

# NEW ENGLANDER

## Chess Club Update – February 2011

### Chairman's Chatter

1st October to 31st January = 4 months. 1st February to 31st May = 4 months. As we reach the halfway point in the season, that is roughly where we are in the league programme but we are dropping behind schedule in the club championship. I hope the coming month will see a burst of activity in order to keep the competition both credible and enjoyable for all.

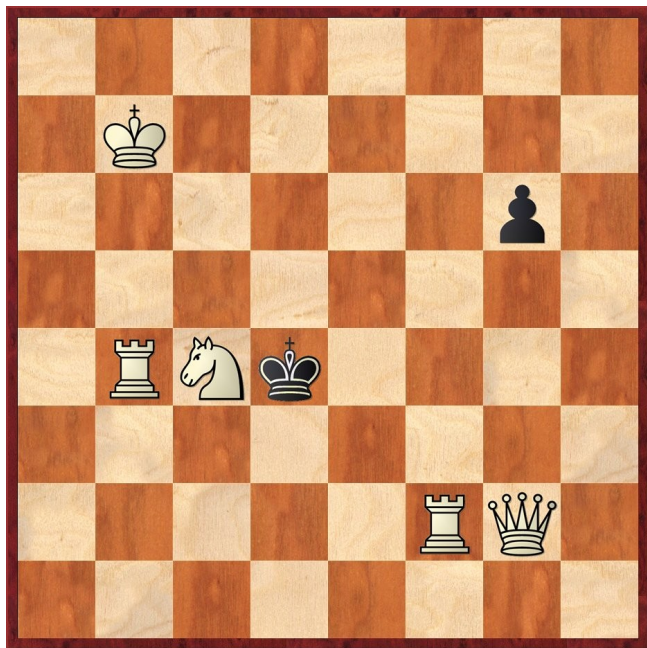
*Paul Hanks*

### Diary Dates

There have been a number of revisions to the club calendar caused by match postponements and the loss of venue on 23rd March so that the Lancaster Club can hold its AGM. The priority, however, must be progress in the Club Championship. A number of rounds are scheduled on evenings in February so please use them to fill in the blanks in the crosstable.

### Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2.



Last Month's solution

Position: 8/1N6/1Q6/8/1P3N1/1k6/1B6/1K6

1 Kc1 Ka4 2 Nc5# [1 ... Ka2 2 Qe6#; 1 ... Kc4 2 Na5#]

### Website to Watch

Play in the largest tournament in February - the Aeroflot Open in Moscow - takes place from 8th to 16th. The list of participants shows nearly 50 players rated 2600 or above and the competition can be followed on [www.aeroflotchess.com](http://www.aeroflotchess.com).

### Result Round-up

#### Team 550 Competition

New England 2	1½	New England 1	2½
S Caraway	½	P Hanks	½
R Jones	0	D Lane	1
M Tarabad	0	A Brookbanks	1
S Sitaram	1	S Walker	0

New England 1	3	Godmanchester	1
P Hanks	½	M Vigor	½
D Lane	1	J Wright	0
C Russell	½	J Griffith	½
A Brookbanks	1	J Bygrave	0

#### Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

New England B	1½	Spalding	2½
R Jones	½	J van Gemeren	½
D Lane	0	J Smith	1
A Brookbanks	½	R Coats	½
S Sitaram	½	J Pulford	½

#### Club Championship : at 19/01/11

Division One	CR	SC	FB	PT	PH	Total
C Ross	X	1 1	½ 1	1 p	1 ½	6 / 7
S Caraway	0 0	X	½ 0	?		½ / 4
F Bowers	0 ½	1 ½	X	½ ½	1	4 / 7
P Turp	p 0	?	½ ½	X	p	1 / 3
P Hanks	½ 0		0	p	X	½ / 3

Division Two	RJ	CR	AB	DL	NW	SW	JA	Total
R Jones	X		1	p 1	½			2½ / 3
C Russell		X		p P	p		p	0 / 0
A Brookbanks	0		X 1			p P		1 / 2
D Lane	p	p	0 X		1		P	1 / 2
N Wedley	0	P			X 0		p	0 / 2
S Walker	½		p p	0	1 X			1½ / 3

Division Three	MT	DS	KT	HC	SS	PS	Total
M Tarabad	X	p	P	1 0 0			1 / 3
D Sivell		p X	P p			0	0 / 1
K Talnikar		P P	X			p p	0 / 0
H Currie	1 0	p		X	0	p	1 / 3
S Sitaram	1		p	1	X P	0	2 / 3
P Spencer			1 p		p 1 P	X	2 / 2

## Match of the Month

I remember Nimzovich discussing the "Frontier Line" in his book *My System*. This imaginary boundary runs between the fourth and fifth ranks dividing the board in two. In my experience, the side that manages to cross this line first and establish a piece permanently in the opposition half has an overwhelming chance of success. It could almost be the main objective of the opening phase with central control, piece development and coordination etc being the means to achieve the end. The following game features a typical invasion.

### P Hanks v P Ribbands

New England A v Cambridge, 01.12.2010

**1 d4 g6 2 c4 Bg7 3 Nc3 d6 4 e4 Nd7 5 Be3 e5 6 Nf3 Ne7**

Black is trying a home-grown King's Indian Defence. His intention is to avoid Ng8-f6 and save tempi for the advance f7-f5 with a kingside initiative. Surprisingly, this strategy appears in Fritz's opening book but the software does not think much of it. I played to invite the black pieces cramp each other.

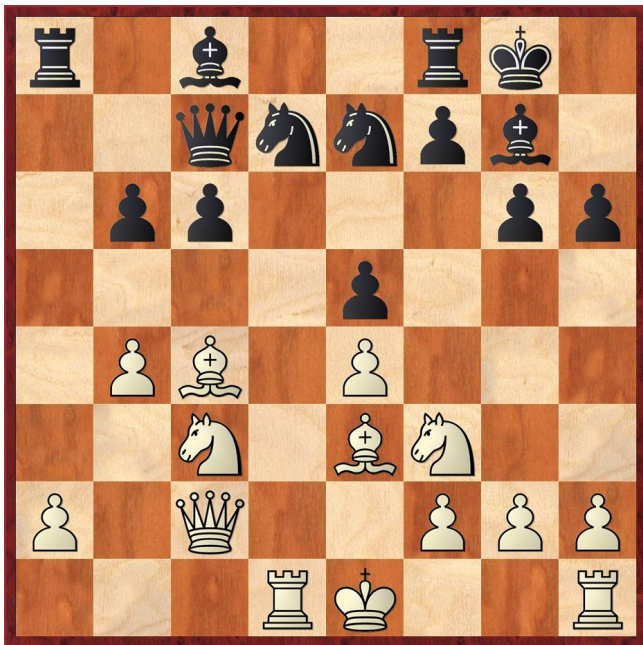
**7 dxe5 dxe5 8 Qc2 0-0 9 Rd1 c6 10 b4 Qc7 11 c5 b6**

11 ... b5 probably transposes but it either forces the issue next move or leaves Black contesting the c4 square. I did not want to exchange after 11 ... b6 but 12 Bc4 can be met with 12 ... bxc5 13 bxc5 Qa5 when c5 is weak or 12 ... b5 13 Bb3 a5 etc.

**12 cxb6 axb6**  
**13 Bc4**

I saw the alternative that is discussed after move 14 but felt I should complete my development and castle. After all, the text move draws the sting from the f7-f5 thrust.

**13 ... h6**



Fritz tells me that this is the best time for 14 Nb5 based on the discovered attack 14 ... cxb5 15 Bxf7+.

On move 13, this move forces the knight incursion to d6 but I predicted White could not maintain the outpost. Now, White has additional threats to f7 :

14 ... Qd8 15 Nd6 Ba6 16 Bxf7+ Rxf7 (16 ... Kh8 17 Be6 when Black has no time to counter both Nf7+ and the pin on the d file) 17 Qb3 Qf8 18 Qxf7+ Qxf7 19 Nxf7 Kxf7 20 Rxd7

14 ... Qb8 15 Nd6 Ba6 16 Bxf7+ Rxf7 (16 ... Kh8 17 Be6 Nf6 18 Nxe5) 17 Nxf7 Kxf7 18 Rxd7

**14 0-0 Nf6**

14 ... Kh7 would have avoided the above.

**15 Nb5**

So I had better not miss the chance!

**15 ... Qb8**

**16 Nd6 Bg4**

I expected 16 ... Ng4 17 Bc1 when Bc1-b2 brings further pressure on e5. The continuations 17 ... Ba6 18 Bxa6 Rxa6 19 h3 when the pawn on e5 falls and 17 ... Be6 18 Bxe6 fxe6 19 Qc4 when e6 is difficult to defend (e.g. 19 ... Rf6 20 h3) looked good for White. I did not see 17 ... Nd5 - a cheeky defensive resource found by these pesky computers - 18 Nxc8 (18 exd5 Qxd6 19 dxc6 Qxb4) Rxc8 19 exd5 cxd5 regaining the material. In fact, this motif is available in a number of lines and even 16 ... Nfd5 could be played.

**17 Qb3**

17 Nxe5 intuitively screamed at me but sadly, its tactical justification escaped me. After 17 ... Bxd1 18 Rxd1, the problem was that Black has a complete tempo at this point to construct a defence and this gives too many possibilities for exhaustive analysis. Here is a flavour of what might have been ...

18 ... Kh7 19 Bxf7 (again with an impressive position but no immediate forced line of play. Too many permutations!) 19 ... Rd8 20 Nxc6 Nxc6 21 Bxc6+ Kxc6 (21 ... Kh8 22 Nf7+; 21 ... Kg8 22 Qc4+ Nd5 23 Rxd5 leads to a variation on the familiar Philidor's Legacy theme 23 ... cxd5 24 Qxd5+ Kh8 25 Nf7+ Kg8 26 Nxc6+ Kh8 27 Qg8+ Rxc6 28 Nf7#) 22 e5+ Kh5 23 Qf5+ Kh4 24 g3#.

Perhaps I should let my heart rule my head more often.

**17 ... Kh7**

**18 Bxf7**

I was glad to see Fritz vacillate between the text move and 18 Nxf7. With the latter, I had hopes of a sacrificial attack starting Nf3-g5+ but the natural 18 ... Nxe4 puts the idea on hold and besides, the white queen has trouble reaching the h file. Fritz also spends a lot of time looking at 18 b5 which I do not understand.

**18 ... Rd8**

**19 Nc4 Rxd1**

**20 Rxd1 Nxe4**

**21 Nxb6**

It took me some time to realise 21 Rd7 spoils everything.

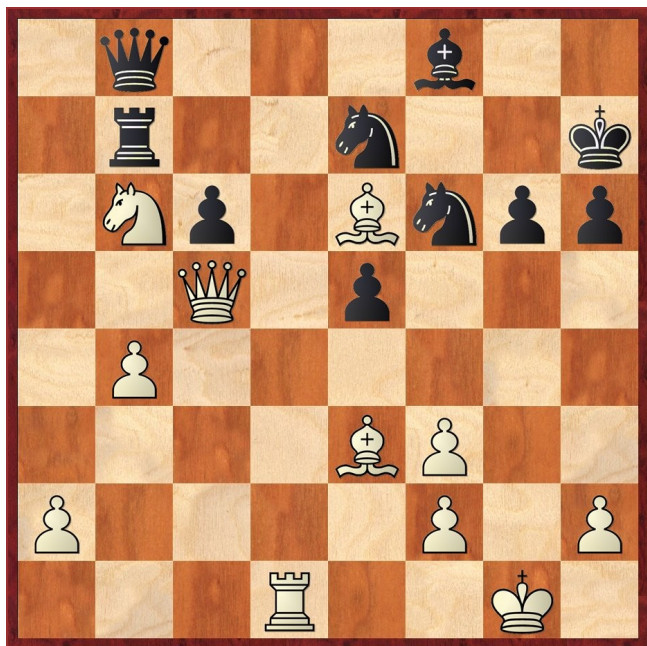
**21 ... Ra7**

22 Qc4 Nf6  
23 Be6 Bxf3

23 ... Bxe6 24 Qxe6 e4 25 Ne5 (though Fritz has a marked preference for 25 Ne1) leaves White with all the chances. If c6 falls, a queenside advance should be decisive.

24 gxf3 Rb7  
25 Qc5 Bf8

I was worried my pieces were getting in a tangle until I found ...



26 Nc8 Kg7

26 ... Nxc8 27 Qxf8 when White threatens Qxf6 and more importantly, Qxh6#. Against the latter, it is tricky to find a defence as 27... Ng8 28 Qxg8#, 27 ... g5 28 Bf5# and 27 ... Rg7 28 Rd8 all lead to catastrophe.

26 ... Rb5 was required for Black to keep a toehold in the game. In fact, White has to find the tactical sequence 27 Qc1 Nxc8 28 Rd8 Rxb4 29 Rxc8 Qb5 30 Bb3 Bg7 31 Rxc6 Qe2 32 Rc7 g5 33 Rxc7+ with a winning attack.

27 Rd8 Rxb4

Even 27 ... Rb5 is now too late with 28 Rxf8 Rxc5 29 Rf7+ Kh8 (29 ... Kg8 30 Nxe7+ Kh8 31 Nxc6+ Kg8 32 Rd7#) 30 Nxe7 and a mating net mean the minor pieces triumph 30 ... Qd6 31 Nxc6+ Kg8 32 Bxh6 Qxe6 (32 ... Nh5 33 Rg7#) 33 Rg7#.

28 Rxf8

It's all over now. Black's position collapses after 28 ... Kxf8 29 Qxe7#; 28 ... Ned5 29 Rf7+ Kh8 30 Qf8+ and 28 ... Nfg8 transposes into the game with even deadlier threats after 29 Rf7+ Kh8 30 Nxe7.

28 ... Nfd5  
29 Rf7+ Kh8  
30 Nxe7 Nxe3

30 ... Nxe7 31 Qxe7 Qg8 32 Qf6+ lasts an extra move.

31 Nxc6+ 1-0

## Eye Opener

I often bang the drum about inadequate piece development in the opening. If you need an example of the dangers of leaving your pieces on their initial squares, you only have to compare the activity of the two sides in the following game.

Krogius v Ojanen  
Helsinki, 1944

1 e4 c5 2 d4 cxd4 3 Nf3 e5

White is playing a true gambit because 4 Nxe5 is met by 4 ... Qa5. Instead, compensation comes from superior piece coordination.

4 c3 dxc3 5 Nxc3 d6 6 Bc4 h6

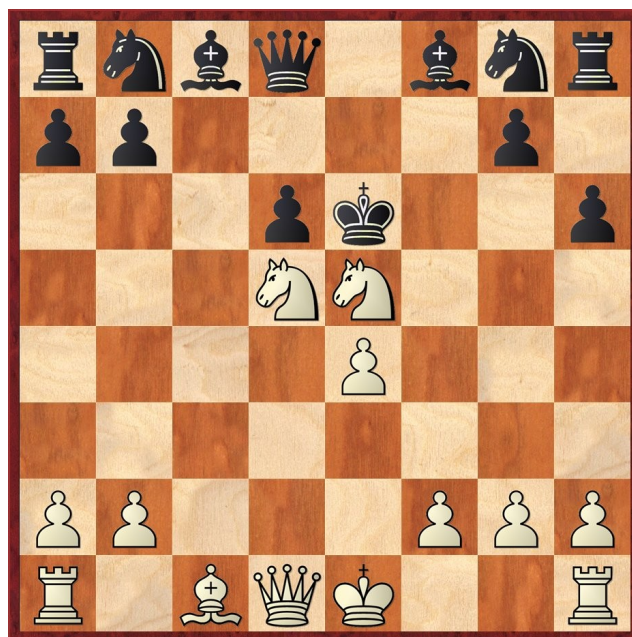
After five pawn moves, yet another by Black is pure extravagance. All his pieces are still on the back rank! Retribution is not long in coming...

7 Bxf7+ Kxf7  
8 Nxe5+ Ke7

Faced with 8 ... dxe5 9 Qxd8, Black does not have good alternatives e.g.

- A) 8 ... Ke8 9 Qh5+ with a quick mate
- B) 8 ... Ke6 9 Qd5+ Kf6 (9 ... Ke7 10 Qf7#) 10 Qf7+ Kxe5 11 Bf4+ Kd4 12 Qd5#
- C) 8 ... Kf6 9 Qd4 Qe8 (9 ... Qa5 10 Nc6+) 10 Nd5+ Ke6 11 Nc7+

9 Nd5+ Ke6



10 Qg4+ Kxe5  
11 Bf4+ Kd4

King hunts are excellent for honing your ability to find checkmates. Here, 11 ... Kxe4 12 Nc3+ Kd4 (12 ... Kd3 13 Qe2+ Kd4 14 0-0-0+ Kc5 15 Qb5#) 13 Be3+ Ke5 (13 ... Kd3 14 Qe2#) 14 Bd4#

12 Be3+ Ke5

12 ... Kc4 13 Qe2#

13 Qf4+ Ke6  
14 Qf5#