

# NEW ENGLANDER

## Chess Club Update – March 2009

### Chairman's Chatter

I have often received surprises over the chess board (and mostly unpleasant ones!) so it came as a pleasure to see that New England achieved runners-up position in the EACU Club Championship. Well done to the team!

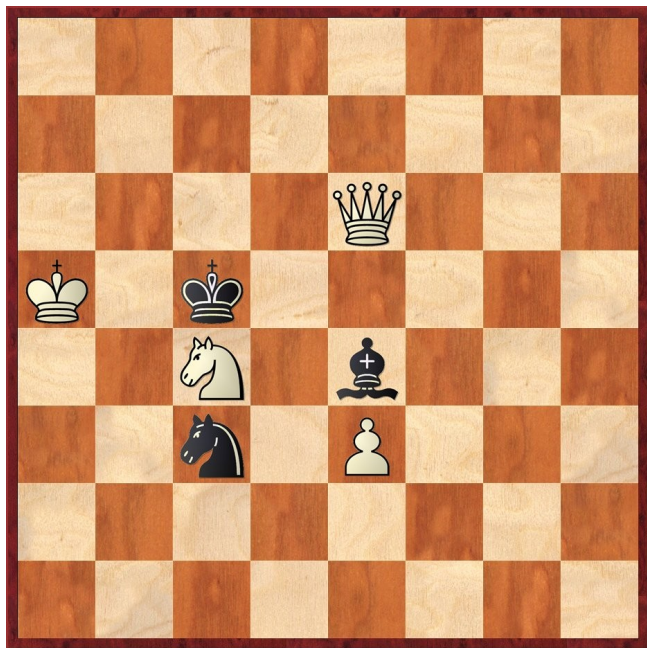
*Paul Hanks*

### Diary Dates

March sees the tail-end matches in the League and also some games in the "500" competition. Please support the captains and remember to think of both competitions when you plan your appearances at the club. The club championship should also be drawing to a close so if you have any outstanding games, you should be able to fit them around the matches.

### Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2.



Last Month's solution

In Forsyth notation : 8/5p2/5K2/7k/7p/7Q/8/8

1 Qc8 h3 [1 ... Kh6 2 Qh8#] 2 Qxh3#

Endgame solutions

1) r7/3RK1k1/4P3/8/8/8/8

1 Rd6 Kg6! (1 ... Ra1? 2 Ke8 Ra8 3 Rd8 Ra6 4 e7 Kf6 5 Kf8; 1 ... Ra7? 2 Ke8; 1 ... Kg8? 2 Rd8; 1 ... Rb8? 2 Rd8 and the rook shortened its long side) 2 Rd7 Kg7=

2) R7/P7/8/5p2/4kP1K/8/8/r7

1 Kg5! (1 Re8?? Kf4 2 a8=Q Rh1 3 Qh1=) Kf3 2 Kf5 Ra5 3 Kg6 Ra6 4 Kg5 etc

### Result Round-up

Buckden B	2½	New England B	1½
C Hamilton	0	R Jones	1
A Young	½	C Russell	½
C Money	1	A Brookbanks	0
J Bygrave	1	H Currie	0

New England B	1½	Spalding	2½
R Jones	0	M Dunkley	1
D Lane	1	J Smith	0
J Alster	½	R Coats	½
K Talnikar	0	J Pulford	1

New England B	1½	Warboys B	2½
R Jones	0	B Duff	1
D Lane	0	P Clough	1
A Brookbanks	½	M Onyons	½
H Currie	1	R Harbour	0

New England A	2½	Cambridge A	2½
C Ross	½	O Winfridsson	½
F Bowers	0	P Kemp	1
P Turp	0	A Stewart	1
P Hanks	1	S Pride	0
S Caraway	1	Default	0

St Neots	3½	New England A	1½
B Coop	0	C Ross	1
C Hemming	½	F Bowers	½
R Gompelman	1	P Turp	0
M Pope	1	P Hanks	0
C Emery	1	A Brookbanks	0

### EACU Club Championship

New England	3½	Cambridge B	½
C Ross	1	P Ribbands	0
F Bowers	1	C Byrne	0
P Turp	½	R Newman	½
S Caraway	1	A Bailey	0

New England	1	Linton	3
C Ross	½	K Clark	½
F Bowers	0	P Kemp	1
P Turp	0	P Rice	1
S Caraway	½	M Lim	½

Pos	Club	Pts
1	Linton	6
2	New England	4½
3	Cambridge A	3½
4	Cambridge B	2

## Club Championship

Division One	S C	F B	C R	R J	P H	P T	K T	Total
S Caraway	<b>X</b>	½	0	1	½	½		2½ / 5
F Bowers	½	<b>X</b>	0	1	1	½		3 / 5
C Ross	1	1	<b>X</b>	<b>P</b>	½	1	1	4½ / 5
R Jones	0	0	<b>P</b>	<b>X</b>			<b>P</b>	0 / 2
P Hanks	½	0	½		<b>X</b>	1	1	3 / 5
P Turp	½	½	0		0	<b>X</b>	1d	2 / 5
K Talnikar			0	<b>P</b>	0	0d	<b>X</b>	0 / 3

Division Two	H C	N W	C C	C R	A B	D L	S W	M T	Total
H Currie	<b>X</b>		0	0	0	0	0	1	1 / 6
N Wedley		<b>X</b>	0	<b>P</b>	1d	0	1	1	3 / 5
C Collins	1	1	<b>X</b>	0	1	0	1		4 / 6
C Russell	1	<b>P</b>	1	<b>X</b>	1	0		0	3 / 5
A Brookbanks	1	0d	0	0	<b>X</b>		1	1	3 / 6
D Lane	1	1	1	1		<b>X</b>	0	1	5 / 6
S Walker	1	0	0		0	1	<b>X</b>	1	3 / 6
M Tarabad	0	0		1	0	0	0	<b>X</b>	1 / 6

## Website to Watch

Until March 8<sup>th</sup>, the elite grandmasters are completing the Linares tournament. For the remainder, the European Individual Championship takes place from 5<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> in Budva, Montenegro and the event's website is [www.eurobudva2009.com/eng.htm](http://www.eurobudva2009.com/eng.htm).

## Match of the Month

Is our club champion turning over a new leaf?

**C Ross** (2197) v **D Shaw** (1940)  
4NCL Rd 6.3, Staverton 2009

**1 d4 Nf6 2 Nf3 g6 3 Bg5 Bg7 4 Nbd2 d5 5 e3 0-0 6 Bd3 Nbd7**

A slightly unusual square for the knight. c7-c5 should be played and then the knight should sit on c6 unless Black wants to play b7-b6 with Ba6 ideas.

**7 0-0 h6?!**

Black weakens the kingside which will later come back to haunt him. Pushing the bishop away achieves nothing and the light squares are now weak, especially g6. White has the prospect of the e3-e4-e5-e6 advance.

**8 Bh4 Re8**

Obviously aiming for the e7-e5 thrust. Is this good for Black? Probably not, as the rook is stuck in the centre and could be open to veiled tactics.

**9 c3 c6 10 Ne5?**

A blunder which I cannot explain. I thought that if Black took on e5, the knight on f6 would have to retreat to either d7 (allowing e5-e6) or h7 (allowing White's natural plan f2-f4 and the attack).

As soon as I played the move, I saw my blunder. I got up, walked away from the board, went outside and fetched a coffee. I tried to calm down for 5 minutes, allowing the anger with myself to drain away and not allowing my opponent to see my turmoil. White is effectively blundering a central, vital pawn for no compensation at all. In the highest level of chess, this could even provoke resignation.

In practical terms now, Black is just winning but it is actually incredibly difficult to switch from attack into a pure defensive mode. My young, enthusiastic opponent would have received a great psychological boost, thinking that he had simply won a pawn against a 2200 player which he should, in theory, convert to an easy victory.

OK, so outside, I drank my coffee, took nearly 10 minutes to myself and assessed the situation. I was losing a pawn, a central pawn for nothing. What could I conjure up for compensation? What approach should I take now against this young, inexperienced, attack-minded player?

**10 ... Nxe5 11 dxe5 Ng4**

Obviously, attacking the pawn on e5 twice and not allowing the defence f2-f4 due to Nxe3 winning the exchange.

**12 Nf3**

Played instantaneously. The knight is doing nothing and this forces Black to take the pawn immediately (or Bg3 protects the weakling on e5).

**12 ... Nxe5 13 Nxe5 Bxe5 14 f4**

Still playing without a second's pause. At this point, my opponent sat for nearly 30 minutes, which indicated to me immediately that my psychological approach was spot on. The rapidity of my last four moves indicated to my opponent that I was not unsettled by the loss of the pawn on e5 - it must be a deep positional sacrifice.

More objectively, launching the f pawn gives Black some serious moments of concern. From now on, White will be active for the remainder of the game. At no stage, do I give my opponent a moment's rest to make consolidating moves. All of my play targets the black kingside and the hunt for the king begins.

Yes, this is a primitive but effective ploy. I am a vital central pawn down and must throw caution to the wind. In many previous years, I would have condemned this to hell but I am starting to learn, "Do as is done to you" and the hack begins.

In earnest, my opponent should have taken time out himself here, got away from the board and amended his mental approach to the game. He can no longer go on the attack as he has serious weaknesses in his king's position. He must now dig in deep to find the resources to rebuff White's desperation. When the attack is successfully subdued, the material imbalance must win him the game. So, with all this in mind, the pawn deficit is actually of little consequence as the question of my opponent's defensive abilities comes to the forefront.

**14 ... Bg7 15 f5**

Again, maintaining the momentum. White must be energetic and not give Black time to breathe. White wants to open up the light squares and the f file if he can. Notice the helpful lead in development too.

#### **15 ... g5**

Of course, Black must blockade the position but this seriously weakens the light squares especially that all important f7 square.

#### **16 Bg3 e5?**

Again, not thinking "defensively" and sticking with his attacking instincts. Black must dig in and demand White shows how he intends to open lines. 16 ... Bf6! blocking the f file must be Black's plan - it supports the g5 pawn which is naturally going to come under attack with h2-h4 and Qg4 etc. He can then hope to cling on by running his king to h7/h8 and playing Rg8/Rg7.

Pushing the central pawn like this is just asking for trouble. Yes, he is trying to break out but this weakens f6. White is allowed to rid himself of his f pawn and open more lines and diagonals for his pieces.

#### **17 f6!**

Jettisoning a second pawn! This must be done otherwise Black will blockade with e5-e4 and the white pieces are simply shut out. Of course, maximum activity is my mantra. White has to make forcing moves to prevent Black consolidating. Black again thought for some time now. The position is obviously not liking and the black kingside is starting to look very scary.

#### **17 ... Bf8**

Maybe Black has to put the question to White and ask him to prove his compensation. Allowing the f pawn to stand so far into your position has to be dangerous. All White has to do is prise open the kingside pawn chain and mating attacks with that pawn on f6 are looming.

17 ... Bxf6 18 Qh5 was the intention when 18 ... e4 19 Qxh6 Bg7 19 Qh5 keeps the attack going.

#### **18 Bf5!**

A vital positional move. White is again making active moves in contrast to retreating with Bc2/Be2 after the pawn advances to e4. So, he moves it into the enemy camp and seeks an exchange with the bishop on c8 - if it sat on e6, it helps defend the kingside.

#### **18 ... Bxf5 19 Rxf5 Re6**

Played with a draw offer!! How about that? You are a pawn up and you offer a draw. This, naturally, gave me great encouragement and a new sense of purpose. It indicated to me that my opponent was thoroughly unhappy with his position and starting to feel the pressure. After verifying with the team captain that the match did not require a draw from my board, I naturally played on, as I am more active and Black has to demonstrate that he can hold things together here.

The f pawn is en prise. I have to keep it but that is easily done. Until I can develop my queen's rook, I cannot throw my queen straight into the kingside anyway. But how many times can Black attack the

pawn on f6? Only twice so far and my h2-h4 move is going to open things up well before he can get a third attacker on the pawn.

#### **20 Qf3**

20 Bxe5? Rxe5! 21 Rxe5 Qxf6 is winning for Black. White must be wary of such tactics and not allow Black back into the game.

#### **20 ... e4 21 Qf2 Bd6**

I am not sure to whether Black should be seeking this exchange. g7 is certainly weak but the f8 square needs to be cleared to allow the heavy pieces to swing across and aid the defence.

#### **22 Rf1 Kh7**

OK, the moment of truth. White has finished his development, has a strong pawn on f6, complete control of the light squares and is on the brink of crashing through on the kingside. The one annoying thing in White's position is the rook on f5 and the queen on f2. If those two pieces were swapped around, it would be just about resignable for Black.

#### **23 h4!**

Played after 30 minutes thought! This is the natural move to prise open the kingside. I spent a lot of time trying to figure out a way to get my queen on f5 but none of it quite worked. There were lots of fascinating tactics with 23 Rxg5 allowing Qf5+, but Kh6 defends the pawn on g5 annoyingly and there is no coup de grace. So, White has put the big question to Black : how are you going to defend? Your king is now coming under fire. Can you hold your nerve?

#### **23 ... g4?**

No, he can't! The final step in White's energetic play has now provided a deserved dividend considering the excellent psychological approach of the game and the active nature of the play to keep Black on the back foot.

23 ... gxh4 has to be tried at all costs e.g. 23 ... gxh4 24 Rh5 Qg8. White can take on d6 or h4 with a continuation similar to the game, but without losing the g pawn. 24 ... Bxg3 is refuted by the mating attack 25 Qf5+ Kg8 26 Rxh6 Bf2+ 27 Rxf2 Rxf6 28 Qh7+ Kf8 29 Rhxf6 etc and 24... hxg3 is similar.

#### **24 Rh5**

Opening up the f5 square for the queen and allowing a devastating Qf5+ attacking finish. Black must rush across with his own queen to have Qg6 as a defence.

#### **24 ... Qg8 25 Bxd6 Qg6**

Black can't retake on d6 due to 25... Rxd6 26 Rxh6+ Kxh6 27 Qf4+ Kh7 28 Qxd6 and White is simply going to play g2-g3, Rf5/Rg5/Rh5 and the position is hopeless for Black.

#### **26 Rf5**

Keeping control. There is an argument for 26 Re5 but I wanted the rook defending the f6 pawn and stopping the black queen's access to g5. Also, with the rook on e5, Black might have annoying g4-g3 tempo gaining moves.

#### **26 ... Rxd6 27 h5 Qg8**

The only square. White has a complete and entire clamp on the position. He is still a pawn down but his pawns on f6 and h5 completely tie Black down. Now, to win my pawn back and open the g file...

### 28 Qg3 Re6

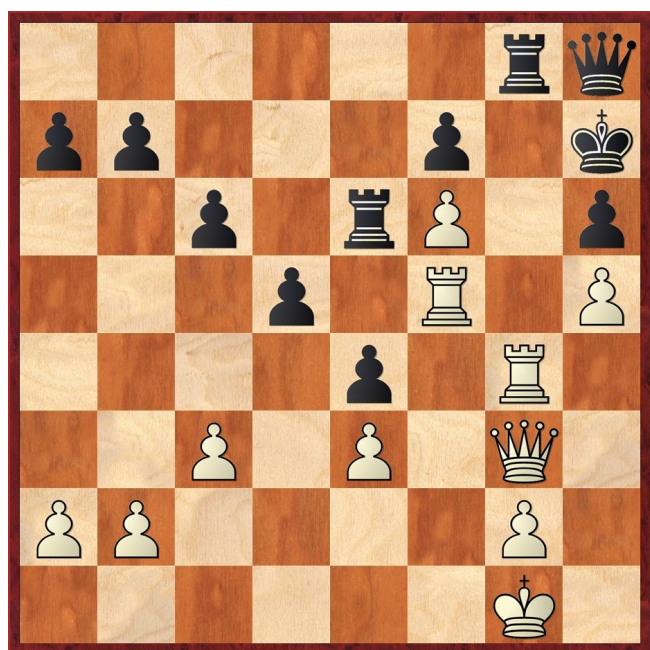
Again, played with a draw offer. This was about the third or fourth draw offer I had received but by this point, I was thriving on the sheer pleasure of playing such an immaculate game. My final piece enters the fight and causes some more devastation.

### 29 R1f4 Qh8

Black's only saving grace (if such it is) is to put pressure on the f6 pawn and hope that it proves too weak. Tactics come to White's aid, as well they should, since his positional element is so strong.

### 30 Rxd4 Rg8

30 ... Rxf6? 31 Qe5! is a neat finish.



### 31 Rxd4

Although this is good enough, I missed the immediate 31 Qc7! which would force my opponent's resignation. 31 ... Rxd4 is met by 32 Qxf7+ Rg7 32 fxd4 Qxd4 33 Qxe6 winning a clear rook. Incidentally, 31 ... Rxf6 32 Rxd4 deflects the black queen's defence of f6.

### 31 ... Qxd4 32 Qc7

Completely tying black down. OK, I saw this idea a move late, but it is still winning! Notice, that I have won my pawn back and Black is almost in zugzwang.

### 32 ... b5 33 Qxa7

Why not win a pawn! Black can do very little. His queen is tied down and f7 must be defended. The pawns on f6 and h5 and the rook on f5 control all of the most important squares on the g file, g7, g6 and g5. The white queen can just go mopping up now.

So, from a pawn down, I am a pawn up!

### 33 ... Qf8 34 b4

Stopping Black from getting ideas of creating a passed pawn out of his e4 pawn with c6-c5 and d5-d4. No counterplay. No counterplay at all!

### 34 ... Qe8 35 Qc7 Qf8 36 Qg3 Qh8

With yet another draw offer. Around here, I told my opponent rather sternly to stop offering the draws. I am the one who is trying to win now. It is up to Black to demonstrate that he can hold the position.

### 37 Qf4 Qd8 38 Kh2 Qd6 39 Kg3 Qd8 40 a3

Maybe not necessary but it was the last move of the control. I had minutes left now so played this automatically and went off for a while. I now had 30 minutes to finish the game.

### 40 ... Qh8 41 Kh4 Qd8

Naturally, Black is hoping that the pressure on f6 will prevent White from doing anything. However, he has his g pawn which can force an outside passed h pawn.

### 42 g4 Qd6 43 Kg3 Qxf4+

Black cannot move the queen away since g4-g5 and after hxg5, Qxg5 will bring the queen into mating range of the black king.

### 44 Kxf4 Kg8?

After which, Black goes down quickly. 44 ... Kh8 would make White work harder with g4-g5, Kxg5 and Rf1/Kf4/Kf5 and Rg1/Rg7 ideas.

### 45 g5 Kh7

45 ... hxg5 46 Rxd4+ Kh7 47 Rg7+ and Kf5 and Rxf7 is curtains.

### 46 g6+ Kg8

Obviously taking on g6 allows hxg6+ and the f pawn runs.

### 47 Kg4 Kf8 48 Rf1 Re5

Stopping Kf5, after which Rg1 or rook anywhere would crash through.

### 49 g7+ Kg8 50 a4!

The finishing touch. White forces open a file so that the rook can swing around to the 8th rank and force his pawn home.

### 50 ... Rg5+ 51 Kf4 bxa4 52 Ra1 Rxd5 53 Rxa4 Rg5

Thinking he had the g8 promotion square covered. Nice try, but it fails.

### 54 Ra8+ Kh7 55 Rh8+ 1-0

*Chris Ross*

## Eye Opener

Some openings are never seen at international level - they are simply too ambitious against solid defence. Once such is the Blackmar Gambit but in offhand games, it can be great fun.

### Bartsch v Jennen

Essen, 1948

1 d4 d5 2 e4 dxe4 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 f3 exf3 5 Qxf3 Qxd4 6 Be3 Qb4 7 0-0-0 Bg4 8 Nb5 e5 9 Nxc7+ Ke7 10 Qxb7 1-0



## Serious Study

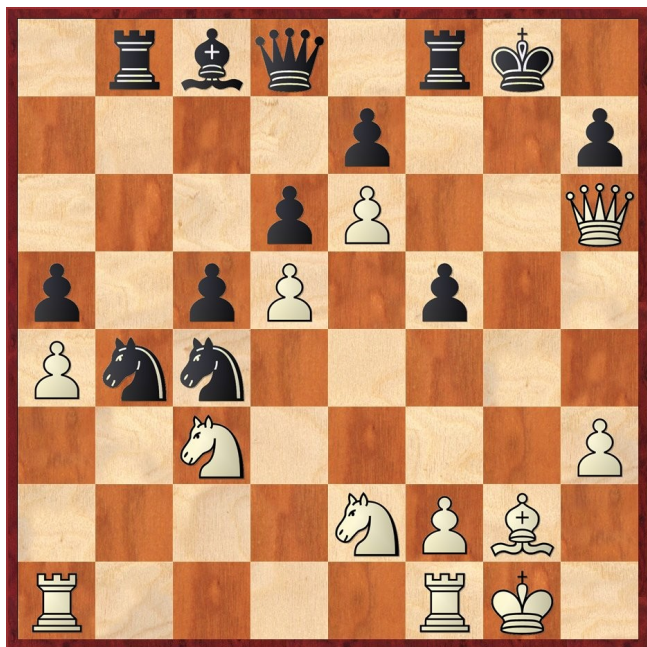
In the past two months, the subjects of "Serious Study" were an opening and primitive endgames. So it must be the turn of the middlegame! I think this is the phase we all find fascinating because it gives us the most freedom to be creative. There are many suitable positional themes but these will feature in future articles. We shall concentrate here on tactical play.

One problem I have is bringing the intensity of match play to a training scenario. It is all too easy to speculate about frivolous moves when nothing hangs on their outcome and if the going gets tough, you can reach prematurely for the published solution. Here are my groundrules :

1. Set up the board and consider the position as in a game. The only difference should be you know there is a decisive continuation (and maybe more time to find it!)
2. Do not move the pieces. You should be able to visualise the variations in your head
3. Write down your thoughts
4. Only consult the computer/solution when you are totally convinced

The position below was my first attempt and I attach my analysis virtually uncut. I admit my foresight was imperfect so in addition to treating it as an example, you also have an exercise for your powers of detection. Find my deliberate mistakes!

**D Flores (2541) v Orsini (2362)**  
Avellaneda, 2007



The proximity of the white queen and black king immediately suggest a mating attack or at least mating threats that can only be warded off by ruinous material loss. In particular, the g7 square is a target because Rf7 is not a plausible defence. The obvious play is Ne2-f4-h5 but Black has the defence Qd8-e8-g6. Maybe, the Nf4 is needed to prevent the excursion by the black queen while another attacking avenue is tried. How about ...

- a) 1 **Nf4** **Qe8**  
a1) 1 ... other 2 Nh5  
2 **Ne4** **fxe4**  
a2) 2 ... other 3 Ng5  
3 **Bxe4** winning.

For instance, if Black just returns material,

- 3 ... **Rf7**  
4 **Kh1** **Rg7**  
a3) 4 ... Qf8 5 Rg1+ Kh8 6 Ng6+  
a31) 5 ... Rg7 6 Qxh7#;  
a32) 5 ... Qg7 6 Bxh7+ Kf8 (6 ... Kh8 7 Rgx7 Rgx7 8 Bg6+ Kg8 9 Bf7+) 7 Rgx7 Rgx7 8 Rg1 Ke8 9 Qxg7  
5 **Rg1** **1-0**

I had spotted that 1 Nf4 protects d5 to eliminate the defence Nb4xd5-f6 so as my hand stretched for the magazine with the solution, I had one last look. Could Black play more actively such as 1 ... **Rf6**? Damn!

White can try a different move order e.g.

- b) 1 **Ne4** **Qe8**  
2 **Nf4** **transposes**  
b1) 1 ... fxe4 2 Bxe4 Rf7 3 exf7+ Kxf7 4 Qxh7+ Ke8 5 Qh5+ Kd7 (5 ... Kf8 6 Kh2 and penetration down the g file) 6 Qg4+ with Qxc4 to follow  
b2) 1 ... Nxd5 2 Nf4 Nf6 (2 ... Nxf4 3 Ng5 mating e.g. 3 ... Rxf4 4 Qh7 Kf8 5 Qh8#) 3 Ng5 Qe8 (3 ... Bxe6 4 Ngxe6 winning the queen) 4 Bf3 – I am sure White is winning at this point – 4 ... Kh8 5 Bh5 Qd8 6 Nf7+ Rxf7 7 exf7

How did I fare under the Fritz's merciless scrutiny? Fortunately, it did not quibble too badly about my variation a) though I should have considered

- 1 ... Kh8 (though this is inferior to 1 ... Rf6)
- 2 ... Rf6 or ...Rf7 but White retains a large advantage in either case.
- 4 ... Ne5 and ...Kh8 are better defensive tries that thankfully also fail.

The conclusion 5 Bxh7 would mate slightly faster because then, ...Qg6 would be a less stubborn defence and in a32), 8 Ng6+ is quicker.

It is variation b) that is my undoing. In b2), my 4 Bf3 does win slowly after 4 ... Bxe6 or 4 ... Rb3 but is puny compared with Fritz's 4 Bc6. Black's best try is still 1 ... Rf6 when 2 Nxf6+ exf6 leaves White with material and pawn structure advantages.

Did you spot the mistakes? In b1), 7 Qh4xc4 cannot follow due to the bishop on e4 and in b2), 3 ... Rf8xf4 is a poor example because the knight on f4 is black and there is a pawn in the way on f5!

The solution in *Informator* is far shorter : 1 **Ne4 Nxd5** (1 ... fxe4 2 Bxe4 winning) 2 **Ng5 Nf6** 3 **Ng3**. The alternative route to g7 via f5 never came into my head as I did not see that the defensive knight reaching f6 also has the effect of closing the f file. Furthermore, 3... Qe8 4 Nf5 Qg6 has the tactical deterrent 5 Ne7+.



This highlighted several ways I can improve my play.

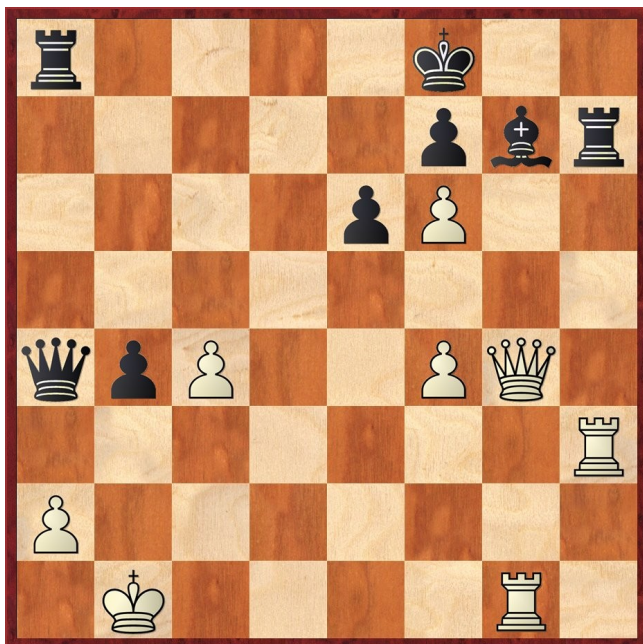
- Examine different move orders (e.g. the transposition of Nf4 and Ne4) and different routes pieces can take to achieve the same position (Ne2-f4-h5-g7 and Ne2-g3-f5-g7)
- Consider all defensive resources before analysing one line in depth. A lot of time was wasted refining 1 Nf4 before discovering 1 ... Rf6.
- Be swift and confident. The mistakes and omissions occurred late in the analysis and would have been avoided with more efficient technique. Practice makes perfect.

You have probably guessed what comes next. Here are some more exercises for you to give similar treatment. In all cases, it is White to play and win.

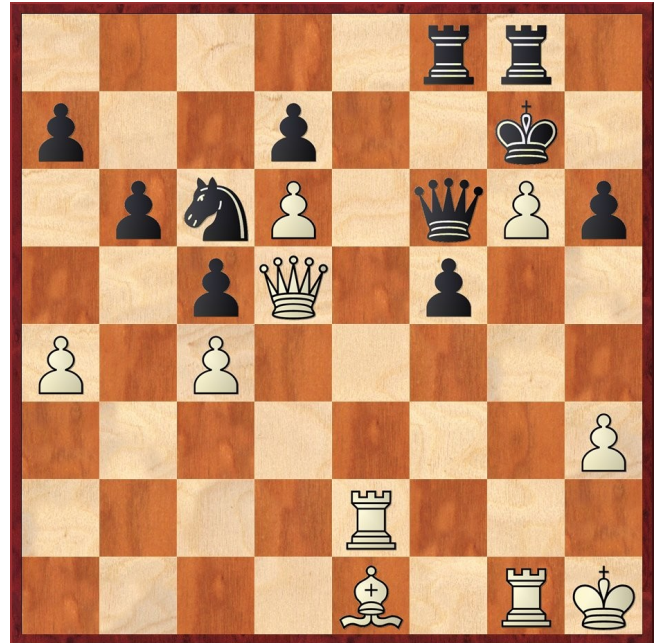
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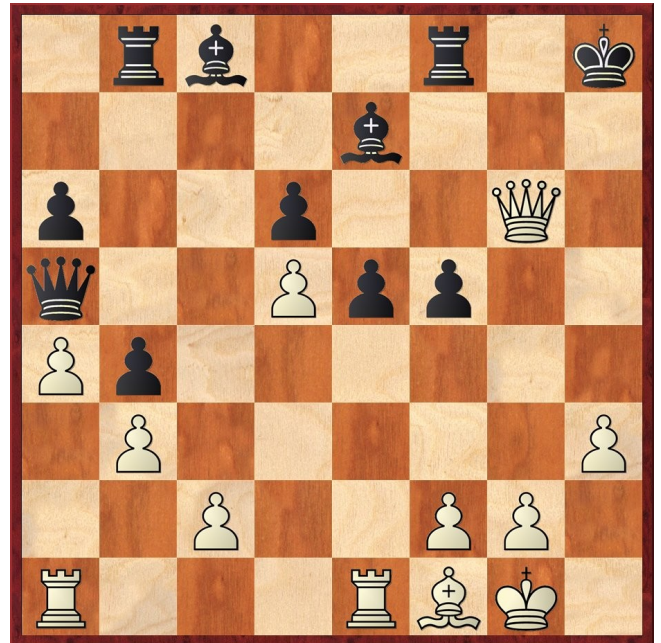
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3



4



I have a sheet of solutions to the above positions that I can give to anyone who supplies me with their attempts.