

NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – February 2008

Chairman's Chatter

The fate of teams in the Premiership is said to hinge on their performance in the hectic programme around Christmas. There are some differences between chess and football (especially the salaries!) and the heart of our season is the slow progression through January and February. There are some highlights coming (see Diary Dates) and meanwhile, I hope this issue will help to keep you in good mental trim.

Paul Hanks

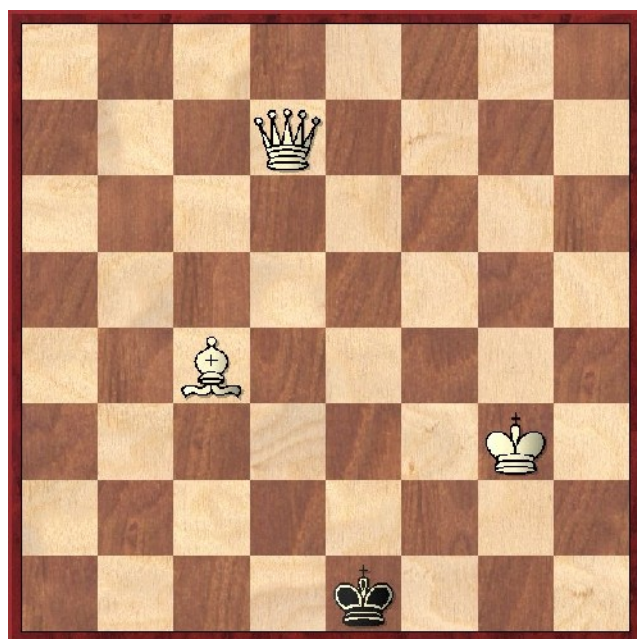
Diary Dates

Paul Kemp is currently arranging a Cambridgeshire Rapidplay event which he hopes to hold at the New England Club on Sunday 13th April. He hopes to have a trophy to award to the highest position achieved by a local player. I hope you will all want to participate to make this a success.

The next event on the club horizon is on Wednesday 19th March which has been billed as the "Challenge Match". The intention is to involve the whole club (say a match over 10-12 boards) and host a match against opposition we do not normally meet in the course of the league programme (e.g. Oundle School, Lincoln, Northampton etc) We may have to charge a board fee of £3-4. If you have done so, Please confirm if you are you interested in playing.

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2.



Please contact me if you wish to have the solutions to previous problems.

Result Round-up

Warboys B		New England B	
J Beck	½	J Osborne	½
P Clough	1	M Ingram	0
P Baddeley	1	H Currie	0
K Harbour	0	M Tarabad	1

New England B		Spalding	
S Caraway	1	M Dunkley	0
M Ingram	1	R Coats	0
C Collins	1	J Pulford	0
J Alster	1	Default	0

Division One

Round 1		Date : 2 nd January	
C Ross	1	R Jones	0
F Bowers	1	C Collins	0
J Osborne	0	P Hanks	1
Round 2		Date : 9 th January	
C Collins	P	C Ross	P
R Jones	P	P Hanks	P
F Bowers	P	J Osborne	P
Round 3		Date : 23 rd January	
C Ross	P	J Osborne	P
P Hanks	½	F Bowers	½
C Collins	P	R Jones	P

Division Two

Round 1		Date : 2 nd January	
M Tarabad	0	S Caraway	1
S Walker	0	C Russell	1
H Currie	0	M Ingram	1
N Wedley	1	A Brookbanks	0
Round 2		Date : 23 rd January	
C Russell	P	M Tarabad	P
M Ingram	P	S Caraway	P
A Brookbanks	1	S Walker	0
N Wedley	0	H Currie	1

Match of the Month

It may be hard to think of a gathering of civil servants as being lively but like the stately progress of a swan, there is furious paddling beneath the surface!

In July, Francis went to the 17th Individual Championship of the Civil Service Sports Council held at Devonshire Hall, Leeds. Out of forty games, no fewer than 23 were draws! Our boy was responsible for four of them but as you will see from the game below, this was not due to cautious play.

F Bowers v C Bowering

Civil Service Championship, Leeds 2007

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 a6 4 Ba4

Fischer brought the Exchange variation of the Ruy Lopez back into grandmaster practice but not with a view to winning the e pawn. It cannot be maintained because 4 Bxc6 dxc6 (4 ...bxc6 5 Nxe5 Qe7 6 d4 d6) 5 Nxe5 Qd4

4 ... Nf6 5 0-0 b5 6 Bb3 Be7 7 Bd5

Francis aims for a set-up similar to the Exchange variation but with the queenside pawn advance as extra moves. If Black ignores the exchange on c6 e.g. 7... 0-0 8 Bxc6 dxc6 9 Nxe5 Qd4, the difference is that White can continue 10 Nxc6. Unfortunately, Black also has 9 ...Qd6 10 Nf3 Nxe4 and could try 7 ... Bb7. Instead, Black accepts the challenge...



7 ... Nxd5
8 exd5 Nb4
9 Nxe5 d6

If 9 ... Nxd5 10 Qf3 with multiple threats.

10 Nxf7 Kxf7
11 a3 Nxd5
12 Qf3+

Fritz prefers 12 Qh5+ so that the sequence of checks ends without the white queen being attacked viz 12 ... g6 13 Qxd5+ Be6 14 Qf3+ Bf6

12 ... Bf6
13 Qxd5+ Be6

14 Qe4 Qd7
15 d3 Rae8
16 Nc3 Rhf8
17 Nd5

If White grabs a pawn with 17 Qxh7, Black traps the queen with 17 ... Bg4 and threatens 18 ... Rh8 when White has to return his booty with 18 d4 Bxd4.

17 ... Bd8
18 Qxh7 Rh8

White's justification is 18 ... Bxd5 19 Qh5+ but Black now has an impressive initiative.

19 Qe4 Rh4
20 Qf3+ Kg8
21 g3 Bg4
22 Qh1

This move looks odd but it make good sense. Because the white queen has such little scope, the only alternative was 22 Qf4 Rh5 23 Ne3 Be2 24 Re1 Bg5 25 Qf5 (25 Qd4 Bf3 with mating threats) 25 ... Qxf5 26 Nxf5 Bxc1

22 ... Bh3
23 Rd1 g5
24 Be3

The rook is obviously taboo due to 24 gxh4 Qg4+.

24 ... c6
25 Nb4 d5
26 d4

White could deflect the black queen with 26 Nxc6 Qxc6 so that 27 gxh4 becomes possible.

26 ... a5
27 Nd3 Qf5
28 Ne5

A more passive move such as 28 c3 runs into 28 ... Bg4 29 gxh4 (29 Re1 Bf3) 29 ... Bxd1 30 Rxd1 Qg4+

28 ... Rxe5
29 dxe5 Qxe5
30 c3 Re4



White has to defend the Be3 against 31 ... Rxe3 32 fxe3 Qxe3#

31 **Rd3** **Qe6**
32 **Re1** **Bb6**
33 **b4** **a4**

Black could consider 33 ... g4 to deprive White of the f3 square and his only constructive move!

34 **Qf3**

If White tries to sit tight e.g. 34 Re2, Black can slowly turn the screw with 34 ... Qf5 35 Re1 Re7 when the Rd3 has to give way. Exchanging on e3 would then expose another mating threat 36 Rdd1 Bxe3 37 Rxe3 Rxe3 38 fxe3 Qc2 39 Re1 (39 Qf3 g4) Qd2 when the e3 square is a fatal weakness.

34 ... **Bg4**
35 **Qg2** **Bh3** ½-½ by repetition.

Eye-Opener

The purpose of this section is to alert you to some tactical possibilities early in the game. Please do not take the variations presented as recommended lines for you to play. If the traps fail, you may find yourself in an inferior position and they should rather be regarded as pitfalls for you to avoid. If you find yourself in similar positions, however, there is no harm in taking a quick advantage...

In Philidor's Defence, White can sometimes win material by what look like "schoolboy" moves. The elementary error, however, has come from Black who has delayed the development of his KN and as a result, becomes weak on the white squares. Some of the possibilities are devastatingly simple.

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 Nd7 4 Bc4 Be7

The problem on the light squares can come from all angles and another variation is 4 ... c6 5 c3 Be7 6 Qb3 when centre pawns will be lost e.g. 6 ... d5 7 exd5 cxd5 8 Bxd5

5 dxe5 dxe5

if 5 ... Nxe5 6 Nxe5 dxe5 7 Qh5 when Black has to give up a pawn without stemming the initiative 7 ... g6 8 Qxe5

6 Qd5

when Black has an unenviable choice of defending f7 with 6 ... Nh6 7 Bxh6 or 6 ... Bb4+ 7 c3 Qe7 8 cxb4

White can take things too far and here is an example of him being overambitious.

W Heidenfeld v Wolpert
Johannesburg, 1955

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 Nf6 4 Nc3 Nbd7 5 Bc4 Be7 6 Bxf7+

This is where the adventure starts. Heidenfeld included this game in a book he wrote and was very critical of this move citing another game Pachman v Guimard Goteborg 1955 when the more circumspect 6 dxe5 dxe5 7 Bxf7+ was played. This move order would block the e5 square to the Black pieces.

6 ... Kxf7 7 Ng5+ Kg8 8 Ne6 Qe8 9 Nxc7 Qg6 10 Nxa8

Heidenfeld now claims White loses by force and prefers the continuation from Brinckmann v Romih, Hamburg 1930 when White was satisfied with a material imbalance and general dislocation of the Black position after 10 0-0 Rb8 11 Qd3.

10 ... Qxg2 11 Rf1 exd4 12 Qxd4

Keres gives 12 Qe2 dxc3 13 Qc4+ d5 14 Qxc8+ as being in Black's favour.

12 ... Ne5 13 f4 Nfg4 14 Qd5+

If 14 fxe5 Bh4+.

14 ... Nf7 15 Qc4 Bh4+ 16 Kd1

What would you play now as Black?



16 ... Be6 17 Qe2

The motif 17 Qxe6 Qxf1+ 18 Kd2 Be1+ 19 Kd1 Bxc3# appears in several lines of analysis.

17 ... Nf2+ 18 Rxf2 Bxf2 19 f5 Qg1+ 20 Kd2 Ne5 21 Nd1

21 fxe6 Be1+ 22 Qxe1 Nf3+ 23 Ke2 Nxe1 etc.

21 ... Be1+ 22 Qxe1 Qd4+ 23 Ke2 Bc4#

Website to Watch

Looking on <http://calendar.fide.com>, I notice that at the end of January (22nd to 31st I believe), there is the Gibtelecom Chess Festival. The entry list includes Grischuk and many other young grandmasters (see www.gibraltarchesscongress.com). The most notable is Pedro Torres who is a dead ringer for Mahmoud!

In February, the big event is the Aeroflot Open in Moscow (see www.aeroflotchess.com from 13th to 23rd).