12 **Nd3** **Nxd3**
13 **Qxd3** **Qc7**
14 **Be3** **Ng4**
15 **Rac1** **Nxe3**
16 **Qxe3**

I have "gained" the pair of bishops but Fritz gives me no advantage whatsoever. Its assessment is 0.0!

16 ... **Bf8**
17 **Rc2** **Bd7**
18 **Kh1** **c5**

In general terms, closing the position negates the long range of the bishop pair. Here, however, there are compensations. I played 18 ... c5 because with my queen on the c file and Phil maybe able to double rooks there, I wanted to keep it closed. Also, it helps to block out Phil's light squared bishop on the long diagonal.

19 **f4** **Bh6**
20 **Qf3** **f5**

20 ... exf4 would create some dangerous mobile pawns e.g. 21 gxf4 f5 22 e5 dxe5 23 d6 Qxd6 24 Rd1 Qc7 25 Qxb7 Qxb7 26 Bxb7 Rad8 27 Rcd2 with awkward threats.

21 **Rcf2**

White seems reluctant to initiate exchanges in the centre with 21 fxe5!? Rxe5 22 Bh3 Rf8 23 Qg2 fxe4 24 Rxf8+ Bxf8 25 Bxd7 Qxd7 26 Nxe4 with level chances.

21 ... **exf4**

A thought similar to my move 18 occurred here. With Phil's queen and both rooks lined up on the f file, I wanted to try and block this.

22 gxf4 Bg7
23 exf5 Bxf5

Fritz recommends 23 ... Bxc3 24 Qxc3 Bxf5 but it is hardly convincing.

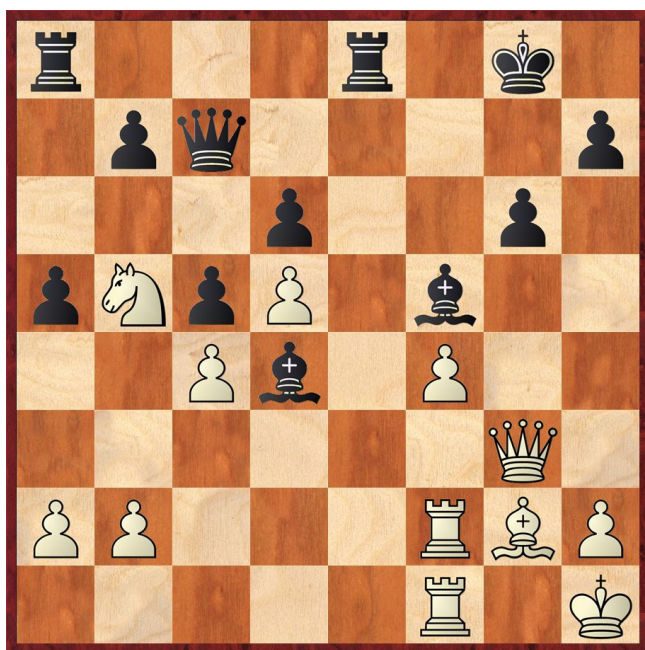
24 Qg3

24 Bh3 must definitely be considered. Black's bishops have reached good squares and I control the open file. White should be looking to reduce my forces before a rook can penetrate his position.

24 ... Bd4

Around this point, Fritz starts to give me an edge equivalent to having won a pawn but it is hard to see how. It must be because White's assault on the kingside has come to a halt whereas I have prospects on the other flank with 25 Rf3 Bxc3 26 Rxc3 Qd7 27 Qf2 b5.

25 Nb5



25 ... Bxf2

25 ... Qb6 26 Nxd4 (26 Rd2 Re3 27 Bf3 Rae8) 26 ... cxd4 when Fritz likes my passed pawn and supporting activity.

26 Nxc7 Bxg3

After this, I was expecting 27 Nxa8. Taking on e8 felt worse but I agree in hindsight that just taking back on g3 is even better.

27 Nxe8?

Natural but 27 hxg3 Rac8 28 Nxe8 Rxe8 29 Rf2 leaves me with only a small initiative.

27 ... Rxe8
28 hxg3 Re2

Now I am winning a queenside pawn and have great chances. Not only will I have extra material and an aggressive rook but my bishop will threaten White's queenside pawns.

29 Bf3 Rxb2
30 Re1

Salvation for White must come from direct action since 30 a3 Rb3 mops up further pawns.

30 ... Kf7

I could exploit the pawns more forcefully with 30 ... Rb1 31 Rd1 Bc2 32 Rxb1 Bxb1 33 a3 (33 a4 Bc2) 33 ... Bd3.

31 Re2 Rb1+
32 Kg2 Rc1

32 ... Bd3 would again hit the weakness on c4 and White would have fewer counterchances though 33 Re6 Rb6 34 g4 Bxc4 35 g5 Bxa2 36 f5 would make me work for the point under time pressure.

33 Rb2 Rb1
34 Rd2

Strangely, Fritz indicates 34 Re2 as heading for a draw by repetition but 34 ... Bd3 merely transposes into the previous note.

34 ... b5

With 34 ... h5, Black can tie up White by removing any possibilities of g3-g4 but I wasn't really thinking about defence at that point. I was short on time quite early in the endgame, so wasn't able to calculate as much as I would have liked and was playing more on instinct.

35 g4 Bd7
36 cxb5

There is no alternative because c4 is still indefensible - 36 Be2 bxc4 37 Bxc4 Bxg4 or 36 Rc2 bxc4 37 Rxc4 Rb2+.

36 ... Rxb5
37 Kg3 Rb1
38 Kf2

White might have thoughts of a draw by repetition with 38 Rh2 Kg8 39 Re2 but with 39 ... Rg1+, I force White to block the manoeuvre 40 Kf2/h2/h4 or 40 Bg2.

38 ... a4
39 Ke3 Bb5
40 Rh2 Kg7
41 f5 g5

White is persistent with his distraction efforts. Perhaps, I should have posed some problems of my own with 41 ... a3 threatening 42 ... Rb2.

42 f6+

If 42 Rh5, 42 ... Be8 would trap the rook after 43 Rxc5+ Kf8 44 f6 (otherwise 44 ... h6) 44 ... Bg6 45 Be2 (45 Be4 Re1+) 45 ... Kf7 46 Bd3 Rb2 with 47 ... Kxf6 to follow. White would have to concede the tempo with 43 Rh2.

42 ... Kxf6
43 Rh6+ Kg7
44 Rxd6 Rb2
45 Rb6 c4??

"Black is ruining his position" (Fritz). It is galling to be chastised by a computer but White has generated some pressure. I have to cope with 46 Rb7+ and 46 d6 etc and only 45 ... a3 maintains my advantage.

46 Rb7 Kf6

47 Rb6+ Ke7

Best play is to allow the perpetual check 47 ... Kf7 48 Rb7+ Kf6 49 Rb6+ Kg7 50 Rb7+ Kf6 but if I can blunder, so can Phil!

48 Rb7+??

48 d6+ would make the time scramble very interesting viz. 48 ... Kd7 49 Bc6+ Kxd6 50 Rxb5 (50 Bxb5 Kc5) 50 ... Rxa2 51 Be4 when the game should be drawn.

48 ... Kd6
49 Rxh7?

On either of the next two moves, White needs to activate his bishop with 49 Be4.

49 ... Rxa2
50 Rh6+ Kd7

50 ... Kc5 would make my queenside pawns virtually unstoppable.

51 Kd4 a3
52 Kc5?

52 Rh7+ Kd8 53 Ra7 makes it hard for me to make progress. A sample try might be 53 ... Rd2+ 54 Kc5 a2 55 d6 c3 56 Be4 and I had to be careful to avoid 56 ... Be2 57 Ra8+ Kd7 58 Bf5#.

52 ... c3
53 Kxb5??

53 Be4 Rb2 54 d6 looks ominous and would give practical chances when we were both down to our last minutes.

53 ... c2
54 Rc6

I am queening a pawn even after 54 Rh1 Rb2+ 55 Kc4 Rb1.

54 ... Rb2+
55 Kc5

The computer can see the checkmates from this point e.g. 55 Ka5 a2 56 Rc7+ and 55 Kc4 c1Q+ 56 Kd3 Rb3+ 57 Ke2 Qe3+ 58 Kf1 Qxf3+ 59 Kg1 Rb1+ 60 Kh2 Rh1#.

55 ... c1Q+ 0-1

56 Kd4 Qd2+ 57 Ke4 (57 Ke5 Qf4#; 57 Kc5 Qc3#; 57 Kc4 Rb4+ 58 Kc5 Qd4#) 57 ... Qf4+ 58 Kd3 Rd2+ 59 Kc3 Qd4+ 60 Kb3 Rb2+ 61 Kxa3 Qb4#

Ed Knox

Eye Opener

In 1973, I had high hopes for my schoolmate Tony Miles in the World Junior Championship held in Teeside but despite defeating the Soviet representative Alexander Beliavsky, he had to settle for the silver medal. This was the first time I had heard of the Ukrainian but he went on to have a lengthy career culminating in a quarter-final match against Gary Kasparov in the World Championship. His claims to fame also included being for many years the oldest player in the world's top 100 and as joint holder of the record for defeating undisputed World Champions (nine). Here, he plays an up-and-coming talent who showed great potential...

M Carlsen (2625) v A Beliavsky (2626)
Corus-B, Wijk aan Zee Rd 5; 19.01.2006

1 e4 e5
2 Nf3 Nc6
3 Bb5

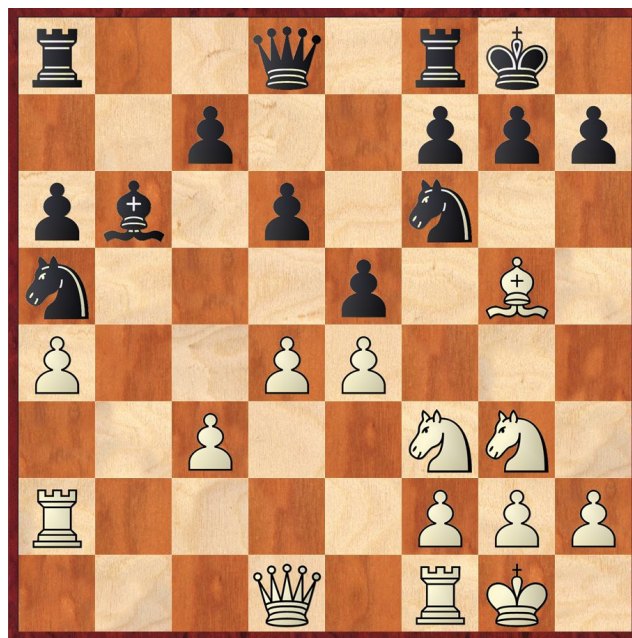
The Ruy Lopez is backed by such a fearsome body of theory that I cannot comment on the accuracy of the opening moves! Nevertheless, it still allows space for some creative thought.

3 ... a6
4 Ba4 Nf6
5 0-0 b5
6 Bb3 Bb7
7 d3 Bc5
8 Nc3 d6
9 a4 Na5

Fritz recommends this continuation slightly above 9 ... b5. Its opening book has 3 games with the text move scoring 0% for Black whereas the record for the alternative is 45.5%.

10 Ba2 b4
11 Ne2 Bc8
12 c3 bxc3
13 bxc3 Bb6
14 Ng3 Be6
15 d4 Bxa2
16 Rxa2 0-0
17 Bg5

So far, it looks fairly harmless except that Black is fairly uncoordinated. If you do not spot White's intention, it is easy to go wrong.



17 ... exd4
18 Nh5

Suddenly, the pressure on f6 is crushing and Magnus accurately adds to it by removing Black's g pawn.

18 ... dxc3
19 Nh4 Kh8
20 Nf5 1-0