

# NEW ENGLANDER

## Chess Club Update – December 2008

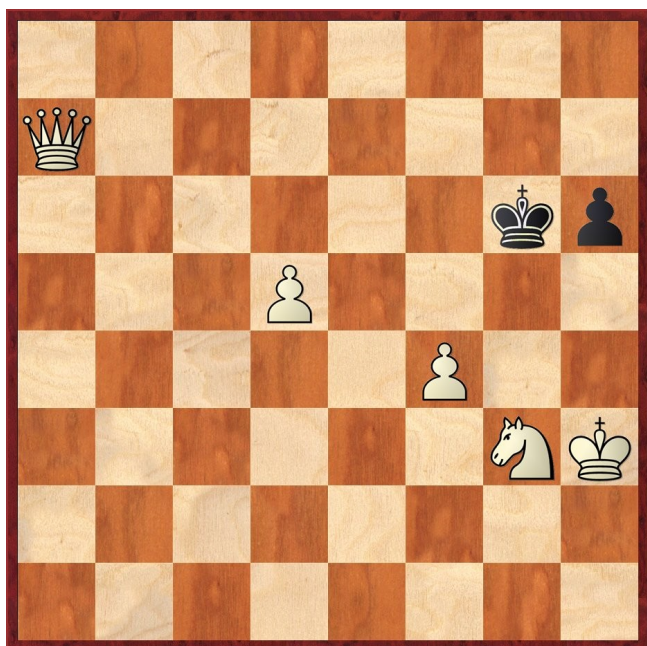
### Chairman's Chatter

'Tis the season of mulled wine and mince pies. Most of you will have nephews who must be getting frantic with about only 25 shopping days to Christmas. What will their favourite uncle want? Read on! This issue contains a seasonal item entitled Christmas Cracker to give you a few ideas that you can pass on...

*Paul Hanks*

### Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2.



Last Month's solution

In Forsyth notation : 8/8/4Q3/2k5/K5Rq/4P3/5B2/8

1 Rf4 Qxf4 2 exf4#

1 ... Qg4 2 e4#

1 ... Q other 2 Rc4#

### Result Round-up

Cambridge A	5	New England A	0
O Winfridsson	1	F Bowers	0
D Jarvis	1	P Hanks	0
P Kemp	1	S Caraway	0
C Davison	1	R Jones	0
S Pride	1	J Osborne	0
New England A	4	St Neots A	1
C Ross	½	B Coop	½
F Bowers	½	J Dunn	½
P Hanks	1	M Pope	0
S Caraway	1	S Foster	0
R Jones	1	C Emery	0

### Fenland Knock-out

Peterborough	5	New England	1
A Timoshenko	½	C Ross	½
R Sayers	½	F Bowers	½
P Walker	1	P Hanks	0
R Ilett	1	S Caraway	0
N Holroyd	1	R Jones	0
M Connolly	1	J Osborne	0

### Club Championship

Division One	S C	F B	C R	R J	P H	P T	K T	Total
S Caraway	X		0		½	½		1 / 3
F Bowers		X	0	1		½		1½ / 3
C Ross	1	1	X		½			2½ / 3
R Jones		0		X			P	0 / 1
P Hanks	½		½		X	1		2 / 3
P Turp	½	½			0	X		1 / 3
K Talnikar							X	0 / 0

Division Two	H C	N W	C C	C R	A B	D L	S W	M T	Total
H Currie	X					0	P	P	0 / 1
N Wedley		X			P		1		1 / 1
C Collins			X	0		0			0 / 2
C Russell			1	X	P			P	1 / 1
A Brookbanks		P		P	X		1		1 / 1
D Lane	1		1			X		1	3 / 3
S Walker		P	0			0	X		0 / 2
M Tarabad		P		P		0		X	0 / 1

### Diary Dates

Remember the "Christmas Special" on 17<sup>th</sup> December in which any resemblance to chess is purely coincidental!

The club meal will be coming up shortly – it is scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> January. If you would like to attend, please notify Paul Hanks so that an appropriate booking can be made. Based on last year's event, it would be best if you could come armed with your selection from the menu so that we can order and pay quickly at the start of the evening.

### Website to Watch

The biggest tournament in December is the next leg in the Grand Prix series. Fourteen grandmaster will be spending Christmas in Doha, Qatar as the games are

staged from 13<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> December. Details should appear on <http://grandprix.fide.com> but this is a notoriously unreliable website and you may do better using a search engine to find an alternative.

### Match of the Month

The British team at the IBCA covered themselves with glory at the Olympiad in Crete. They alone defeated Ukraine and were in the lead after the early rounds. Chris contributed the following game to which I have attached a few comments.

#### C Ross (2172) v S Avram (2320)

13th IBCA Olympiad, Heraklion (3), 21.10.2008

**1 d4 d5 2 Nf3 Nf6 3 c4 c6 4 e3 e6 5 Bd3 Nbd7 6 0-0 dxc4 7 Bxc4 b5 8 Bd3 a6**

Black's opening play is very fashionable. Because White has refrained from developing his queen's knight, it is not a target for the advancing b pawn. White was obviously aiming to advance e3-e4 but in the interim, he has looser control of the e4 square. In some defences such as the Nimzo-Indian, Black can block the advance with Ne4 but here, the pawn on c6 prevents cover from the queenside fianchetto.

9	a4	Bb7
10	Qe2	Be7
11	Nbd2	b4
12	e4	

Job done but Black can still contest the centre.

12	...	c5
13	e5	Nd5
14	Nc4	cxd4
15	Nxd4	Nc5
16	Bc2	0-0
17	Rd1	Qc7
18	Qg4	

The space advantage created by the pawn on e5 naturally suggests a kingside attack. There are no defensive pieces whereas White now has his queen and bishop pair operating on that wing and they can be joined swiftly by the central knights or maybe, the rook from d1.

18	...	g6
19	Bh6	Rfc8
20	Rac1	Qd7

There is a tempting try here for Black - 20 ... Nd7 hits the e pawn and the knight on c4. The continuation 21 Re1 Qxc4 22 Bxg6 hxg6 23 Rxc4 Rxc4 gives Black a lot of material for his queen but 21 Qg3 Qxc4 22 Bb3 and the black queen has no squares! After 21 Qg3, Black has 21 ... Bf6 thanks to 22 exf6 Qxg3 23 fxg3 Rxc4 but 22 f4 Qxc4 23 exf6 (23 Bb3 Qxc1 does not work for White as Bh6 no longer protects c1) N7xf6 24 f5 (as the threat is renewed).

21	Na5	Rab8
22	h4	Bf8
23	Bxf8	Kxf8
24	h5	

Chris is hacking! Notice that the attack is justified by the positional factors – remoteness of the enemy

forces and lack of counterthreat in the centre. The computer move for Black at this point is 24 ... Kg8.

24	...	Ba8
25	Qg5	Kg7
26	Nc4	Qe7
27	Qg3	Nd7

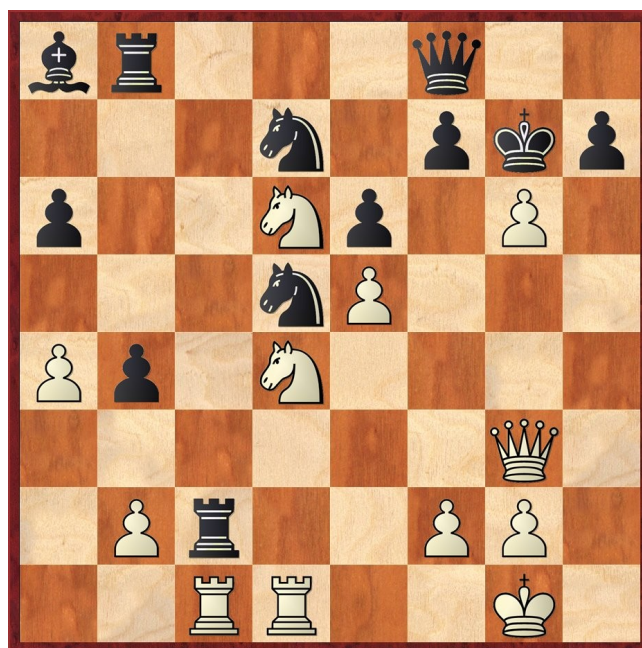
Fritz says this is where Black's position though poor becomes untenable. Its recommendation here is 27 ... b3 28 Bb1 Nxa4 29 Nd6 Rxc1 30 Rxc1.

28 Nd6

Full marks for artistry. The knights started with a square and have moved on to a line dance.

28	....	Qf8
29	hxg6	Rxc2

If 29 ... hxg6 30 Nxe6+! fxe6 31 Qxg6+ mating. Or 29 ... Rc6 30 gxf7 Kh8 31 Nxe6 Qh6 32 Ne8 threatening 33 Qg8#.



30	N4f5+	exf5
31	Nxf5+	Kg8
32	g7	1-0

The threats of 33 gxf8 and Nh6# are overwhelming.

*Chris Ross*

### Christmas Cracker

We know that chess on television ranks with pushing water uphill as something to give a width berth. Luckily, there is a format in which it excels as entertainment - reading about it. Why not consider one of several excellent magazines? Since the summer, I have been giving a road test to two chess magazines and thought the Christmas season was a suitable time for the verdict.

*New In Chess*

Website [www.newinchess.com](http://www.newinchess.com)  
 Price £58 p.a.  
 Issues 8 / year

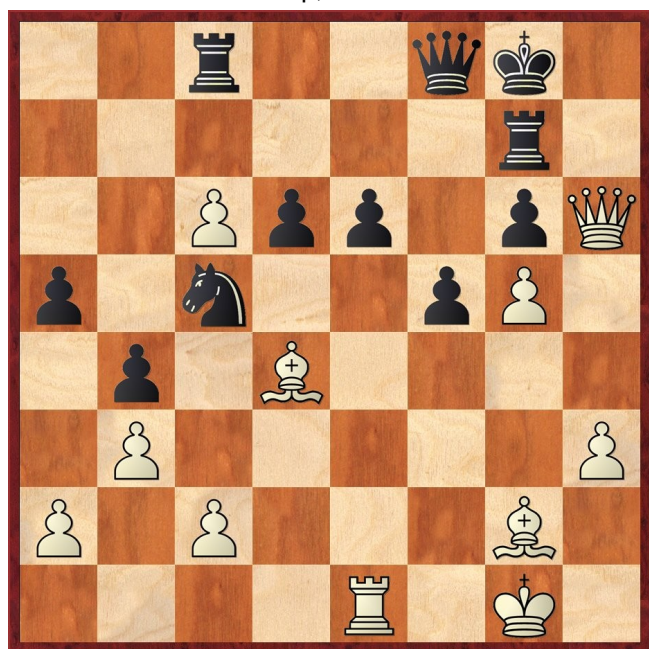
New in Chess is an impressive magazine. It contains excellent colour photography and games annotated by

the top grandmasters from recent elite tournaments. If you want to read the thoughts of the likes of Topalov, Morozevich, Leko and Ivanchuk, this is where to find them – in fact, they all featured in the last issue along with about 8 other players rated over 2700.

Over the past 6 months, it has covered five tournaments per issue and contained around 25 annotated games. There is a regular editorial by Jan Timman commenting on the player in the best form, Jonathan Rowson shares his psychological insights often prompted by a book review and “Nic’s Cafe” has the chess gossip.

Here is an excerpt.

**Carlsen v Ponomariov**  
Tal Blitz Cup, Moscow 2008



**28 Rxe6 Nxe6 29 Bd5 Re8 30 c7 Kf7 [30 ... Rxc7 31 Qh8+ Kf7 32 Qh7+] 31 Bxg7 Qg8 [31 ... Qxg7 32 Bxe6+] 32 Bd4 Ke7 33 Bb6 Kd7 34 Qh4 Qg7 [34 ... f4 35 Qg4] 35 Qc4 Qc3 36 Bxe6+ Rxe6 37 c8Q+ 1-0**

But is this what you want? The strength of New in Chess is also its weakness. Its focus is unashamedly on the highest level where many games are rather long and theoretical. Club players prefer to see short games with brilliant tactics and an interesting slugfest from a local congress will not appear.

The magazine is published in the Netherlands and being priced in euro, it has seen a sharp increase in price recently. If you think grandmaster technique at the cutting edge is what you need to strengthen your game, look for an introductory offer which will give you five issues at virtually half price.

**Chess**

Website [www.chess.co.uk/halfpricesub.html](http://www.chess.co.uk/halfpricesub.html)  
Price £20 p.a. (normally £39-95 p.a.)  
Issues 12 / year

Chess is complementary to New in Chess in many ways. It adopts a larger A4 format, comes out on a

monthly basis and covers more games from a wider range of tournaments.

It gives good coverage to the major events in the UK (for instance, the British Championship merited 17 pages) but there is normally only one article on the leading international event. The game comments are frequently by editorial staff rather than the superstars although they no doubt incorporate what the players say at post-mortem demonstrations.

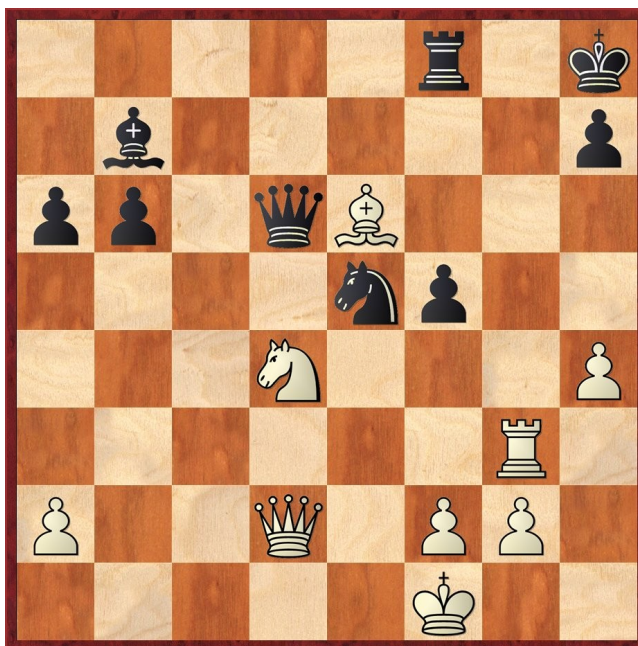
Here is a game from a grandmaster tournament that did not appear in New in Chess.

**Jan Werle v Peter Wells**  
Staunton Memorial, London 2008

**1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 d5 4 Nc3 dxc4 5 e4 Bb4 6 Bg5 c5 7 Bxc4 cxd4 8 Nxd4 Bxc3+ 9 bxc3 Qa5 10 Bb5+ Nbd7 11 Bxf6 Qxc3+ 12 Kf1 gxf6 13 h4 a6 14 Rh3 Qb4 15 Be2 0-0 16 Rb1 Qd6 17 Rg3+ Kh8 18 Qd2 Rg8 19 Rbb3 Rxc3 20 Rxc3 b6 21 Bh5 Bb7 22 Bxf7 Rf8**

Apparently, both players had reached this position in their preparation but the Dutch player had noticed a dangerous novelty that the Englishman missed.

**23 e5 Nxe5**  
**24 Bxe6 f5**



**25 Rg7 Be4**  
**26 Qh6 f4**  
**27 Qf6 1-0**

Where Chess scores well is the content apart from the game analysis. There are

- a selection of over twenty “Find the Winning Move” positions to test your tactical skills,
- “How Good is Your Chess?” contributed by GM Daniel King which awards points if you can find the best continuation in the featured game
- short articles on chess problems and studies

If you want local content, a range of articles and above all, blood for your money, Chess is for you.