

New Englander

Chess Club Update – May 2020

Chairman's Chatter

After several weeks of lockdown restrictions, I hope you have now settled into a routine with sufficient interest to alleviate the monotony. While in this limbo, we can reminisce about past battles and in this issue, two players have co-operated to relive an encounter from 2017 which led to a very strange positional structure.

Congratulations to Ed Knox who has won the first of our monthly tournaments during the suspension of normal play. Each Wednesday, the online events are keeping us in touch and trying to keep the grey matter slightly active. It is gratifying to see participation levels reach what would be expected for internal events over the board. Please look out for email invitations as investigations are made into the viability of arranging team matches with other clubs.

As with all electronic systems, great capabilities come with user problems and some lack of robustness. Please be patient because the quality of the organisation is somewhat beyond our control. On one of my first outings, I was challenging a neighbour's son to a friendly game but my lack of familiarity allowed a player from South Africa to interject. To avoid disappointing a 10-year old, I needed to finish the rogue game quickly - one way or the other. I indulged in a torrent of sacrifices ... and won! He must have thought I was a genius!

Paul Hanks

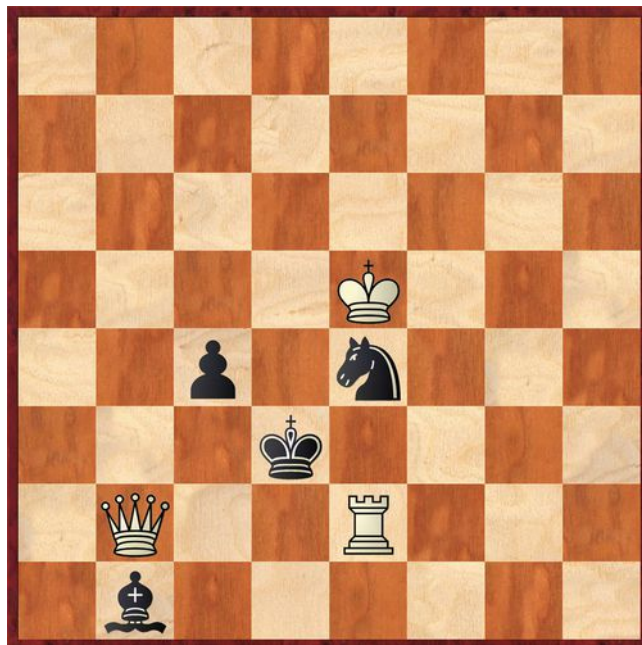
Result Round-up

Online tournaments : April 2020

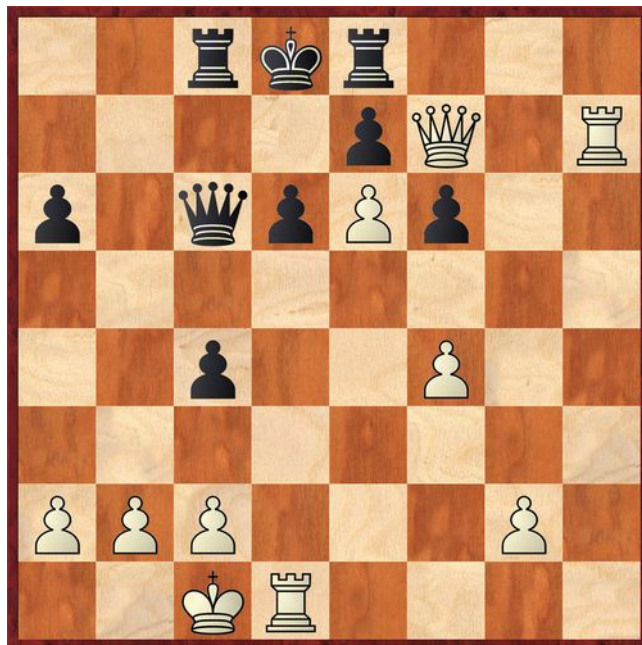
Player	April					Total	Tie break
	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th		
E Knox	3½	2	-	3	2	10½	-
P Hanks	2	2	1	4	2	10	1
R Ilett	-	-	3	3	3	9	-
P Spencer	2	2	2	2	2	8	2
S Walker	2	1	1	0	1	5	1
C Russell	3	-	1	0	1	5	-
M Tarabad	1	1	0	1	1	4	0
P Turp	3	-	1	-	-	4	-
E Smith	0	-	2	-	-	2	-
P Weinberger	1½	-	-	-	-	1½	-
J Parker	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
J Sadler	1	-	-	-	-	1	-

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



White to play and win



Last Month's solutions

Position : 8/2p2K2/3k4/B7/2Q5/5N2/8/8 (Lincoln 1990)
1 Nh4 Kd7 2 Qxc7# [1 ... Ke5 2 Bxc7#; 1 ... c6 2 Qd4#; 1 ... c5 2 Qe6#]

Position : r2q2k1/ppp3bp/1nnp2p1/8/6PN/2P3P1/P1P3BP/1RR2QK1 (Burmakin v Manakov, Schwabisch Gmund 2013) **1 Rxb6** and the rook cannot be recaptured because **1 ... axb6 2 Bd5+ Kh8 3 Nxc6+ hxc6 4 Qh3+** mating.

Match of the Month

Steve Walker v Ron Jones

New England Club Championship Rd 2; 18.10.2017

When learning about pawn structures, we are told that isolated pawns are bad, doubled isolated pawns are worse and tripled isolated pawns are awful. In this strange game, White's queen never moves and it is the only time I have ever had tripled isolated pawns. Although I won this game from two seasons ago, I missed quite a few of the "best" moves and I think I might have been lucky to play Steve, who is usually reasonably solid, when he was having an off-day.

1	d4	d6
2	Nf3	Nd7
3	Bf4	

Since this game (June 2019), Steve published a fine win in the newsletter using this bishop deployment by White against 1 ... d5. Being a slippery customer (according to the club chairman), I have responded with a Modern Defence. You can look in vain through recent editions of *Informator* for an example of the line because generally White gratefully grabs space in the centre with 2 e4 and/or c2-c4 which is more critical.

3	...	c7
4	Nc3	

[SW] A bit of interesting chess history - it's quite amazing really - comes from 02.12.2015. Same club championship competition, same round, same opponent, same colours, same opening four moves by me and same 3 or 4 moves in response by Ron. I did play an early e2-e4 on move 5 (in the 2017 game, the computer recommended the move at move 9) but to no avail. I still managed to lose - although I lasted 36 moves as opposed to 22!

One advantage said of the Modern Defence is that it can be played against any opening. The same claim after 1 d4 is sometimes made for my Barry Attack. Does that also make me a slippery customer?

I think Ron did some degree of preparation and he may even have mugged up on the 2015 game as it closely followed it in the opening. I was unprepared for his Slav-type defence (3 ... c6) and it was very effective. Perhaps, I should have changed tactics and played 4 Nbd2 and kept to a orthodox London system, with the prophylactic 5 c3 supporting the d4 pawn. Playing 4 Nc3 jams in my c2 pawn.

4	...	g6
5	h3	Bg7
6	e3	Ngf6
7	Bd3	

Although it does not appear so but putting the bishop on this square leads to trouble later. [SW] Perhaps, I should have played 7 Bc4 and let Ron worry if I had some attacking chances with 8 Ng5. However, the bishop is also exposed here and Black could develop with tempo by 7 ... Nb6.

7	...	0-0
8	g4	

Perhaps White should have castled here. There were several chances to do so later on, but none was taken. [SW] I was far too ambitious with 8 g4 - too early or wrong altogether - and ended up failing to castle.

8	Re8
9	g5	

It is around here that the computer's assessment of White's position starts to deteriorate. Its favourite continuation is 9 e4 and when exchanges follow 9 ... e5, equality seems about right. [SW] It would have been more prudent to have castled now or even earlier.

9	...	Nd5
10	Nxd5	

[SW] Given how strong Black's centre pawns become, I think I should have considered dropping back with 10 Bg3. But after 10 ... Nxc3 11 bxc3 e5, I either allow e5-e4 when my pawn on g5 is weak or exchange 12 dxe5 Nxe5 when c3 also becomes a target (13 Nxe5 dxe5 14 h4 e4). The same chance occurred again at move 11.

10	...	cxd5
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One advantage of doubled pawns is that they make a pawn thrust easier on an adjacent file. The advancing pawn can be replaced by another and form a terrifying, often unopposed, pair. Here, White is facing e7-e5 attacking the bishop on f4 and threatening a fork on e4.

11	Nd2	e5
12	Bg3	exd4

Now I have isolated tripled pawns on the d file. White can take the one on d6, but will he? How often do you see a position with every square on a file occupied?



13	e4	
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13 Bf4 was best according to the computer, protecting g5. If 13 Bxd6, I can exploit the unprotected bishop by 13 ... dxe3 14 fxe3 Rxe3+ 15 Kf2 (15 Kf1/Be2 Qxg5 with a massive attack and two extra pawns!) Rxd3 16 cxd3 Qb6+.

13 ... **dxe4**
14 **Bc4** **Ne5**

Black has accumulated a substantial advantage – those triple pawns would have become extra pawns if I had played 14 ... Qxg5. Another option was 14 ... d5 because 15 Bxd5 runs into 15 ... Qa5 16 Bb3 e3 17 fxe3 dxe3 though White can evade the pin at a price by 18 Bxf7+ Kxf7 19 0-0+.

15 **Bxe5** **Rxe5**
16 **Kf1**

By now, it is too late for 16 0-0 simply because 16 ... Rxg5+ 17 Kh2 Qd7. The undeveloped queen is also blocking escape to the other flank so the white king runs from the opening of the centre files – thanks to the tripled pawns.

16 ... **d5**
17 **Be2** **Bf5**
18 **f4** **Re7**

The computer prefers 18 ... Re8, but the move played seems more flexible to me.

19 **Bg4** **Qd7**

Here 19 ... Qc7 was better, attacking the f4 pawn which can't be defended and even 19 ...e3 could be played immediately.

20 **Rc1** **Rc8**
21 **Rg1** **Bxg4**
22 **hxg4** **e3** **0-1**

Threatening 23 ... e2+ and if the king or queen move to e2, 23 ... exd2 and 24 ... Qb5+ will follow. White resigned.

Ron Jones/Steve Walker

Eye Opener

In grandmaster chess, boredom can be a potent weapon. You only have to look at the similarity in the positions that arise from the Berlin Defence to the Ruy Lopez or the symmetry of the Petroff Defence to appreciate how natural creativity can be stifled.

While using the time during lockdown to perform some maintenance on my chess database, I came across a comment in a past magazine. It concerned Magnus Carlsen's use of the venerable Bishop's Opening (1 e4 e5 2 Bc4) against Wei Yi at Wijk aan Zee 2017. The commentator observed that it was probably an attempt to reach the Giuoco Piano by avoiding the Petroff but had the drawback of possibly leading to the Vienna Game. In my day, it was this latter opening that was considered boring!

Opening reputations are often the "fake news" of the chess world. The Vienna Game has some lively variations and it is a good idea to have studied the tactics before entertaining this opening in your repertoire. For instance, I had seen the line

1 e4 e5 2 Nc3 Nf6 3 Bc4 Nxe4 4 Qh5 (4 Bxf7+ Kxf7 5 Nxe4 is supposed to be good for Black provided he avoids 5 .. Nc6 6 Qf3+ Kg8 7 Ng5 winning – 7 ... Qxg5 8 Qd5#) 4 ... Nd6 5 Bb3 Nc6 6 Nb5 g6 7 Qf3 f5 8 Qd5 Qe7 9 Nxc7+

in *Alekhine's Best Games* and played it once in a friendly schoolboy game. Black resigned at this point! A total surprise as the position is supposed to favour Black (see J Øst-Hansen v J Nunn, Teesside 1974) and with the modern fashion for the overdramatic, it is now called in some circles the Frankenstein-Dracula variation (Google it on Wikipedia if you do not believe me!).

Here is a more typical example :-

Francis v V Hooper
Birmingham 1916

1 **e4** **e5**
2 **Nc3** **Nc6**
3 **bc4** **Bc5**
4 **Qg4** **Qf6**

The f2 point is a traditional weakness but the white king is safe on the d1 escape square for the time being.

5 **Nd5** **Qxf2**
6 **Kd1** **d6**

Black's problem is that the queen is exposed (e.g. 6 ... Nd4 7 Nh3 traps her majesty) so that White can develop with tempo and both rooks are under threat (Nxc7+ and Qxg7). If you are to play this line, your defence will need to improve on

- 6 ... Nge7 7 Nh3 Qd4 8 Qxg7 Ng6 9 d3 Be7 10 Rf1 Kd8 11 Ng5 Rf8 12 Qxf8+ 1-0 (12 ... Bxf8 13 Nxf7+ Ke8 14 Nxc7+ Ke7 15 Bg5#) Leisenbein v Tuchtenhagen, Corfu 1989
- 6 ... Kf8 7 Nh3 Qd4 8 d3 Be7 9 Rf1 Nd8 10 Nxe7 Nxe7 11 Bxf7 Nxf7 13 Qf3 1-0 Bethmann v Leisenbein , correspondence 1990.

If this gives the impression of a forced win for White, in the second of these variations, Black tried 7 ... h4 and though unspectacular, went on to win.

7 **Qxg7** **Bd7**
8 **Nxc7** **Kd8**
9 **Nxa8** **Kc8**
10 **Nf3** **Bh3**
11 **Rf1** **Qxg2**
12 **Be6+** **1-0**

Black's best try is the dismal 12 ... Bxe6 Qxg2 because 12 ... fxe6 13 Qc7# and 12 ... Kb8 13 Qf8 mating.