

# NEW ENGLANDER

## Chess Club Update – February 2010

### Chairman's Chatter

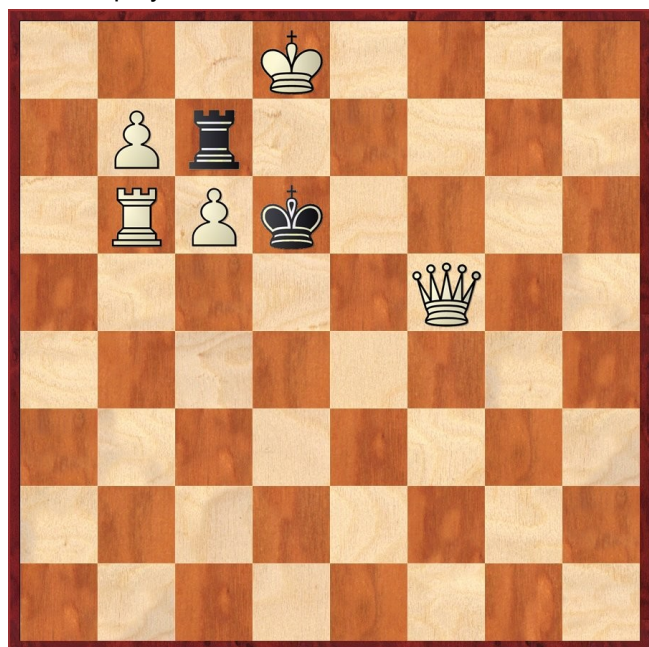
The "Team 550" Competition is only in its second year and the County Committee is seeking a more appealing name for the event. It is certainly a welcome addition to the calendar as a way of encouraging new clubs. At our club, the internal match brought together almost every member and it was very heartening to see seven boards simultaneously in progress. Great stuff!

*Paul Hanks*

P.S. Any suggestions for the name?

### Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2.



Xmas solutions

Position: k7/5Q2/3n4/5R2/4R3/8/K7/8

**1 Rb5 Nxb5 2 Re8#; 1 ... Nxf7 2 Ra4#; 1 ... Nxe4 2 Qb7#**

Position: 8/1N6/8/2K5/2P5/k7/1R6/2B5

**1 Na5 Ka4 2 Ra2#**

Position: 8/8/5K2/4R3/5kN1/6R1/3n3B

**1 Ne2 Kxe4 2 Rg3#; 1 ... Ne3 2 Rf4#; 1 ... Nf2 2 Rg3#; 1 ... Nc3/b2 2 Rh2#**

Position: 3N4/8/N7/4k3/7Q/8/2K5/1B1R4

**1 Kd3 Kd5 2 Qd4#; 1 ... Kf5 2 Kd4#; 1 ... Kd6 2 Ke4#**

Position: 8/8/8/8/K6B/1B6/3p1R2/N3k3

**1 Bc4 d1Q+ 2 Rc2#; 1 ... d1N 2 Nc2#; 1 ... Kd1 2 Rf1#**

Last Month's solution

Position: 8/3N4/8/k7/p7/2P2Q2/3K4/8

**1 c4 a3 2 Qxa3#; 1 ... Kb4 2 Qc3#; 1 ... Ka6 2 Qa8#**

### Diary Dates

February is an unusual month in that we have a fixture in one league or another on every Wednesday. If you are not involved in these matches, please make the effort to arrange and play a game from the club championship. The postponements are beginning to pile up and the weeks in which to play them are reducing fast!

### Website to Watch

The Linares tournament takes place during February and is normally the highest category event in the calendar. The dates for this year are from 12<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> and <http://www.ajedrez.ciudaddelinares.es/index.htm> is the website to follow the likes of Topalov, Aronian, Grischuk and Gashimov.

### Result Round-up

Club Championship : at 27/01/10

Division One	CR	FB	PT	RJ	PH	MD	Total
C Ross	X	1 1	0		P 1 1 1		5 / 6
F Bowers	0 0	X	P	P	½ ½	P	1 / 4
P Turp		1	P X	1	0	P P	2 / 3
R Jones	P		P	0 X	0	P	0 / 3
P Hanks	0 0	½ ½		1 2	X	P	4 / 7
M Dunkley		0	P P P P	P		X	0 / 1

Division Two	D L	C R	S W	A B	N W	J A	H C	M T	K T	D S	Total
D Lane	X	0	1 1	1 1	½		1	P	0		4½/7
C Russell	1	X	1	P	½	0	1			P	3½/5
S Walker	0	0	X	½	0		1 1	1	0		3½/8
A Brookbanks	0	P	½	X		P	½	1 1	1		4 / 6
N Wedley	0	½	1		X	P P	0	P	1		2½/5
J Alster	½	1		P P	X	1	P			P	2½/3
H Currie		0	0	½	P	0	X	0	0		½ / 6
M Tarabad	0		0	0	1	P	1	X	1	1	4 / 7
K Talnikar	P		0	0	P		1	0	X	P	1 / 4
D Sivell	1	P	1	0	0	P		0	P	X	2 / 5

\* = game played in league match to count in both competitions

## Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

St Neots	1½	New England A	3½
Default	0	C Ross	1
J Dunn	0	F Bowers	1
S Foster	1	P Turp	0
P Barkas	0	R Jones	1
C Emery	½	D Lane	½

Buckden	1½	New England B	2½
P Barkas	½	R Jones	½
C Emery	½	A Brookbanks	½
T Hazel	½	H Currie	½
Default	0	K Talnikar	1

## Cambridgeshire "550" Competition

New England 2	4½	New England 1	2½
P Turp	½	C Ross	½
F Bowers	½	P Hanks	½
D Lane	½	R Jones	½
J Alster	1	C Russell	0
D Sivell	0	A Brookbanks	1
S Walker	1	M Tarabad	0
K Talnikar	1	H Currie	0

## London Chess Classic

I'm an hour early and £10 poorer but who cares? I have reached Olympia for the London Chess Classic and currently, I am sitting in a cafeteria area surrounded by around 3 dozen tables with chess sets laid out for casual analysis.

The atmosphere exudes chess. There are poster sketches of the participants on the wall; the flat screen to my right rolls photographs from the tournament; the tannoy has announced that Viktor Korchnoi is signing books at the stall and the buzz of conversation is supplemented by excited children playing on the giant set.

And what about the tournament? Today, it's Round 6 and very nicely poised for some red-blooded action. The real contenders Carlsen and Kramnik are separated by the Norwegian's victory in Round 1. Both have their final white so Magnus should try to win and seal victory while Vladimir needs the same to have any hopes of taking the prize. Outsider Luke McShane also has white against tail-ender Ni Hua and with another win, he could become the surprise package. I shall put down my pen for a few minutes in case one of them comes across for some last gasp advice...

Two o'clock is approaching. I met up with Paul Kemp and we have moved into the Auditorium. Four tables have been set up on the stage and the players are being introduced to about 200 spectators. After some formalities including the ceremonial opening move, the arbiter finally utters the words. "Let's play chess!" and the press contingent go mad with their battery of flashes for the first five minutes. Thankfully, the photography subsides and the play has a burst in fast-forward to move 7 or 8 when the prolonged thinking

starts. Mickey Adams is trying a Nimzo-Indian against Magnus and by transposition, so is Nigel Short against Kramnik. Both of the other games involve the French Defence - all my openings. They should have consulted me!

**D Howell (2597) v H Nakamura (2715)**

London Chess Classic (6), 14.12.2009

**1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nd2 Be7 4 Ngf3 Nf6 5 e5 Nfd7 6 Bd3 c5 7 c3 Nc6 8 0-0 g5**

Nakamura is the first to show his intentions with this aggressive move. I have seen it before - Rublevsky defeated Morozevich when he used it in 2003 - and it can lead to lively tactical play. Unfortunately, I was disappointed by the sedate continuation.

**9 dxc5 Nxc5 10 Bb5 h6 11 Qe2 Qc7 12 c4 Bd7 13 cxd5 exd5 14 Nb3 Ne6 15 Rd1 a6 16 Bxc6 bxc6 17 Be3 g4 18 Nfd4 Qxe5 19 Qxg4 h5**

I was hoping for 19 ... 0-0-0 with an attack down the g file. Instead of double-edged play, the queens are swapped rather than allowing 20 ... Bd6 and we are not going to see blood for our money. These professionals, honestly! Back home, Fritz pointed out that the rejoinder 20 Qe2 hitting a6 would probably mean it is the black king that is less secure.

**20 Qg3 Qxg3 21 hxg3 h4 22 gxh4 Rxh4 23 Rac1 Rc8 24 Nf5 Ra4 25 Nxe7 Kxe7**

Howell is under time pressure at this point with 13 minutes to reach move 40 and for the remainder of the game, the players move almost at blitz speed. Nakamura is known to excel under these conditions and despite having an extra hour on his clock, he is trying to hustle his opponent into a mistake.

**26 a3 Rb8 27 Nc5 Nxc5 28 Bxc5+ Kd8 29 Rd4 Rxd4 30 Bxd4 Rb3 31 Kf1 Ke7 32 Rc3 Rxc3 33 Bxc3 c5**

Howell is down to his last 3 minutes but the position has greatly simplified and with opposite coloured bishops, there is little danger.

**34 b4 Kd6 35 bxc5+ Kxc5 36 Ke2 Kc4 37 Bb4 d4 38 Kd2 f5 39 f3 Bc8 40 Bd6 a5 41 Bc7 ½-½**

**V Kramnik (2772) v N Short (2707)**

London Chess Classic (6), 14.12.2009

**1 Nf3 d5 2 d4 Nf6 3 c4 e6 4 Nc3 Bb4 5 Qb3**

I can find few examples of this Spielmann style structure in recent grandmaster practice but the daily bulletin claimed White's eighth move was an opening novelty when 8 e3 might be expected.

**5 ... c5 6 cxd5 exd5 7 dxc5 Nc6 8 Bg5**

"Short can win a piece," Paul whispers "8 ... d4". Somehow, I find it difficult to believe you can beat Kramnik inside ten moves. "What about 9 0-0-0?" I reply and he concedes that it appears to hold the position.

**8 ... Be6 9 0-0-0**

Kramnik is still moving quickly and confidently as though in his home preparation. We are 30 minutes into the game and already Short is 24 minutes behind on the clock! Vladimir leaves the stage. Are we going to get another Toiletgate controversy?



9 ... Qa5 10 Bxf6 gxf6 11 Nxd5 0-0-0 12 e4 f5

For the first time, Kramnik sinks into thought and his reply is seven minutes in coming. White has accepted two pawns but he is down in development and has loose pawns. Nigel's body language is not good. It is as though he cannot see sufficient pressure as compensation.

13 Bc4 Bxc5

I have been expecting Qxc5 for a few moves (and Fritz concurs) but Kramnik later praised the text move. White is not afraid of wholesale exchanges when Black's initiative will disappear.

14 Ng5 fxe4 15 Nxe4

Kramnik is now using his time while Short goes off for his third coffee. Jumping forward, Kramnik was very fluent at the post-mortem commentary. In a packed sideroom, he gave plenty of variations to support his judgements. Here he pointed out the tactic 15 ... Nd4 16 Rxd4 Bxd4 17 Ne7+ Kb8 18 Nc6 though 17 ... Kc7 is tougher to crack.

15 ... Bd4

Vladimir returns to the board with bulging cheeks and chewing quickly. Is this the equivalent of the tennis players eating bananas at Wimbledon? It looks as though there is going to be a flurry of tactics but the Russian has everything under control.



16 Ndc3 Rhe8 17 Bxe6+ Rxe6 18 f3 Ne5

Fritz recommends 18 ... Rg6 to gain the tempo for ... f5 opening files and maintaining the balance. As played, Black's prospects evaporate.

19 Nb5 Rb6 20 Qc2+ Rc6 21 Nec3 Bxc3 22 Rxd8+ Kxd8 23 Nxc3 Kc7 24 Rd1 a6 25 Qxh7

Is Nigel going to make the time control? He only has 5 mins 22 secs left and refuses 25 ... Qxa2. Is he worried by the open d file after 26 Qg8 (threatening Qd8#) Nd7 27 Qg3 Kc8 28 Qg4?

25 ... Kb8 26 Kb1 Nc4 27 Qh8+ Rc8 28 Qd4 Qb4 29 b3 a5

There is no perpetual check with 29 ... Na3+ 30 Kb2 Nc4+ 31 Ka1. Second nature for grandmasters but I had to search for it.

30 Ka1 Na3 31 Qxb4 axb4 32 Nd5 Rc2

I glanced away at another position and by the time I returned, the h pawn had decided the game.

33 Nxb4 Rxb2 34 Rh1 Ka7 35 h4 Kb6 36 h5 Ka5 37 h6 Kxb4 38 h7 Nc2+ 39 Kb1 Na3+ 40 Kc1 1-0

M Carlsen (2801) v M Adams (2698)

London Chess Classic (6), 14.12.2009

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Bb4 4 e3 0-0 5 Nge2 d5 6 cxd5 exd5 7 g3 Re8 8 Bg2 Bf8 9 0-0 Na6 10 a3 c6

At this point, this is the only game to have a largely positional character. Magnus plays his next move to bring his pawns into an unusual alignment on the third rank. He has a slight time advantage and so, he gets up to show off his sponsor's logo on his white shirt.

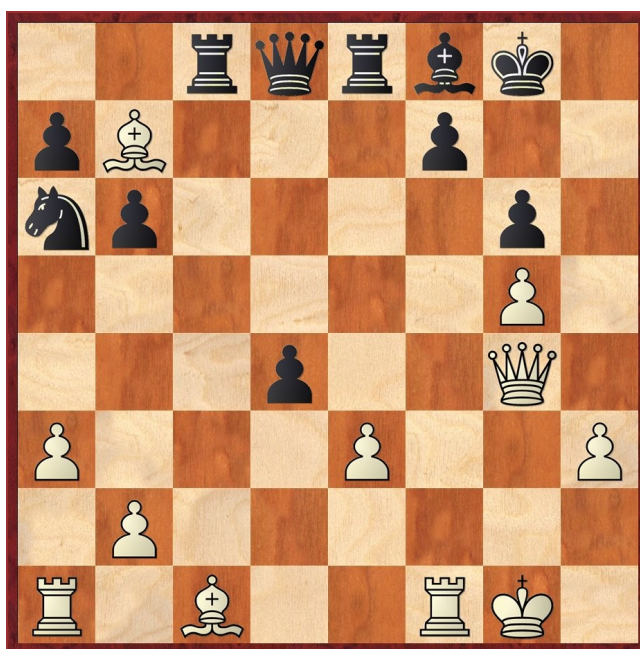
11 f3 c5 12 g4 h6 13 h3 b6 14 Ng3 Bb7 15 f4

Thinking about this move has levelled the time situation. The kingside advance may yet add spice to the game if Magnus can prove that the Qd1 and Bc1 are adequately "developed" for his attack.

15 ... Rc8 16 g5

Mickey spent considerable time over his last move and must have foreseen this. White can dominate the kingside with 16 ...hg5 17 fg5 Nd7 18 Qf3 Re7 19 Nf5 but still has to find a breakthrough or Black could play in the centre with 16 ...cd4 17 ed4 Ne4. The game is hotting up and Paul and I are not convinced that White has developed correctly. Magnus, however, crosses his legs, leans back in his chair and looks completely unconcerned.

16 ... hxg5 17 fxg5 Ne4 18 Ncx4 dxe4 19 Qg4 g6 20 Nxe4 Bxe4 21 Bxe4 cxd4 22 Bb7



Did Mickey miss this? Magnus played it quickly and I am sure he can't have analysed all the tactics that only resolve themselves 12 moves later.

#### **22 ... Rc2 23 Bxa6**

There is an altogether different variation that I did not see : 23 Qf4 Qd7 24 Bxa6 dxe3 25 Qg4 (25 Bxe3? Rxe3 26 Qxe3 Bc5) 25 ... Qc7 26 Be2 Bc5 27 Kh1 Qc6+ 28 Bf3 Qd6 29 Be2 Qc6+ drawing.

#### **23 ... Qc7 24 Qf4 Bd6 25 Qf3 Bc5 26 Qf4 Bd6 27 Qf3 Bc5**

Maybe at move 22, Magnus was happy with the draw by repetition. I was briefly considering deviating with 25 ... dxe3 but Adams had used considerable time over his moves 21 and 22 and moved on fairly promptly. I did not realise that there was a commotion amongst the commentary team. The bulletin reports "Here the commentary and press rooms were willing Black to play 25 ... dxe3! The reason Michael Adams didn't play this was because he thought White could play 26 Bd3, missing the fact that Black could then follow up with 26...Bc5! which should ensure the win for Black after 27 Bxc2 e2+ 28 Kg2 exf1Q+ 29 Qxf1 Qc6+!, etc. Easily missed, of course. I think Carlsen also missed the Bc5 possibility."

#### **28 Qf4**

I am fascinated by the possibilities of a queen sacrifice because 28 ... dxe3 29 Qxc7 e2+ 30 Kg2 (30 Kh2 exf1Q+ 31 Kg3 Rg2+) exf1Q+ 31.Kxf1 Rf2+ 32.Kg1 Re1+ end in checkmate. Eventually, I see that the bishop on a6 covers the f1 square so that 30 Kh1 is possible and 30 ... exf1Q+ 31 Bxf1 Re1 32 Qd8+ Kh7 33 Qf6 Rf2 fails to 34 Be3. The countersacrifice 30 Qxc5 also spoils the fun.

#### **28 ... Qxf4 29 Rxf4 dxe3 30 Kf1 e2+ 31 Ke1 Rd8 32 Bxe2 Re8 33 Bd2 Rxd2 34 Kxd2 Be3+ 35 Kc2 Bxf4**

Black has an advantage but White only has to exchange rooks to leave a dead draw.

#### **36 Bc4 Bxg5 37 Rg1 Re5 38 h4 Bxh4 39 Rxg6+ Kf8 40 Rd6 Re7 41 Bb5 Rc7+ 42 Rc6 Re7 43 Rd6 Re5 44 Bc4 Rf5 45 b4 Ke7 46 Rd5 Rf2+ 47 Rd2 Rf4 48 Bb5 Ke6 49 Re2+ Kf6 50 Rd2 Ke6 51 Re2+ Kf6 52 Rd2 Bf2 53 Rd7 a5 54 bxa5 bxa5 55 a4 Bc5 56 Rd5 Bb4 57 Kd3 Ke6 58 Rd4 Rf3+ 59 Ke2 Ra3 60 Bc4+ Ke5 61 Rd3 Rxd3 1/2-1/2**

#### **L McShane (2615) v Ni Hua (2665)**

Chess Classic London ENG (6), 14.12.2009

#### **1 e4 e6 2 d4 d5 3 Nd2 c5 4 Ngf3 cxd4 5 Nxd4 Nf6 6 exd5 Qxd5 7 Nb5 Na6 8 c4 Qc6 9 a3 Be7 10 b4 0-0 11 Qf3 Nb8**

His development cramped by the threat to g2, White shows a frustratingly negative attitude so early in the game. 11 Nd4 is more usual. Paul Kemp departed at this point to listen to the grandmaster commentary in another room.

#### **12 Rb1 a5 13 bxa5**

After an hour, Paul returns to find White had played two moves and Black just one!

#### **13 ... Qxf3 14 Nxf3 Rxa5 15 Be2 Nbd7 16 0-0 b6 17 Bd2 Ra4 18 Bb4 Nc5 19 Rfd1 Bb7 20 Ne5 Ba8 21 f3 Rb8**

An ending should favour White due to his 2 v 1 majority on the queenside. Beforehand, though, White takes command of the position.

#### **22 Rd2 Ne8 23 Nd7 Rb7 24 Rbd1 g5 25 Nxc5 bxc5 26 Bc3 Rb8 27 Be5 Rc8 28 Rd7 Bf6**

Here, I was deflected from watching Kramnik v Short by 29 Bf6 Nf6 30 Rd8 winning a piece and only slowly realised that the bishop on a8 is defended. Despite poor vision, my intentions were correct at a critical juncture and the best continuation in my line is 30 ... Rd8 31 Rd8 Kg7 32 Rc8 Nd7 33 Rc7 Ne5 34 Rc5.

#### **29 Nd6 Bc6 30 Nxc8 Bxd7 31 Bxf6 Nxf6 32 Nb6 Ra7 33 a4 Kf8 34 Nxd7+ Nxd7**

Instead, White has allowed exchanges which saddle him with a bad bishop and slowly his ending goes downhill.

#### **35 Ra1 Ke7 36 Kf2 Ne5 37 Ke3 Nc6 38 Kd3 Rb7 39 Kc3 Na5 40 Bd3 Rb3+ 41 Kc2 h5 42 g3 g4 43 f4 f5 44 Re1 Kd6 45 Rd1 Kc7 46 Re1 Rb6 47 Kc3 Nb3 48 Bc2 Nd4 49 Ra1 Rb8 50 Bd1 Rh8 51 Kd2 h4 52 Ra3 Kb6 53 a5+ Ka6 54 Ke1 hxg3 55 hxg3 Rh1+ 56 Kd2 Rg1 57 Ba4 Rg2+ 58 Ke1 Kxa5 59 Bc6+ Kb4 60 Ra4+ Kb3 61 Bxg2 Kxa4 62 Bb7 Kb4 63 Ba6 Ka5 64 Bc8 Kb6 65 Kd2 Kc7 66 Ba6 Nc6 67 Bb5 Na7 68 Ba4 Nc8 69 Ke3 Nd6 70 Kf2 Kd8 71 Bc2 Ke7 72 Bd3 Kd7 73 Kg2 Kc6 74 Bf1 Kb6 75 Kf2 Ne4+ 76 Kg2 Ka5 77 Bd3 Nd6 78 Kf2 Kb4 79 Bb1 Kc3 80 Kg2 Ne4 0-1**

So ended a very enjoyable day. It is quite hard work concentrating on four simultaneous chess games but the facilities were excellent and the sporting entertainment lived up to my expectations. Better still, I fed the four games into Fritz and performed a blundercheck analysis. The quality of the games became evident when the software found few points of significant improvement and no real tactical errors. If only I could play like that!

### **Eye Opener**

I have a book called "Pitfalls of the Chess Board" published in 1910. The King's Gambit and Giuoco Piano feature prominently but a century later, we should regard most variations as verging on the trivial - though I blundered into one last year! Here is an example I have not seen before but it is unlikely to occur nowadays.

#### **1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6 3 Bb5 Nf6**

The Berlin Defence of the Ruy Lopez is very fashionable thanks to Kramnik's efforts against Kasparov but not as now follows.

#### **4 d3 Ne7 5 Nxe5 c6 0-1**

Black gives up a centre pawn rather naively but there is a concealed threat with Qd8-a5+ winning the piece on e5. There is no salvation in the smothered mate trick 6 Nc4 as 6 ... Ng6 keeps the material.

What more can you expect for a shilling?