

New Englander

Chess Club Update – August 2020

Chairman's Chatter

The politicians are now rolling out their exit strategy from the coronavirus lockdown or, as we chess players would call it, the endgame. If so, it must be a king and pawn endgame – just a few, seemingly simple options but so many ways for it to go horribly wrong!

There may be light at the end of the tunnel but I think we are still some weeks from the venue opening for our club evenings and perhaps, even longer before the confidence returns for social events to become normal again. In the coming month, however, there are likely to be online meetings at both club and county level about the format of the coming season (if any). Please think about your preferences - in particular, your willingness to participate - and look out for notifications of these events.

Paul Hanks

Website to Watch

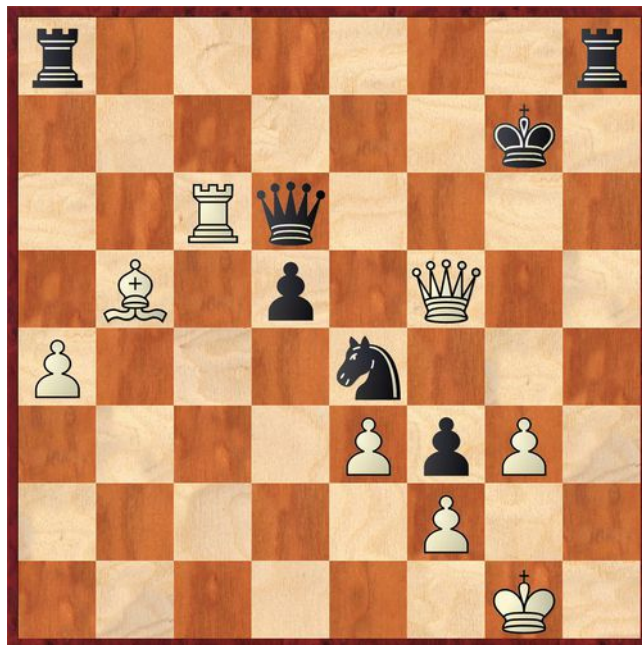
The grand final of the Magnus Carlsen Chess Tour takes place from 9th to 20th August in the PlayZone of the chess24.com website. It will give group of participating grandmasters including Carlsen, Ding Liren and Nakamura a \$300k payday after a series of qualifying tournaments. The last of these is the Legends of Chess event currently in progress until 5th August. It has even lured Kramnik out of retirement!

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



Black to play and win



Last Month's solutions

Position : 8/8/8/2P3R1/5B2/2rP1p2/p1P1PP2/RnQ1K2k

1 Qb2 fxe2 2 Qb7# [1 ... Nd2 2 Kxd2#; 1 ... R any 2 Qh8#; 1 ... Na3 2 0-0-0#]

Position : 3r2k1/3rb1p1/2q3p1/4p1P1/4n1Q1/3R4/5PK1/7R

Arizmendi v Raetsky, Lluemajor 2019 : **1 Rc1** overloads the black queen. **1 ... Qxc1** [maintaining protection of the rook on d7 fails e.g. 1 ... Qb5 2 Qe6+ Kf8 3 Rh1 mating; 1 ... Qa4/b7 2 Qe6+ Kf8 3 Rf3+ (otherwise Qxe4+) 3 ... Bf6 (3 ... Ke8 4 Qxg6#) 4 Rh1] **2 Qe6+ Kf8 3 Rh3** [3 Rf3+? Qf4]

Result Round-up

Online tournaments : July 2020

| Player | July | | | | | Total | Tie break |
|--------------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|-----------|
| | 1st | 8th* | 15th | 22nd | 30th | | |
| R Ilett | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 10 | 2 |
| P Spencer | 2 | 3 | 2½ | 2 | 2 | 9½ | 2 |
| E Knox | 2 | 2 | 2½ | 1 | - | 6½ | - |
| P Turp | - | 3 | - | 3 | - | 6 | - |
| P Hanks | - | 2 | - | 2 | 2 | 6 | - |
| S Walker | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| M Tarabad | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 |
| C Russell | 1 | 0 | - | 1 | 1 | 3 | - |
| P Weinberger | 1 | - | 0 | - | - | 1 | - |

* Chess960

New England World Cup

| Group games | | | |
|--------------|----|---|--------------|
| P Turp | 1 | 0 | M Tarabad |
| E Knox | 1 | 0 | S Walker |
| P Hanks | 1 | 0 | C Russell |
| P Spencer | 1 | 0 | P Weinberger |
| E Knox | 0 | 1 | P Turp |
| S Walker | Rd | 3 | M Tarabad |
| P Spencer | 1 | 0 | P Hanks |
| P Weinberger | Rd | 3 | C Russell |

| Group A | PT | EK | MT | SW | Total | Tie break |
|-----------|----|----|----|----|-------|-----------|
| P Turp | X | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 | N/a |
| E Knox | 0 | X | 1 | 1 | 2 | N/a |
| M Tarabad | 0 | 0 | X | | 0 | |
| S Walker | 0 | 0 | | X | 0 | |

| Group B | PS | PH | CR | PW | Total | Tie break |
|--------------|----|----|----|----|-------|-----------|
| P Spencer | X | 1 | ½ | 1 | 2½ | N/a |
| P Hanks | 0 | X | 1 | ½ | 1½ | |
| P Weinberger | 0 | ½ | X | | ½ | |
| C Russell | ½ | 0 | | X | ½ | |

| Semi-Finals | | | |
|------------------------------|----|---|---------------------------------|
| P Turp | Sf | 1 | Runner-up : Group B |
| P Spencer | Sf | 2 | E Knox |
| 3 rd place : Gp A | Sf | 3 | 4 th place : Group B |
| 3 rd place : Gp B | Sf | 4 | 4 th place : Group A |

| Finals (toss for colours) | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|---------------|
| Winner : Sf 1 | | | Winner : Sf 2 |
| Winner : Sf 3 | | | Winner : Sf 4 |

Match of the Month

One of the lifestyle changes brought about by the lockdown has been our increasing reliance on electronic means of communication. Video-conferencing by such applications as Skype and Zoom have moved out of the seminar rooms of big business and become the forum for family reunions. Indeed, our summer Masterclass tuition sessions have of necessity used these platforms despite their foibles.

During our weeks of exile from social life, I have been in contact with Bob Taylor in the first instance but later with a widening circle of other mutual friends from our student days. We were able to swap stories and reminisce about our achievements in what now seems to be a more innocent era of chess competition.

This month's game is taken from this period. It was my second game for a University team and I was eager to make an impression. My opponent was a player of some substance (graded 172 at the time) and captain of Yorkshire II. At present, he is president of the Sheffield and District Chess Association – coincidentally similar to my role in Cambridgeshire.

G Frost v P Hanks

Rotherham A v Sheffield University B, 1972

| | | |
|---|----|------|
| 1 | d4 | e6 |
| 2 | c4 | f5 |
| 3 | e4 | fxe4 |

This is an unusual, deferred version of the Staunton Gambit. Normally, 1 d4 f5 2 e4 is played when White is sufficiently happy with the open lines created by the gambit thrust that he can save a tempo and dispense with c2-c4.

I guess Geoff decided he could play very aggressively against an unknown freshman and not without reason. Formal training was unknown and my knowledge of opening theory was non-existent. At that time, it was almost impossible to find out what few books were available for guidance and even more difficult to afford them! I had a single volume of games called *Modern Chess Miniatures* which I had read cover-to-cover but could recall only one relevant game. I vaguely remembered that Black could exploit space on the kingside to invade with his pieces and develop a strong attack. How to do so, however, I had to work out over the board.

Around the same date, a nine-year schoolboy called Garik Weinstein (later to be known to the world as Garry Kasparov) was being dragged to the Pioneers Palace in Baku. Here, he could discuss the contents of the latest *Informator* with his chess coach(!) Remind me. Which of us lived in one of the richest countries in the world and which in a Third World backwater?

| | | |
|---|------|------|
| 4 | Nc3 | Nf6 |
| 5 | f3 | exf3 |
| 6 | Nxf3 | Be7 |
| 7 | Bd3 | 0-0 |
| 8 | 0-0 | c5 |

Both sides seem to be making natural moves but Fritz recommends some disruption with 8 ... Nc6 9 d5 Nb4. Many years would pass before such expert assistance was available to aspiring players at the flick of a switch.

| | | |
|----|------|------|
| 9 | d5 | exd5 |
| 10 | cxd5 | d6 |
| 11 | Ng5 | |

I must have been quite worried here. White's forces are massing on the kingside. That was my plan for Black! I have a Benoni-type position without the advantage of the strong fianchetto defensive rampart.

| | | |
|----|------|------|
| 11 | ... | h6 |
| 12 | Nge4 | Nbd7 |
| 13 | Qe2 | |

White could target the d6 weakness with 13 Bf4 but 13 ... Nxe4 (or 13 ... Qb6) 14 Nxe4 Nf6 looks OK.

| | | |
|-----------|--------------|-------------|
| 13 | ... | Ne5 |
| 14 | Nxf6+ | Bxf6 |
| 15 | Bc2 | Ng4 |

This is the sort of move had envisaged early in the opening. With the check on d4 opening the file towards f2, Black suddenly has some firepower on the vacated kingside squares.

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| 16 | Ne4 |
|-----------|------------|

White could avoid some of the tricks with 16 Kh1 but a passive move may have been difficult psychologically after daring to start with a gambit. After 16 Bf4, there is 16 ... Bd4+ 17 Kh1 Nf2+ 18 Rxf2 Bxf2 19 Qxf2 g5 20 g3 but has Black riskily exposed his king?

| | | |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|
| 16 | ... | Bd4+ |
| 17 | Kh1 | Rxf2 |
| 18 | Qxf2 | Qh4 |

18 ... Nxh2 was a possible tactic. It is a free pawn after 19 Qe1 (19 Kxh2 Qh4#) 19 ... Ng4 but there is no entry into the theatre of war for the black queen. This is now the position of my dreams at move 3.

| | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 19 | h3 |
|-----------|-----------|

19 Bf4 brings up fresh reserves for the defence.

| | | |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| 19 | ... | Bd7 |
| 20 | g3 | Qh5 |
| 21 | Bf4 | Re8 |

Black's concentration of forces gives several other winning options a) 21 ... Rf8 b) 21 ... g5 22 Bd2 Rf8 23 Qg2 Nf2+ 24 Nxf2 (24 Kh2 Bxh3) 24 ... Rxf2 25g4 Rxf2 26 gxh5 Rxd2 and c) 21 ... Bf5.

| | | | |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| 22 | Bxd6 | Ne3 | 0-1 |
| 23 | g4 | Bxg4 | |



The h3 pawn can no longer be defended and the only hope of forcing a retreat by 24 Ng3 fails to 24 ... Bf3+ 25 Kh2 Ng4#. The final position certainly represents a triumph for Black's "strategy"!

Eye Opener

Some of you may be curious about the club's Masterclass sessions. Here is a sample position that was used recently and you may like to challenge your tactical alertness to see if you can work out a) the resources available to White and b) the general theme investigated on that particular evening. The game involves two top Russian grandmasters including the 2016 challenger for the world champion title.

D Andreikin v S Karjakin

World Blitz Championship, Moscow 2010

| | | |
|----------|------------|-------------|
| 1 | c4 | e5 |
| 2 | Nc3 | Nc6 |
| 3 | Nf3 | g6 |
| 4 | d4 | ed4 |
| 5 | Nd5 | Bg7 |
| 6 | Bg5 | Nge7 |

All the moves look like a regulation English Opening but already, there are hidden depths. What followed?



| | | |
|----------|------------|-------------|
| 7 | Nd4 | Bxd4 |
|----------|------------|-------------|

Not 7 ... Nxd4 when White has *eliminated a defender* and 8 Bxe7 wins the black queen. 7 ... f6 is best but Black will still suffer.

| | | |
|----------|-------------|------------|
| 8 | Qxd4 | 0-0 |
|----------|-------------|------------|

The second point. The dark-squared bishop is *removed as a defender* of the f6 square. 8 ... Nxd4 is not prevented by 9 Bxe7 when White loses at least a piece but by 9 Nf6+ Kf8 10 Bh6#. Interestingly, this trap does not come from the computer age – it was played by Blumenfeld from a Scotch Game in 1903!

| | | |
|----------|-------------|------------|
| 9 | Nf6+ | Kh1 |
|----------|-------------|------------|

9 ... Kg7 allows 10 Nh5+ and the double check gains access for 10 .. Kg8 11 Qg7#.

| | | |
|-----------|-------------|------------|
| 10 | Ng4+ | 1-0 |
|-----------|-------------|------------|

Finally, 10 ... f6 11 Bxf6 Rxf6 (11 ... Kg8 12 Nh6#) 12 Qxf6 Kg8 13 Nh6#. A lesson in being able to spot checkmates with minor pieces!