

# NEW ENGLANDER

## Chess Club Update – February 2012

### Chairman's Chatter

The email below comes from our guest at the Christmas Special. It was sent to Chris Ross and Francis Bowers who kindly let me share it with you.

*Hi Chris and Francis,*

*I wanted to say thank you for such a warm welcome on the Wednesday before Xmas when I played in your Xmas Special. I travelled a lot over that period seeing friends and family but the visit to your chess club still holds so many pleasant memories. In chess clubs, you will always find one or two friendly people but at your club everyone was so welcoming and helpful - even as far as saying that I won when I had such a horrible loss to you Chris in round 2. I will have a word with the local organisers of the Ligue de Bretagne to see if they can incorporate some of the fun ideas.*

*Again many, many thanks for such an enjoyable evening. À bientôt.*

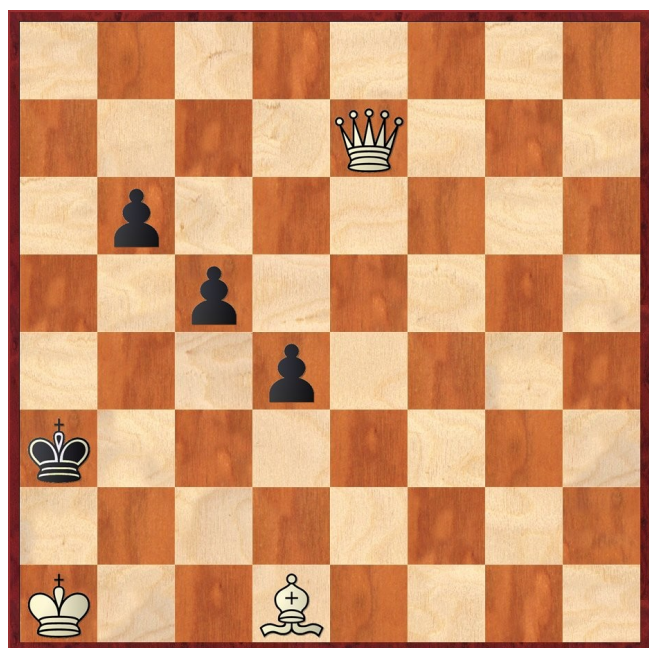
*Malcolm Body*

*Paul Hanks*

### Diary Dates

The East Anglian Chess Union Team Championship will be held on 19th February at Whittlesford. Francis will be arranging a team to defend our title.

### Puzzle Problem



Last Month's solution

Position : 7k/7b/5Np1/6N1/8/8/6QK/8

**1 Nh5 gxh5 2 Nf7#** [1 ... Bg8 2 Qb2#; 1 ... Kg8 2 Qa8#]

Christmas Special

Position : 8/8/6pk/5b1p/5K2/5N2/8/8

Black (Averbakh) wins **1 Ng5 h4 2 Nf3 Kh5 3 Ng5 Bd7 4 Ne4** [4 Nf3 Bc8 5 Ng5 h3 6 Nf3 Bb7 7 Nh2 Kh4] **4 ... Bc8 5 Nf6+ Kh6 6 Ne4 Be6 7 Ng5 Bd5 8 Kg4 h3 9 Nxh3 Be6+ 10 Kg3 Bxh3** (Nunn)

Position : 8/8/6p1/8/3r2PK/5k2/8/2B5

Game drawn **1 Kg5 Rxc4 2 Kf6 Rc4** [2 ... Ke4 3 Bg5] **3 Bh6 Rc6+** [3 ... Kg4 4 Kxc6 Rc6+ 5 Kg7 Kf5 6 Be3] **4 Kg5** and the pawn is lost after Bg7 and Bf6 (Dvoretsky)

Position : 8/8/7p/p3k2P/6P1/4pK2/3b4/3B4

Black (Gligoric) wins **1 Ba4 Kd4 2 g5 hxg5 3 h6 g4+ 4 Kxc4 Bc3 5 Bb5 a4 6 Kf3 a3 7 h7 Kc5 0-1** (Dvoretsky)

Position : 8/6k1/8/5PPP/ppp5/P4K2/1P7/8

White (Minckwitz) wins by zugzwang **1 Ke3 c3 2 Kd3 cxb2 3 Kc2 bxa3 4 f6+ Kf7 5 h6 Kg6 6 Kb1** (Hertan)

Position : 7r/3k4/1K6/1p6/1P6/8/8/2R5

White (Gligoric) missed a win **1 Rc7+ Kd6 2 Rc6+ Kd7 3 Kxb5 Rb8+ 4 Rb6 Rh8 5 Rb7+ Kc8 6 Ka6 Rh6+ 7 Ka7** with a book win (Fischer) = Mate in 30 according to endgame tablebases

### Window on the Web

*ChessCafe.com*, which was founded 16 years ago, describes itself as one of the most highly acclaimed and frequented chess sites on the web and can be found at [www.chesscafe.com](http://www.chesscafe.com)

The home page contains two sections: *Features* and *Columns*.

*Features* has 7 sections: Daily Chess News Links, Book Reviews, The Skittles Room, Endgame Study, From The Archives, Video Spotlight and Step by Step. The Skittles Room contains articles on various chess subjects and Step by Step contains tactical and mating puzzles. The other titles are self explanatory. All of these pages are regularly updated.

*Columns* has 19 sections, updated monthly, consisting of items by such authors as Yasser Seirawan and the chess trainer Mark Dvoretsky, who annotates games in his The Instructor column. At the time of writing this (late December last year) Endgame Corner by Karsten Müller contained 5 positions with instructive annotations and 8 exercises (solutions in January). The interesting December edition of The Openings Explained by Abby Marshall contained extensive annotations on the use by Black of the Chigorin Defence to counter White's London System.

The jewel in the crown of this site is the archive. Here all the articles, reviews and endgame studies that have appeared over the years are stored and can be

downloaded. These include Attacking Chess by Larry Christianson and The Battering Ram in which Nikolay Minev annotates games with the theme of attacking by aggressively advancing pawns. There are puzzles by Graham Burgess (who has left England to live in Minnesota) and several articles on openings by various authors. The articles have clearly been written to publicise the author's new book, available from the site's chess shop, such as Prepare to Attack by Gary Lane. The shop is well stocked and the prices are reasonable, but the high cost of shipping from the USA is a factor to consider.

*Ron Jones*

### Website to Watch

Play in the Masters Section in the Gibraltar Chess Festival ([www.gibraltarchesscongress.com](http://www.gibraltarchesscongress.com)) finishes on 2nd February. Likewise, the concluding rounds of the Moscow Open can be followed until 5th February on [www.open.moschess.ru](http://www.open.moschess.ru). This clears the decks for the Aeroflot Open from 7th to 15th February at [www.aeroflotchess.org](http://www.aeroflotchess.org).

### Result Round-up

Fenland Plate Final : 4th January 2012

Warboys	3	New England A	1
M Misson	½	F Bowers	½
B Duff	1	P Hanks	0
C Watkins	½	S Caraway	½
R Mann	1	M Dunkley	0

Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

Peterborough	3½	New England A	1½
A Timosenko	1	F Bowers	0
P Walker	1	P Hanks	0
R Ilett	½	P Turp	½
A Summers	½	M Dunkley	½
M Connolly	½	R Jones	½

Team 550 Competition

New England 1	3	Godmanchester	1
C Russell	1	A Rankine	0
P Spencer	1	J Wright	0
S Wozniak	0	J Bygrave	1
J Parker	1	A Buxton	0
Warboys N	2	New England 2	2
B Duff	½	P Turp	½
R Mann	1	R Jones	0
M Onyons	½	D Lane	½
D Wardle	0	M Tarabad	1
New England 2	2	Warboys N	2
S Caraway	0	B Duff	1
R Jones	½	C Watkins	½
D Lane	½	M Onyons	½
M Tarabad	1	K Harbour	0

New England Club Ladder

White		Black	
M Tarabad	0	D Lane	1
P Hanks	1	P Spencer	0
F Bowers	1	S Wozniak	0
H Currie	0	F Bowers	1
P Hanks	1	N Wedley	0
Pos	Player	Record <small>25/01/12</small>	
1	P Hanks	1,1,1,1	
2	P Spencer	½,½,1,½,1,0,1,0	
3	C Ross	1,1,1	
4	F Bowers	½,1,1,1,1,1,1	
5	S Caraway	½,0,1	
6	N Wedley	½,½,0,1,1,1,1,0,1,1,0	
7	H Currie	0,0	
8	D Lane	½,1,1	
9	R Jones		
10	S Walker	0,0,1,1	
11	M Tarabad	0,0,0	
12	P Turp	0	
13	I Garrett	1,0,0,0,0,0,0	
14	S Sitaram	1,0,1	
15	J Parker	0,½,0,0,0	
16	S Farrington	0,0	
17	S Wozniak	0,0,0	
18	M Dunkley		

New England Grand Prix

Player	Champ	Ladder	League	Cup	Team 550	Total
P Spencer	1	4½	2	0	3½	11
F Bowers	1	6½	1	2		10½
P Hanks	1½	4	2½	1	0	9
N Wedley	1	7				8
D Lane	1½	2½	0	0	3	7
R Jones	1½		2	½	2	6
P Turp	1	0	2		2½	5½
S Sitaram	1½	2	1½	0	½	5½
C Ross	1	3	1			5
J Parker	1	½		0	3	4½
S Caraway		1½	1	2	0	4½
M Tarabad	1	0	0		3	4
M Dunkley	1		2½	½		4
I Garrett	1	1		1		3
S Walker	0	2			0	2
C Russell	0				1½	1½
S Wozniak		0			0	0
H Currie	0	0				0
S Farrington	0	0				0

## Club Championship

Round 2			
S Sitaram (1)	½	½	D Lane (1)
R Jones (1)	½	½	P Hanks (1)
P Turp (1)	P	P	F Bowers (1)
M Tarabad (1)	P	P	M Dunkley (1)
I Garrett (0)	1	0	H Currie (0)
P Spencer (0)	1	0	S Walker (0)
C Russell (0)	0	1	N Wedley (0)
J Parker (0)	1	0	S Farrington (0)
Deadline : 22nd February. Next draw : 1st March Match night : 14th March			

## Eye Opener

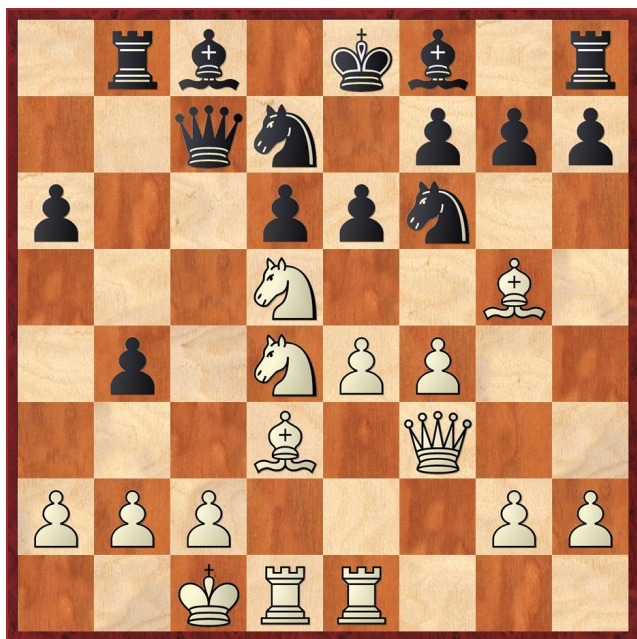
The Sicilian Defence always produces a crop of short games. Here, the doyen of Dutch chess succumbs.

**Carel Benjamin Van den Berg v Jan Hein Donner**  
Noordwijk, 1965

**1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Nbd7 8 Qf3 Qc7 9 0-0-0 Rb8**

Up to White's ninth move, we have been following a standard variation that has appeared in many games most notably by World Championship challenger Boris Gelfand. Donner later used it to defeat Spassky with 9 ... b5. Timman(2480) v Polugaevsky(2645), AVRO Hilversum, 1973 continued 9 ... b5 10 Bd3 Bb7 11 Rhe1 h6 12 Qh3 0-0-0 13 Bxf6 Nxf6 14 Nd5 Qa5 15 Nb3 1-0

**10 Bd3 b5 11 Rhe1 b4 12 Nd5**



**12 ... Qb7**

If 12 ... exd5, White quickly regains the piece with 13 exd5+ Be7 14 Nc6 with a continuing attack.

**13 Bxa6 1-0**

Obviously not 13 ... Qa8/Qxa6 14 Nc7+ but the other option 13 ... Qa7 also fails to 14 Nc6 Qc5 15 Nc7#

## Match of the Month

Last month, I was critical of an over-cautious approach particularly at the highest level. No-one seems willing to enter wild complications with the confidence to solve the problems better than your opponent. As a result, I felt obliged to adopt just such a style ... and it almost backfired!

### P Hanks v P Spencer

New England Club Ladder, 11.01.12

<b>1</b>	<b>d4</b>	<b>d5</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>c4</b>	<b>dxc4</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>e4</b>	<b>e5</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>d5</b>	

Grandmasters continue 4 Nf3 almost without hesitation. 4 ... exd4 5 Bxc4 Nc6 6 0-0 Be6 7 Bxe6 fxe6 8 Qb3 Qd7 9 Qxb7 Rb8 10 Qa6 has been tried recently but Jakovenko v Illescas Cordoba, Novi Sad 2009 ended in a draw after just 15 moves. We want more excitement than that, don't we?

<b>4</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>c6</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Bxc4</b>	<b>Nf6</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Nc3</b>	<b>Bb4</b>

The drawback with White's play is that Black could seize the initiative with 6 ... b5 7 Bb3 b4.

<b>7</b>	<b>f3</b>	<b>Nbd7</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>dxn6</b>	<b>Bxc3+</b>

I was hoping for the tactic 8 ... bxc6 9 Bxf7+ Kxf7 10 Qb3+ but it is not that simple! 10 ... Nd5 11 exd5 Nc5 12 Qc2 Qh4+ when Black has a strong initiative.

<b>9</b>	<b>bxc3</b>	<b>bxc6</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>Ba3</b>	<b>Nxe4</b>

This was totally unexpected and, I thought, unsound. But how do you prove it? I pondered for some time and came up with a "refutation".

<b>11</b>	<b>fxe4</b>	<b>Qh4+</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>g3</b>	

12 Kf1 was the safer option and was my "get out of gaol free" card if I found something wrong with my intended line of play. Fritz gives 12 Kf1 preference with White having an advantage equivalent to 2.5 pawns.

I had another think but could not see a flaw in my analysis so I did not look deeply into the alternative. I should have! As you will see, my imperfect vision should have made me take this alternative more seriously. Even so, it is still quite tricky to consolidate the material plus e.g. 12 Kf1 Qxe4

- 13 Bd3 Qd5 14 Qf3 is the professional response to rebuff Black's attack but that is hardly accepting the challenge. White should have great counterattacking opportunities with
- 13 Qb3 which was my first thought and after dismissing 13 ... Rb8, I felt happy but 13 ... Qf5+ (13 ... Qf4+ 14 Nf3 e4 15 Qa4 Qf6 16 Re1) 14 Nf3 e4 15 Re1 Kd8 16 Qb1 - not easy to see! - Nb6 17 Rxe4 Nxc4 requires strong nerves especially to find the recommended 18 Kf2

c) 13 Qa4 is an alternative to b) but no less complex with 13 ... Qf4+

1) 14 Ke1 when White is supposedly better despite an annoying series of checks 14 ... Qh4+ (14 ... Bb7 lets White use his superior development with 15 Ne2 and activity down the f file) 15 Ke2 Qg4+ 16 Kf2 Qh4+ 17 g3 Qf6+ 18 Kg2 Nb6

2) 14 Nf3 looks better but Black can hold with 14 ... Nb6 15 Qxc6+ Bd7 16 Qd6 Qxc4+ 17 Kf2 Qe6 (or maybe 17 ... 0-0-0)

**12 ... Qxe4+**  
**13 Be2**

I could have considered 13 Qe2 (but didn't - I had in mind a different target square for the queen) as 13 ... Qxh1 14 0-0-0 will win the black queen after 15 Nf3.

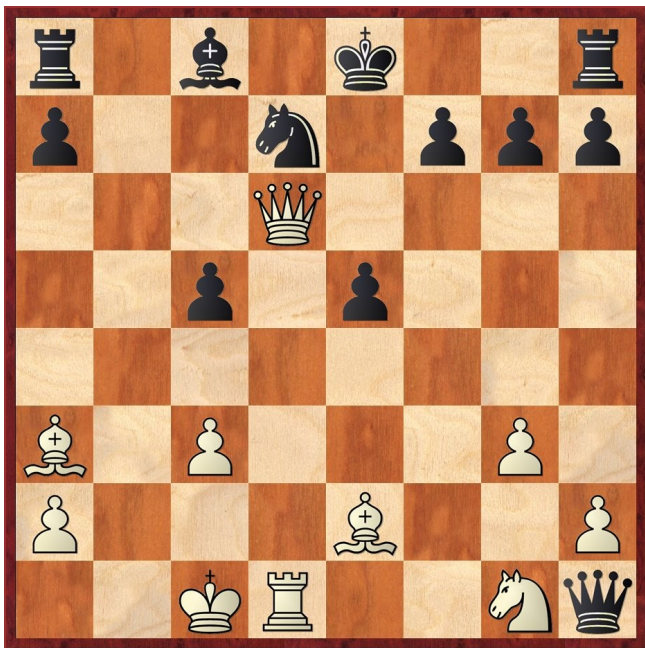
**13 ... Qxh1**  
**14 Qd6 c5**

14 ... Qxg1+ 15 Kd2 when Black is threatened with mate and his queen is en prise.

14 ... Kd8 only leads to checkmate by 15 Qe7+ Kc7 16 Bd6+ Kb6 (16 ... Kb7 17 Rb1#) 17 Rb1+ Ka5 18 Bc7+ Nb6 19 Qa3#. I found this at move 11 but missed the defence actually played.

**15 0-0-0**

Now, I was comfortable and looking forward to getting home early. None of Black's pieces have a useful move and 16 Bxc5 must win surely...



15 Bxc5 was best but still leaves White struggling to stay in the game after 15 ... Nxc5 16 Qxc5

a) 16 ... Qxh2 17 Bb5+ leaves White with a mating attack. Of course, it takes a computer to demonstrate this exhaustively but any human player can see the prospects for the exposed king are so dire that it would take a miracle to save him. In fact, I believe it is mate in 12 as follows :-

17 ... Bd7 (17 ... Kd8 18 Qd6+) 18 Bxd7+ Kxd7 19 0-0-0+ (Note that 19 Rd1+ is insufficient because the rook needs the freedom to move to the open f file.)

1) 19 ... Ke8 20 Qxe5+ Kf8 21 Qd6+ Ke8 (21 ... Kg8 22 Qd8+) 22 Re1+

2) 19 ... Ke6 20 Qc6+

20 ... Ke7 21 Rd7+ Ke8 (21 ... Kf8 22 Qxa8#) 22 Rxa7+ Kf8 23 Qxa8#)

20 ... Kf5 21 Rf1+ Kg4 (21 ... Kg5 22 Nf3+ wins the queen while leaving the mating net) 22 Qe4+

22 ... Kxg3 23 Rf3+ Kg2 24 Rxf7+ Kxg1 25 Qe3+ Kh1 (25 ... Kg2 26 Qf3+) 26 Rf1+ Kg2 27 Qf3#)

22 ... Kg5 23 Rf5+ Kh6 (23 ... Kg6 24 Qg4+) 24 Qe3+

22 ... Kh5 23 Rf5+ g5 24 g4+ Kh4 (24 ... Kh6 25 Qc6+ Kg7 26 Qf6+) 25 Nf3+ Kh3 26 Nxh2

A little practice in king-hunting!

b) 16 ... Qb7 17 Rd1 (17 Bf3 e4 18 Qe5+ Qe7) 17 ... Rb8 (17 ... f6 18 Bb5+ Kf7 19 Bc6; 17 ... a6 18 Qxe5+ Qe7 19 Qxg7)

**15 ... Qxh2**

Aha! I have overlooked Qh6+ swapping queens and bringing White's attack to a shuddering halt. Suddenly, I had to start looking for ways to save the game.

**16 Bf3**

White has a number of options here but 16 Kc2 solves nothing due to 16 ... Qxg3

**16 ... Rb8**

My opponent continues to defend calmly with the best moves. Drat! Now, even 17 Bxc5 is impossible.

**17 Bc6 Qh6+**  
**18 Qxh6 gxh6**  
**19 Bxc5**

Luckily, Bxa7 will leave the rook on b8 gasping for air and goes a little way to restore the material balance.

**19 ... Rb8**  
**20 Bxb6 axb6**  
**21 Nf3 f6**

21 ... Ke7 22 Bxd7 Bxd7 23 Nxe5 and I am starting to see a glimmer of drawing chances.

**22 Nh4 Ke7**

22 ... Kd8 does not look attractive but is possibly the best way to unravel Black's entanglement 23 Nf5 Kc7.

**23 Nf5+ Ke6**  
**24 g4**

24 Nxh6 was also available but with such active pieces, why not lay a little trap?

**24 ... Rd8**  
**25 Bd5#**

Sorry!

*Paul Hanks*