

New Englander

Chess Club Update – February 2020

Chairman's Chatter

The new ECF grading list for January is out! In case you have not noticed, there may be an error as it seems probable that the latest Club Championship results have been omitted. Watch this space...

Paul Hanks

Diary Dates

19th February Chairman's Challenge Round 2

7-8th March Closed Championship Congress for the East Anglian Chess Union at Whittlesford. For an entry form, please see www.eacu.org.uk under the tab "Fixtures and Events".

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2 - courtesy of the January 2020 ECF newsletter where it is described as a "strategic" two-mover.



Last Month's solution (Skogsenden 1970)

Position : 2Q3N1/3r4/3k4/r5P1/2b3K1/2n5/7p/6b1

1 Ra4 Kh5 2 Bf7# [1 ... Kf5 2.Bd3#; 1 ... Kf4 2 Rf7#; 1 ... Kh4 2 Rh7#; 1 ... Kh3 2 Bf1#; 1 ... Kf3 2 Bd5#]

Website to Watch

With a big tournament coming in March, there are lean pickings in February but the Prague Masters from 12th to 21st gives some high-level competition. The website is praguechessfestival.com/tournaments-english/masters-english/master-games-english if you want to view it in English!

Result Round-up

Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

New England A	2	Cambridge	3
J Dilley	1	A Stewart	0
P Hanks	0	S Palucha	1
R Ilett	0	D Waller	1
P Spencer	0	N Hutchinson	1
E Knox	1	M Symanski	0

Royston	2½	New England A	2½
Default	0	J Dilley	1
K Clark	1	P Hanks	0
P Kemp	½	R Ilett	½
M Pinner	1	P Spencer	0
Default	0	E Knox	1

New England A	2½	St Neots A	2½
J Dilley	½	A Chapman	½
R Ilett	1	R Gompelman	0
P Spencer	0	C Emery	1
E Knox	1	R Palumbo	0
C Russell	0	P Barkas	1

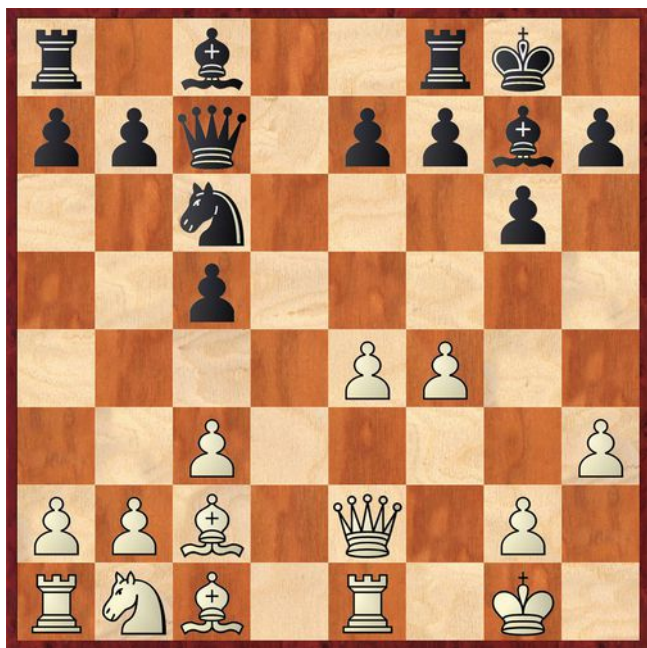
New England B	2	Peterborough B	2
P Spencer	½	A Richards	½
E Knox	½	M Connolly	½
C Russell	1	C Bengtson	0
M Tarabad	0	L Howland	1

Team 550 Competition

NE Cavaliers	2½	NE Patriots	1½
R Jones	1	P Spencer	0
M Tarabad	0	S Walker	1
N Wedley	½	M Ingram	½
J Sutherland	1	E Smith	0

Club Championship

Round 1			
E Knox	P	P	M Tarabad
R Ilett	1	0	J Sutherland



14 **Be3** **b6**
 15 **Na3** **a6**
 16 **Rad1**

White has finished his development. Both rooks have made it to the centre and all other major pieces have left home during which time Black has simply attempted to untangle the queenside. Whilst White is ahead with development, I was still happy with my position as Black. As so often in the Modern Defence or Pirc, White has committed to the centre and I was comfortable in biding my time as the black squares on White's kingside looked to me a future area of weakness.

16 ... **Bb7**
 17 **Rd2**

A major exchange of heavy duty pieces on the d file looks imminent!

17 ... **Rad8**
 18 **Rxd1** **Rxd2**
 19 **Rxd2** **Rd8**
 20 **Qd1**

Here I believe White should force the action by exchanging rooks (e.g. 20 Rxd8+ Nxd8 21 Nc4 b5 22 Nd2 c4 23 Qf2) and trying to centralise his knight which is currently offside and away from where the action ultimately takes place. The played move just seems to lose crucial time.

20 ... **Bh6**
 21 **Rxd8+** **Nxd8**

Black now has a slight edge.

22 **Qd2** **Ne6**
 23 **g3?**

The first blunder of the game and it will turn out costly. As previously mentioned, the black squares on White's kingside very swiftly become his downfall. Black still holds good chances in either of White's alternative choices :-

- 23 f5 Bxe3+ 24 Qxe3 Nf4 25 fxg6 hxg6 26 Nc4 b5 27 Nd2
 - 23 e5 Qc6 24 Bd1 Qd5 25 Qxd5 Bxd5 26 c4 Be4 27 g3
- 23 ... **g5!**

Overloading the h2–b8 diagonal.



24 **Nc4** **gxf4**
 25 **gxf4** **Bxf4**
 26 **Qg2+?**

Another inaccuracy which speeds up the conclusion. White's best try is to take on f4. For example, 26 Bxf4 Nxf4 27 h4 b5 28 Ne3 c4 29 Nf5 Kf8.

26 ... **Kf8**
 27 **Bxf4** **Nxf4**
 28 **Qg4** **Bc8**
 29 **Qf3** **Nxh3+**
 30 **Kh1** **b5**
 31 **Ne3** **Ng5**
 32 **Qg2** **Qf4**
 33 **Nd5** **Qh4+**
 34 **Kg1** **Bh3**

More accurate is 34 ... Bg4 when White has to give up his queen the move after next to avoid being mated relating to the threat 35 ... Nf3+ 36 Kf1 Qe1#. For instance, 35 Kf1 Bh3, 35 Qf2 Nh3+, 35 Qh2 Qe1+ 36 Kg2 Bf3# etc.

35 **Qf2** **Qg4+**
 36 **Kh1** **Nf3**
 37 **Bd1**

The only move that prolongs the agony is 37 Nf4.

37 ... **Bg2+**
 38 **Qxg2** **Qh4** **0-1**