

NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – October 2011

Chairman's Chatter

We have reached the start of another season and you should have already seen the club fixture list. Our diary is as crowded as ever and will require everyone to be active in arranging games so that the club championship and ladder competition work effectively.

A new feature in the newsletter is being contributed by Ron Jones and his "Window on the Web" should help us make the most of internet resources. Thanks Ron!

Paul Hanks

AGM summary

The AGM was well attended and transacted the following business :

- expenditure exceeded income by £95 leaving a balance of £125-76
- subscriptions were increased by £1 (i.e. £26p.a. or £20p.a. for OAPs payable immediately to the club treasurer, C Russell)
- with a kind donation of £20 from Chris Ross, the club would acquire 9 new boards
- the committee was re-elected en bloc except for Chris Ross taking over the secretary's role
- captains' reports reflected on a successful season including winning the EACU club championship, the Cambridgeshire league title and runners-up position at the County Jamboree and in the Fenland Plate
- League team entries would remain as last year
- the club championship is to run as a Swiss tournament with a ladder competition to offer games to those not involved on match nights.

Diary Dates

For the sake of completeness, the fixture list is attached. In October, we start league matches and don't forget the County Rapidplay on 9th October.

The club championship will be a Swiss tournament run over 6 rounds as follows :

Rd	Draw	Evening for play	Completion deadline
1	28th Sept	28th Sept	23rd Nov
2	1st Dec	18th Jan	22nd Feb
3	1st Mar	14th Mar	25th Mar
4	1st Apr	11th Apr	18th Apr
5	1st May	2nd May	15th May
6	16th May	16th May	31st May

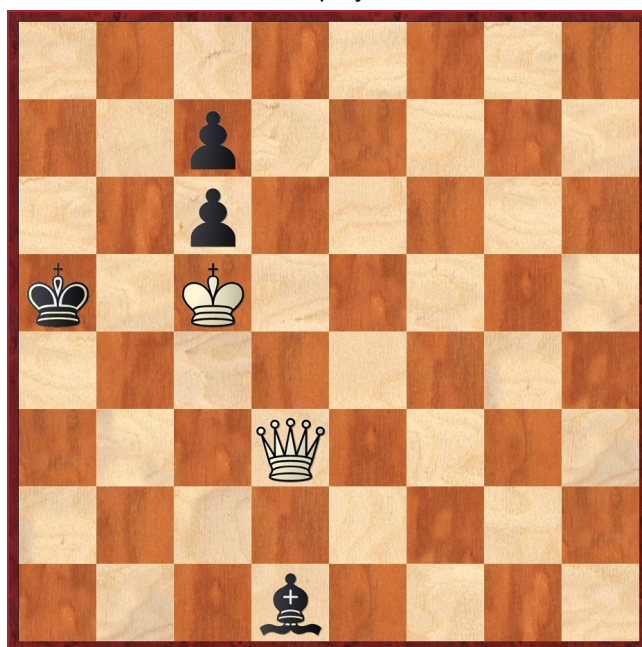
Website to Watch

You can catch the end of the European Club Cup on <http://ecc2011.sahohlacnik.com> until 2nd October.

Similarly, the Grand Slam Final is reaching the end of its first phase in Brazil on 1st October and then transfers to Bilbao for the concluding five rounds from 6th to 11th October. Sadly, I cannot see that the website www.bilbaomastersfinal.com/en carries live games.

Puzzle Problem

Chris Ross complained that the puzzle last month was too easy so here is a classic by Sam Loyd that should be a little harder. White to play and mate in 3.



Last Month's solution

Position: 8/8/5Q/8/8/1B6/rPK2p2/k7

1 Bd5 f1Q 2 Qxf1# [1 ... Ra3 2 bxa3#; 1 ... Ra6 2 Qxa6#; 1 ... Ra4/5/7/8 2 b4#]

Window on the Web

This is the first of a series of articles reviewing chess websites. Not sites where the game can be played, but those where advice, training and sometimes example games can be found. Since retiring I have had more time to surf the web and would like to share some of my surfing experiences (relating to chess, of course) with you. Some of the web content may not benefit the higher-graded members but there's plenty of instructive chess material out there just waiting to be read.

Most people know about Wikipedia - the on-line encyclopaedia - but what about Wikibooks? Try :

<http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Chess>

This is a treasure-trove of chess instruction. There are 13 chapters including basic tactics with 19 exercises. The strategy chapter includes items on when to exchange, sacrifices, zwischenzugs and pawn strategy while the chapter on endings includes rook and minor piece and even, believe it or not, king and three rooks versus king.

Delving deeper, there are puzzles of the "White to play and win" variety, and also, strangely, if you have 32 knights available you are invited to place them on the board so no two knights attack each other. Not very practical - I have not tried this so have no idea how difficult it is!

There are links to two other Wikibooks, one on opening theory and one on more advanced strategy including differences between the minor pieces e.g. good bishops v bad bishops, the bishop pair, knight v bishop and much more.

Two famous games are featured: Anderssen v Kieseritzky (The Immortal Game) and Morphy v Duke of Brunswick & Count Isouard with extensive annotations.

This Wikibook is likely to keep you occupied for quite some time.

Ron Jones

Result Round-up

Mini-Lightning : 21st September 2011

Player	CR	PS	DL	IG	NW	Tot	Pos
C Ross	X	1	1	1	1	4	1
P Spencer	0	X	1	1	1	3	2
D Lane	0	0	X	1	½	1½	3
I Garrett	0	0	0	X	1	1	4
N Wedley	0	0	½	0	X	½	5

Player	FB	PH	PT	MT	JP	Tot	Pos
F Bowers	X	1	½	1	1	3½	1
P Hanks	0	X	1	1	1	3	2
P Turp	½	0	X	1	1	2½	3
M Tarabad	0	0	0	X	1	1	4
J Parker	0	0	0	0	X	0	5

Play-Off		
F Bowers	0 - 1	C Ross
P Hanks	1 - 0	P Spencer
P Turp	1 - 0	D Lane
M Tarabad	1 - 0	I Garrett
J Parker	0 - 1	N Wedley

Club Championship : 28th September 2011

Round 1			
M Tarabad	1	0	I Garrett
D Lane	1	0	J Parker
F Bowers	1	0	P Spencer
N Wedley	0	1	R Jones
S Sitaram	1	0	S Walker
C Ross	1	0	P Hanks
H Currie			P Turp
C Russell			
Deadline : 23rd November. Next draw : 1st December			

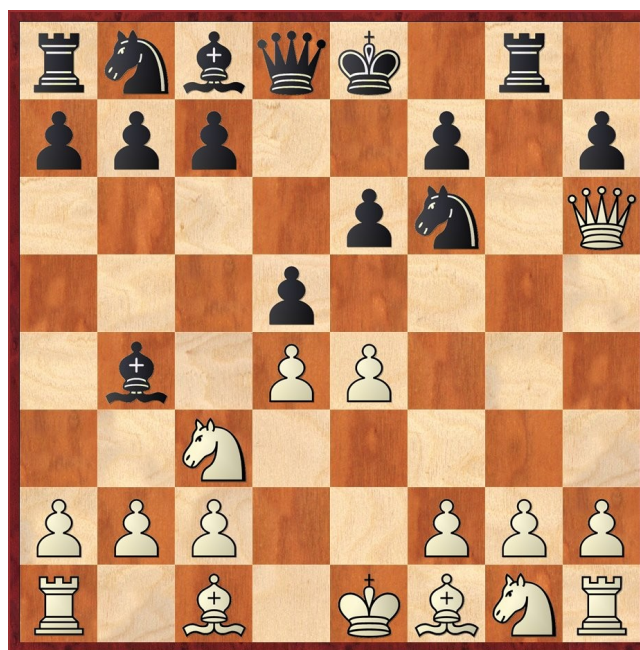
Match of the Month

F Bowers (173) v T Ashby (179)
Leeds Round 3, 21.07.2011

1 e4 e6
2 d4 d5
3 Nc3 Bb4
4 Qg4

Known as the Blitz Variation, this was first played in 1925 and jumped into the spotlight a decade later when Alekhine surprised Euwe with it in their World Championship match. In the 1971 book French Poisoned Pawn, "recent practice indicates that 4 Qg4 is simply bad, provided Black's play is reasonably sensible and today it does not provoke anxiety." Let's see how it fares in 2011.

4 ... Nf6
5 Qxg7 Rg8
6 Qh6



6 ... Rg6

6 ... c5 is the main line and some justification comes from simple tactics e.g. 7 exd5 cxd4 8 a3 Bf8 and 7 dxc5 d4 8 a3 Rg6 9 Qf4 Ba5 10 b4 Bc7. It was played

in the only recent outing in master chess - Campora v Rustemov, Dos Hermanas 2003 - 7 e5 cxd4 8 a3 Bf8. The alternatives here also lead to murky waters 8 ... Qa5 9 axb4 Qxa1 10 Nb5 Ng4 (10 ... Rg6 11 Qf4 Rg4 12 Qd2 Ne4 13 Qd1 Rg7 14 f3) 11 Qf4 Nc6 (11 ... Ne3 12 Ne2 Nxc2+ 13 Kd2; 11 ... Na6 12 Nd6+).

7 **Qe3** **c5**

The text move is Alekhine's recommendation against his own risky play. Euwe continued 7 ... Nxe4 8 Bd3 f5 (8 ... Nxc3? 9 Bxg6 with advantage) 9 Nge2 c5 10 Bxe4 (10 f3 Qh4+ 11 g3 Nxg3) 10 ... fxe4 (Keres prefers 10 ... dxe4) 11 Qh3 and White went on to win (Alekhine v Euwe, 9th game 1935).

8 **e5**

Alekhine did not consider this move looking only at 8 Bd2 Ng4 9 Qd3 Nc6.

8 ... **Ne4**
9 **Nf3** **Qb6**
10 **Bd2** **Nxd2**
11 **Qxd2** **Nc6**

Black has secured the bishop pair and cramps White's development by pressure on g2. Threats to d4 will lead to exchanges on that square when Black's advance d5-d4 may become dangerous. He has to show this is adequate compensation for the pawn in a situation when the blocked centre does not allow free piece play.

12 **dxc5** **Qxc5**
13 **a3** **Ba5**
14 **0-0-0**

The tempting 14 b4 meets 14 ... Nxb4 15 axb4 Bxb4

14 ... **Bd7**
15 **Nd4**

Defensive moves such as 15 Kb1 are playable because 15 ... d4 is premature e.g. 16 Ne4. Now the pawn on e5 falls.

15 ... **Bxc3**
16 **Qxc3** **Qxc3**
17 **bxc3** **Nxe5**

The opening promised a tactical melée but the position has rapidly shifted to an endgame. Computers give Black a minimal edge and from now on, the evaluation hardly changes.

18 **f4** **Ng4**
19 **Rd2** **Rc8**
20 **Kb2** **Ne3**
21 **g3** **Ke7**

Black could have tried for complications with 21 ... e5 22 fxe5 Rb6+ 23 Ka2 Rxc3 but 24 Rd3 holds the balance.

22 **Bd3** **Nc4+**
23 **Bxc4** **Rxc4**

More pieces have been swapped with no advantage to either side unless Black can exploit his superior queenside pawn structure. His pieces are poorly coordinated and he has to cope with the knight outposts.

24 **Re1** **Kd6**

25 **Nf3** **f6**
26 **Rde2** **Rg8**
27 **Nd4** **Re8**
28 **Nf5+**

A final try to avoid the draw

28 ... **Kc7**
29 **Ng7** **Rc8**
30 **Nxe6+** **Kb8**
31 **Nd4** **Rxc3** ½-½

Would you have agreed the draw?

By the final position, White has mustered a slight advantage based on 32 Re7 when h7 is attacked and the bishop has to be careful e.g. 32 ... Be8 33 Rxe8 Rxe8 34 Kxc3. However, 32 ... Ba4 counterattacks c2 and then 33 Rf7 tempts 33 ... Bxc2? 34 Ree7 when defending b7 will leave the bishop undefended. With the intermezzo 33 ... R3c7, Black avoids the doubled rooks on the seventh rank but 34 Rxc7 Rxc7 35 Re6 Rf7 36 Rd6 leaves White chasing the weak pawns.

Eye Opener

The book "Victory in the Opening" by Gary Lane showcases quick wins (i.e. in under 25 moves). Obviously, this is now the expected depth of our opening knowledge! Here is a typical game.

Miladinovic v Christenson

Korinthos, 1998

1 d4 d5 2 Bg5 h6 3 Bh4 c6 4 e3 Qb6 5 Qc1 e5 6 Nf3

If 6 dxe5 Qb4+ wins the loose bishop.

6 ... e4 7 Nfd2 Be6 8 c4 Nd7 9 Nc3 Rc8 10 cxd5 cxd5



11 Nxd5 Qc6

If the offer is accepted with 11 ... Rxc1+ 12 Rxc1, Black cannot save his queen (thereby losing the exchange) and defend against 12 ... Bxd5 13 Rc8+

12 Qxc6 bxc6 13 Ba6 1-0

If the rook moves, 14 Nc7+ draws the curtains.

New England Chess Club Fixtures 2011-12

Updated 20 Sept 2011

Club Championship		League Match		Internal Event		
H = home A = away		Fenland Knock-Out		County Event		
Day	Date	All Club	A Team	B Team	550 team 1	550 team 2
Wed	7 Sep	Club AGM	←	←	←	←
Wed	14 Sep	Club Ladder	←	←	←	←
Wed	21 Sep	Mini-Lightning	←	←	←	←
Thur	22 Sep	North v South	←	←	←	←
Wed	28 Sep	Champ Rd 1	←	←	←	←
Wed	5 Oct	→	Club Ladder	H v Royston	←	←
Sun	9 Oct	Cambs Rapidplay	←	←	←	←
Wed	12 Oct	→	Club Ladder	H v Spalding	←	←
Wed	19 Oct	→	A v Cambridge	Club Ladder	←	←
Wed	26 Oct	→	→	→	H v New Eng 2	A v New Eng 1
Wed	2 Nov	→	H v Royston	Club Ladder	←	←
Mon	7 Nov					A v Godman'r
Wed	9 Nov	→	H v Cambridge	Club Ladder	←	←
Sat	12 Nov	County Individual	←	←	←	←
Sun	13 Nov		←	←	←	←
Mon	14 Nov		A v Buckden A			
Wed	16 Nov		Club Ladder	H v Warboys B	←	←
Mon	21 Nov				A v St Neots	
Wed	23 Nov	→	Club Ladder	A v Buckden B	←	←
Wed	30 Nov	→	H v Pboro	Club Ladder	H v Warboys N	
Wed	7 Dec	→	Club Ladder	Club Ladder	↔	H v St Neots
Mon	12 Dec			A v St Neots		
Wed	14 Dec	→	A v Warboys A	Club Ladder	←	←
Wed	21 Dec	Xmas Special	←	←	←	←
Wed	28 Dec	No Meeting	←	←	←	←
Wed	4 Jan				H v Godman'r	
Thur	5 Jan		A v Pboro			
Wed	11 Jan	→	Club Ladder	Club Ladder	↔	A v Warboys N
Wed	18 Jan	Champ Rd 2	←	←	←	←
Wed	25 Jan	→	→	→	H v St Neots	H v Warboys N
Wed	1 Feb	→	H v Warboys A	H v Buckden B	←	←
Wed	8 Feb	→	Club Ladder	Club Ladder	↔	H v Godman'r
Mon	13 Feb		A v Royston			
Wed	15 Feb	→	→	→	A v New Eng 2	H v New Eng 1
Wed	22 Feb	→	Club Ladder	H v St Neots	←	←
Wed	29 Feb	→	H v Buckden A	Club Ladder	←	←
Mon	5 Mar				A v Godman'r	
Wed	7 Mar	→	H v Cambridge	Club Ladder	←	←
Mon	12 Mar					A v St Neots
Wed	14 Mar	Champ Rd 3	←	←	←	←
Wed	21 Mar	RAFA AGM				
Tues	27 Mar			A v Spalding		
Wed	28 Mar	→	Club Ladder	Club Ladder	A v Warboys N	←
Wed	4 Apr	→	Club Ladder	A v Warboys B	←	←
Wed	11 Apr	Champ Rd 4	←	←	←	←
Wed	18 Apr	Club Handicap	←	←	←	←
Wed	25 Apr	Club Rapidplay	←	←	←	←
Sun	29 Apr	Cambs Rapidplay	←	←	←	←
Wed	2 May	Champ Rd 5	←	←	←	←
Wed	9 May	Problem Night	←	←	←	←
Wed	16 May	Champ Rd 6	←	←	←	←