

# NEW ENGLANDER

## Chess Club Update – November 2011

### Chairman's Chatter

The format of the newsletter was designed so that the frontsheet could be pinned to a noticeboard. It comprised a position diagram to catch the eye, match results to highlight club activities and some small articles to fill up space. This month, the "Result Round-up" alone covers almost a full page!

*Paul Hanks*

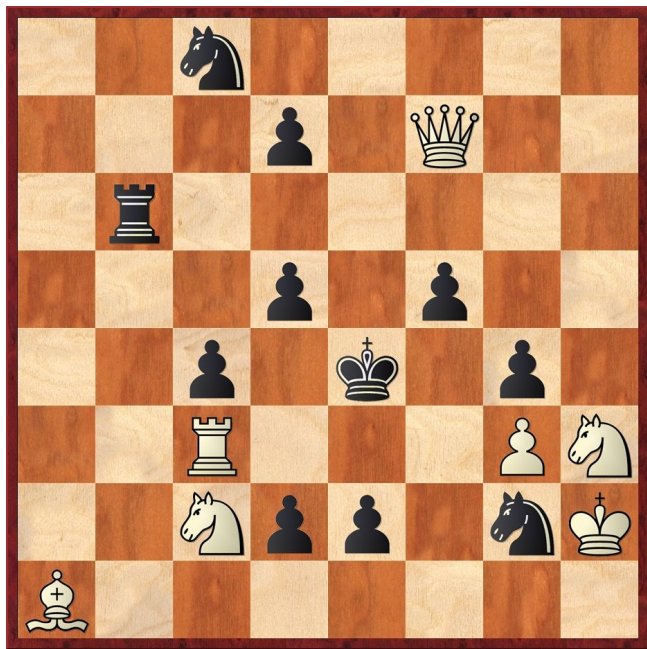
### Diary Dates

The Individual County Championship is due to be held on 12th-13th November at the PSL Club, Peterborough. Full details and an application form are available on the website [www.cambschess.org.uk](http://www.cambschess.org.uk).

Here is some advance warning for the London Chess Classic at Olympia on 3rd-12th December just in case you wish to book transport or co-ordinate visits.

### Puzzle Problem

*Informator* magazine now includes a problem section and this diagram gives a taste of what is on offer. With more pieces on the board, these are competition level positions and this composition by A Slesarenko won first prize in the 1991 USSR Championship. As ever, White to play and mate in 2.



Last Month's solution

Position: 8/2p5/2p5/k1K5/8/3Q4/8/3b4

1 Qg3 Ka4 2 Qc3 any 3 Qb4# [1 ... Ka6 2 Qxc7 any 3 Qb6#; 1 ... Bf3/c2 2 Qg8 Ka6 (2 ... Ka4 3 Qa2#) 3 Qa8#; 1 ... Be2/g4/h5 2 Qa3#; 1 ... Bb3/a4 2 Qxc7+ Ka6 (2 ... Ka4 3 Qa7#) 3 Qb6#]

### Window on the Web

One of my favourite chess websites is the American site [www.chesslecture.com](http://www.chesslecture.com) with an archive of over 1,600 mostly well-presented chess lectures. I say "mostly" because a couple of the lecturers have East European accents that can be hard on the ear.

Most of the lecturers are IMs or GMs and new lectures are added at the rate of 5 a week. Members gain access to the full library and other features such as tests on openings, tactics and mates of the "find the winning move" variety.

There are, however, two lectures on the Home Page for anyone to view, as a taster and as a check that your internet set up allows you to watch them. A month's subscription costs less than a pint of beer a week and there's a large discount for annual membership. It is possible to see the list of all the available lectures from the Home Page. They are classified in various ways: by lecturer, skill level (novice to advanced) and content (openings, annotated games, strategy, tactics and endings etc).

Members are able to rate each lecture and comment on them. In case of any problems watching the lectures, there is a very good technical support team.

While there is a bias towards US games and players, important international events are covered. Some recent lectures have featured games from the 2011 World Cup. There are currently 39 lectures on Kasparov's games. British players are not forgotten: - games played by Nigel Short, Michael Adams, Luke McShane, Tony Miles and others can easily be found using the useful search tool.

Some of the lectures are presented in series form. For example, the lecturer FM Dana Mackenzie has a long-running series entitled *Learn from your Fellow Amateurs*, in which he comments on the moves played in games submitted to him by members.

I have been a member for some time and can recommend this site. Why not spend a few minutes to settle down with a cup of coffee, log on and see what you think?

*Ron Jones*

### Website to Watch

The European Team Chess Championships take place in Greece from 3rd to 11th November and will show live games on <http://euro2011.chessdom.com>.

From 16th to 25th November, Moscow hosts the Tal Memorial tournament with a very impressive list of participants. The average ELO rating is a mere 2775! For such a prestige event, finding a website has proved surprisingly difficult.

## Result Round-up

### Fenland Knock-Out

<b>New England B</b>	<b>½</b>	<b>Royston</b>	<b>3½</b>
R Jones	½	K Clark	½
S Sitaram	0	N Hutchinson	1
D Lane	0	P Kemp	1
P Spencer	0	B Judkins	1

### Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

<b>Cambridge</b>	<b>1½</b>	<b>New England A</b>	<b>3½</b>
G Sirokmany	0	C Ross	1
C Davison	1	P Hanks	0
S Pride	0	P Turp	1
P Ribbands	0	S Caraway	1
D Cattermole	½	M Dunkley	½

<b>New England B</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Spalding</b>	<b>3</b>
R Jones	0	L Osiyemi	1
S Sitaram	0	J van Gemeren	1
D Lane	0	J Smith	1
P Spencer	1	R Coates	0

### Team 550 Competition

<b>New England 1</b>	<b>1½</b>	<b>New England 2</b>	<b>2½</b>
P Hanks	0	P Turp	1
P Spencer	½	R Jones	½
S Wozniak	0	D Lane	1
J Parker	1	S Walker	0

### New England Grand Prix

<b>Player</b>	<b>Champ</b>	<b>Ladder</b>	<b>League</b>	<b>Cup</b>	<b>550 Team</b>	<b>Total</b>
C Ross	1	3	1			5
N Wedley	0	3				3
P Spencer	0	1	1	0	½	2½
F Bowers	1	1½				2½
P Turp		0	1		1	2
D Lane	1		0	0	1	2
R Jones	1		0	½	½	2
P Hanks	0	2	0		0	2
S Sitaram	1	1	0	0		2
J Parker	0	½			1	1½
M Dunkley	1		½			1½
S Caraway		½	1			1½
I Garrett	0	1				1
M Tarabad	1					1
C Russell	0					0
S Walker	0				0	0
S Wozniak		0			0	0
H Currie						0

### New England Club Ladder

<b>White</b>		<b>Black</b>	
P Spencer	½	N Wedley	½
S Sitaram	1	S Wozniak	0
I Garrett	1	J Parker	0
P Hanks	1	I Garrett	0
S Caraway	½	F Bowers	½
C Ross	1	P Turp	0
J Parker	½	N Wedley	½
P Hanks	1	J Parker	0
N Wedley	0	F Bowers	1
N Wedley	1	S Wozniak	0
P Spencer	½	J Parker	½
S Caraway	0	C Ross	1
N Wedley	1	I Garrett	0

<b>Pos</b>	<b>Player</b>	<b>Record</b> 26/10/11
1	H Currie	
2	C Ross	1,1,1
3	R Jones	
4	S Caraway	½,0
5	P Hanks	1,1
6	P Spencer	½,½
7	S Walker	
8	N Wedley	½,½,0,1,1
9	P Turp	0
10	I Garrett	1,0,0,0
11	M Tarabad	
12	S Sitaram	1
13	F Bowers	½,1
14	J Parker	0,½,0
15	S Wozniak	0,0
16	D Lane	
17	M Dunkley	

### Match of the Month

Here is a very intriguing game - one in which a kingside attack is born from a queenside move! My attacking skills are certainly becoming more refined as I concentrate on tackling positions in which a longer term initiative compensates for the sacrificed material. This moves away from the "hacking" art of attack which, all of you know, I do not have much respect for.

So, enjoy a very interesting encounter which took place in the first league match of the Cambridgeshire County season. I took top board and had prepared diligently for IM Richard Tozer, who didn't turn out in the end. However, that opening preparation must have sharpened me up when instead I came across a strong Hungarian who proved more than a challenge.

I have not been on the white side of a Benoni for some time now, a couple of years, which can be evidently seen in my opening.

**Chris Ross (2237) v Gabor Sirokmany (2149)**  
New England A v Cambridge A; 19.10.2011

<b>1</b>	<b>d4</b>	<b>Nf6</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Nf3</b>	<b>e6</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>c4</b>	<b>c5</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>d5</b>	<b>exd5</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>cxd5</b>	<b>d6</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Nc3</b>	<b>g6</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>e4</b>	<b>a6</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>a4</b>	<b>Bg7</b>

The main point of 7 ... a6 for Black is to allow a future Bg4 pin. The black light-squared bishop has a very poor future and should be exchanged as soon as possible. Black is seemingly making routine moves without considering the future placement of his pieces. This may be a lapse in theoretical knowledge or a simple reliance on his opponent not appreciating the deeper positional elements of the opening. Fortunately, I have had some experience with the white pieces in the Benoni and knew I must cut out the light-squared bishop's natural square.

<b>9</b>	<b>h3</b>	<b>0-0</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Bd3</b>	<b>Re8</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>0-0</b>	<b>Qc7</b>

And we have reached a fairly standard variation of the Benoni. The black queen is perfectly OK on c7 although I think this limits Black's options somewhat and maybe Black should have developed his queen's knight before the lady with the flexible 11 ... Nbd7. Black should consider b7-b6 to put the light-squared bishop on b7 or try and force a future b6-b5 with Rb8 after Nbd7. Or, to attempt to get f7-f5 in, with the light-squared bishop on c8. There are lots of plans for Black but White is well placed to meet them all.

White now has a choice of how to develop his pieces. My worst piece is naturally the knight on f3 which is frequently routed via d2 to the c4 outpost, to hit that backward d pawn. 12 Nd2 is certainly a plan here, but I simply felt that it was a little too slow in this situation.

Development is crucial, of course, and bringing the knight back would slow development down.

I'm always slightly wary of freeing up the f pawn too early too, though f2-f4 should often be played to prepare the natural e4-e5 thrust. Again, having played h2-h3, the dark squares are rather vulnerable, which means this central advance needs to be planned for and played carefully. In that sense, where does my own dark-squared bishop belong?

With the black queen sitting on c7, I'm guessing that Black needs to play Ra8-Rb8 to break with b7-b5 so the bishop has an optimal square, targeting that d pawn and supporting a future e4-e5.

<b>12</b>	<b>Bf4</b>	<b>c4</b>
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This has apparently been played before, but I have reservations about it. Sure, it gains space on the queenside, and I would have played Nd2 to secure the c4 outpost if given the chance. So, I suppose it is just about forced, but it does give me the lovely central d4 square as a springboard for operations.

Naturally, I have to take every care on the queenside and ensure that I am not overrun on that flank.

<b>13</b>	<b>Bc2</b>	<b>Nbd7</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>Re1</b>	<b>Rb8</b>

White has played consistently, lining up his pieces, developing nicely and preparing for that future e4-e5 thrust. Black has been playing rather automatically. The queen's rook landing on b8 opens up all kinds of possibilities for tactics with the bishop on f4.

I cannot allow Black to expand on the queenside without hindrance, of course.

<b>15</b>	<b>a5</b>	<b>b5</b>
<b>16</b>	<b>axb6</b>	<b>Rxb6</b>

Black has made a break but at the cost of weakening his pawn structure. a6, c4 and d6 are all targets now, but Black has utterly changed the dynamics of the game.

The Benoni is a tactical creature in many ways but can be played in a positional manner. In this particular case, Black has gone away from the latter scenario and brought the game to a tactical affray. I didn't fully appreciate this at this stage, but certainly did after the next two moves!

Black has opened up the b file with a target on b2 and the dark squares are now beginning to look an area for counterplay.

<b>17</b>	<b>Ra2</b>
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Not that soft a move. The rook steps off the long a1-h8 diagonal preparing Qa1 and the targeting of that isolated a6 pawn.

17 Na4 was an option, but I didn't feel that it was putting the knight in an area I wanted. The e4 pawn needs protection until I am able to push it. In that regard, the d5 pawn also needs support. The central knight should not be placed on the rim if it is not destined there. After all, this may just as well force the black rook to b4, where c4 is well defended, the knight on a4 could become weak and the a file is blocked for the attack on the isolated a6 pawn.

<b>17</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>Nh5</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Be3</b>	

Here the wonders of extensive databases continue to amaze me. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the position has been played before, and none other than the great Bronstein has played it as White. He, as seen in the opening references, was more cautious with the tactical possibilities inherent in the position.

My idea here, mostly in positional mode, was to hit the rook on b6 and gain more protection of the d4 square. I really would have liked to drop the bishop back to h2 and keep the pressure on the d6 pawn, but I felt that the d4 square was more important. Also, after Nf3-Nd4 and a future f2-f4, the bishop would be blocked in on h2. Sure it supports e4-e5, but I re-considered and planned to place the bishop on d4, also supporting the e4-e5 thrust. All very clear and very logical.

Now, some time needs to be taken in this position. How does Black continue? What is his long term





Black rushes back to prevent Qf6 and a total penetration. The black knight is Black's only salvation. Its exchange will mean Black's immediate demise.

**26 Ba4**

Threatening to swap minor pieces as stated, but also activating my light-squared bishop. Surprisingly, I even have Be8 ideas in the offing too. Also of importance is that the white rook is given the c2 square in case of any annoying c4-c3 thrusts, and the second rank is protected, especially f2, against Re2.

The white pieces are now coordinating with one another excellently, despite being two pawns down!

**26 ... Ne5**

Played automatically, to block the long diagonal, but allowing another twist in the tactical battle. 26 ... f5 27 gxf5 Ne5 28 Bxe5 Rxe5 [28 ... dxe5 29 fxc6 e4+ 30 Qg3 Qxg3+ 31 Kxg3] 29 fxc6 hxg6 is messy but clearly better for White.

**27 Qf6 Re4?**

Black's losing plan. Again, perfectly understandable, as there are tactics along the fourth rank with the two white bishops. If the bishop on d4 wanders away, c4-c3 hits the rook on b2 and the bishop on a4 is left hanging.

Very complicated was the tactical mess of 27 ... Bxg4 28 Bxe5 Rxe5 29 hxg4 c3 and I was not sure to what was going on there. I felt as though I should be better, but I didn't fully figure things out. Presumably, the bishop lands on c6 and I have to gang around the c pawn to win it with a queen retreat etc. The game will go on and Black would have chances, but the bishop should prove to be superior to the pawns amassed.

**28 Bb6**

The point of the centralisation of the bishop. The bishop not only controls the dark squares on the kingside, but also on the queenside. The tactics are now all with White, as the black queen has nowhere to go.

**28 ... Qb7**

28 ... Nd7 29 Bxc7 Nxf6 30 Rb8 wins the bishop on c8, as the bishop on a4 controls the e8 square, preventing the rook's retreat.

**29 Qd8+**

Wanting to drive the king to a more vulnerable square and have the tactic available, which shortly appears. Sure, 29 Qxd6 Nf3+ 30 Kg3 Qe7 31 Qxe7 Rxe7 32 Kxf3 crossed my mind, but I didn't feel as though it was as convincing and psychologically devastating as the game continuation.

**29 ... Kg7**  
**30 Qxd6 Nd3**

I can't find any tactical defence here for Black. The previous variations shows that a check on f3 does not achieve anything. Black has to be very careful of Bd8 tactics with checks on f6 with a clear mating net. It looks all very scary for both sides and the white rook on b2 seems very precarious. All is under control

though, due to that lonely old black king on g7, a lovely vulnerable square.

Also possible was 30 ... Nf3+ 31 Kg3 Ng5 32 Bd4+ Rxd4 33 Qe5+ Kh6 34 Rxb7 Rd3+ 35 f3 Nxf3 36 Qf4+ Ng5+ 37 Kg2 and White will mop up the pinned black pieces.

**31 Bd4+**

Winning the black queen. Black is gathering a lot of material for the lady, but his pieces are not coordinated and cannot defend each other. Again though, it's the dark squares which prove his downfall.

**31 ... Rxd4**  
**32 Rxb7 Bxb7**  
**33 Qb6**

The point to the variation. White must win back a piece. The rest is simple technique.

**33 ... Rxd5**  
**34 Qxb7 Rd6**

Either player could have played slightly better moves in the next stage, but we were both in a time scramble now, with my opponent down to seconds to make move 36. I'm amazed he reached the time control!

**35 Kg3**

35 Qc7 Re6

**35 ... Rf6**

35 ... h5 36 Qc7 Rf6 37 Bc2

**36 Qc7**

36 Qd5 Nf4 37 Qxc4 h6

**36 ... h6**

36 ... Rxf2 37 Qxc4 Rf3+ 38 Kg2 Ne1+ 39 Kg1

**37 Qxc4**

And the time control was reached successfully by both players. Perfect play has not been achieved in the last few moves, but it does not really matter, as White has a bishop, which will ultimately prove fatal for Black. Taking things slowly now and not trying to mate Black is the key. Simple, slow positional sense and technique has to prevail.

**37 ... Rf3+**

Naturally, whilst I am taking things slowly, Black is going to try his utmost to throw in tactical resources to salvage the position. I have to be constantly careful of knight forks. This means I am losing my f pawn, which is a shame, but f7 cannot survive for all that much longer.

**38 Kg2 Rxf2+**  
**39 Kg1 Rf4**  
**40 Qc3+**

Again, accuracy is required. Exchanges and offering Black the opportunity to form a "fortress" should not be permitted. It is essential to maintain my light-squared bishop and limit the movement of the black knight as much as possible.

**40 ... Kh7**

40 ... Kg8 41 Bb3 Nf2 42 Bd5

**41 Bb3**

Certainly not 41 Qxd3 Rxa4 42 Qd6 a5 and Black has a mere glimmer of hope as the white king can't enter into the attack easily.

**41 ... Nf2**

The black knight has very few squares and I simply restrict it as much as possible. I cannot allow captures on h3 and a retreat to g5. Controlling of the e4 square is also essential.

**42 Qe3 Rf6**  
**43 Kg2**

Again, being subtle. White threatens a zugzwang position. I want to protect h3 while asking Black to reveal what he plans to do with his pawn formation. My pieces are now ideally placed and no checks are on. How is Black to proceed?

**43 ... g5**

Thankfully making my life all that much easier in the final stage of the game. Black had obviously given up hope now. More resistant was 43 ... Kg7 but White's the winning plan is the same. It all depends if I wish to force h3-h4 and g4-g5 first. Presumably, I will have to play Qd4 to protect g4 and pin the rook on f6.

I need to keep my g pawn, at all costs, as the h pawn is the wrong coloured rook's pawn, which is a very, very important feature not to forget.

**44 Qxf2**

Rubbing salt in the wound even more. Since the black pawn has advanced to g5, f7-f5 cannot be achieved. In that regard, the ending has to be won for me. Sure, I could win the black knight, but I saw no reason in messing around with queen versus rook for another 25 moves or so. I just wanted to kill things off there and then and put the game to bed.

44 Bc2+ Kg8 45 Bf5 cuts out the defence to the black knight. He can take on h3 and a grind has to ensue, where I have to eventually win the a pawn and there is work to be done. No, just give the queen back and be a piece up. The ending is simple enough.

**44 ... Rxf2+**  
**45 Kxf2 Kg6**  
**46 Kf3 Kf6**

The whole point of entering into this is that f7-f5 cannot be forced. 46 ... f5 47 Bc2 pins the f pawn. A detail, but one that is essential to the winning plan.

**47 Ke4 h5**

47 ... a5 48 Kd4 finding another waiting move.

**48 Bc4 a5**  
**49 Bb3 Kg6**

49 ... h4 50 Kd5 Ke7 51 Ke5 f6+ 52 Kf5

**50 Ke5 f6+**

50 ... h4 51 Bc2+ Kg7 52 Kf5

**51 Ke6 hxg4**  
**52 hxg4 1-0**

Opening references:

A 18 Bc1 Nc5 19 Qe2 Bd7 20 Qxc4 Bb5 21 Nxb5 axb5 22 Qb4 Nf6 23 Be3 Rbb8 24 Bd4 Ncxe4 25 Bd3 Nxd5 26 Qb3 Bxd4 27 Nxd4 Ndf6 28 Bxb5

Qc5 29 Ra4 Re5 30 Rc4 Nd2 0-1 **D Bronstein** (2465) v **V Moskalenko** (2505); Wijk aan Zee 1992

B 18 Bh2 Rxb2 19 e5 Rxa2 20 exd6 Rxe1+ 21 Nxe1 Qa5 0-1 **A Kolev** (2017) v **E Janev** (2461); Plovdiv 2010

C 20 ... Bxb2 21 Bxb2 Ne5 22 Nxe5 dxe5 23 d6 Qd8 24 Ba4 Bd7 25 Qa1 Bxa4 26 Qxa4 Nf4 27 Bc3 Re6 28 d7 Re7 29 Qxc4 Qxd7 30 Qxa6 Re6 31 Qa8+ Qe8 32 Qa1 Qe7 33 Kh2 g5 34 Re3 h5 35 g3 **E Anka** (2427) v **T Farkas**; Hungary 2003 ½-½ (38)

*Chris Ross*

## Eye Opener

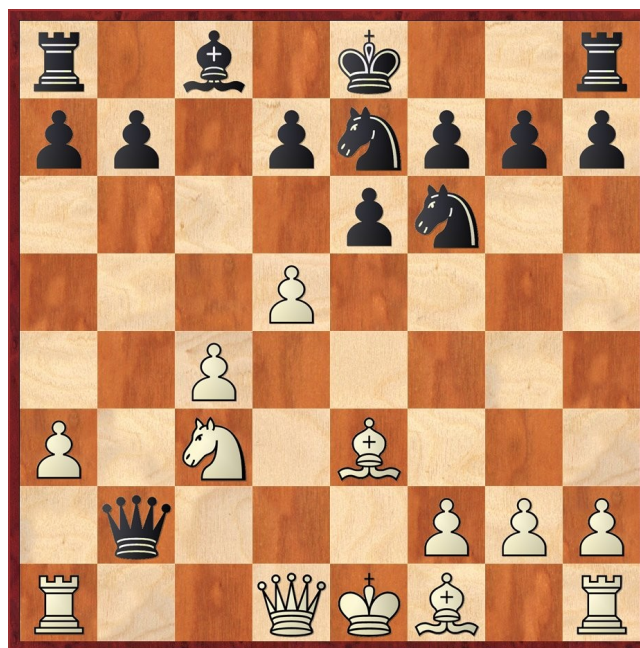
Most of the material for the Eye Opener features a queen trap and is a warning against premature development of your strongest piece. Here is another example :

**Peter Maier** (2190) v **Martin Ferk**  
Liechtenstein op Schaan (1), 1998

<b>1</b>	<b>d4</b>	<b>Nf6</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>c4</b>	<b>e6</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Nc3</b>	<b>Bb4</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>e3</b>	<b>c5</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Nge2</b>	<b>Nc6</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>a3</b>	<b>Bxc3+</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Nxc3</b>	<b>cxd4</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>exd4</b>	<b>Qb6</b>

The computer gives 8 ... 0-0 or 8 ... d5 with approximate equality. It certainly does not recommend the text move but it is only heralds further weak moves by Black.

<b>9</b>	<b>d5</b>	<b>Ne7</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Be3</b>	<b>Qxb2</b>



<b>11</b>	<b>Nb5</b>	<b>0-0</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>Bd4</b>	<b>1-0</b>