

NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – May 2013

Chairman's Chatter

We're on the home straight this month! Just a few events left and then we can ease into the Summer Masterclasses without the pressure of competition.

Paul Hanks

Diary Dates

We are finishing our league commitments and can schedule the remaining internal events as follows :-

1st May	New England B v Warboys C
8th May	Club Championship Round 5
15th May	Club Handicap
22nd May	Club Ladder / Championship reserve
29th May	Club Championship Round 6
5th June	Club Rapidplay
12th June	Problem night

The end-of-season Jamboree will take place on Thursday 19th May at Godmanchester Comrades Club. Please notify your captain about your availability so that we know how many teams to enter.

The East Anglian Chess Union holds its congress on 1st-2nd June at the Turner Hall, Newmarket. Email enquiries to richard@fcasolutions.co.uk.

Website to Watch

The next FIDE Grand Prix tournament, due from 22nd May to 4th June, is doubt due to financial problems.

A better bet may be the European Individual Chess Championship in Legnica, Poland from 5th to 16th May. You can follow the eleven rounds on <http://en.eicc2013.pl/index.php/live>.

Window on the Web

www.kasparov.com is the official website of Garry Kasparov. Not all of it is devoted to chess in view of his political career after giving up competitive chess. You can learn, however, that he started playing chess at the age of 5, became Soviet Junior Champion at 12, World Junior Champion at 17 and from the age of 22 was World Champion for 15 years, losing the title to Kramnik. The "Chess" link takes you to a page which has links to a gallery of Kasparov photos, a report on Kasparov presenting medals to two young gold medal winners at the World Youth Championship and a game he won in 50 moves against Karpov, included in honour of his 50th birthday. There are supposed to be "a few of his wins" posted but currently there is only one.

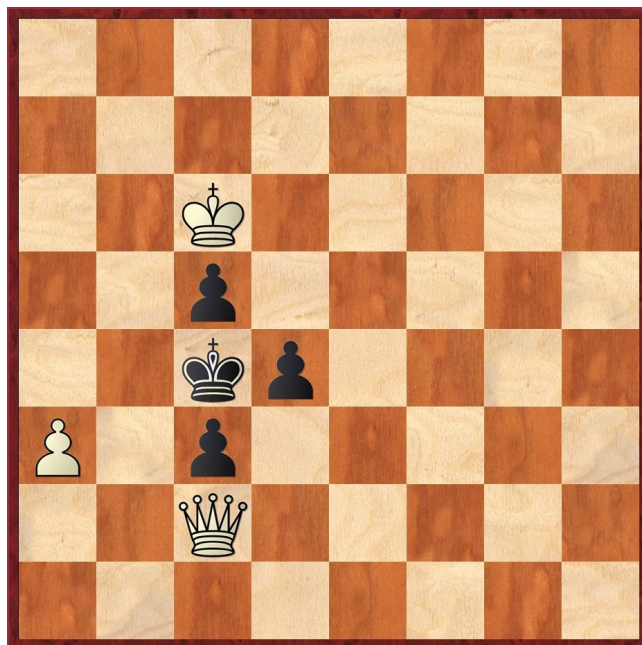
Vladimir Kramnik's website is at www.kramnik.com and includes a biography, interviews and photos. The largest part of the site is a database of his games, claimed to contain over 2,000 played between 1987 and May 2011. There is one page for each year, so

the average number of games per year is over 140 but the 2011 page, for example, has 47. By contrast, 1999, when he was more prolific, contains 202. The list of games on each page gives the opponent's name, the event, the date, the result and the ECO code enabling a search through the lists for particular openings. All the games can be played through. Some of them are annotated but most are not. The database features a large number of different openings.

Ron Jones

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



Last Month's solution

Position : 8/4p3/4K3/5p2/4k3/1P4Q1/2P5/8

1 b4 Kd4 2 Qd3# [1 ... f4 2 Qd3#]

Result Round-up

Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

New England A	3	Cambridge	2
C Ross	1	A Stewart	0
P Turp	½	R McCorry	½
S Caraway	0	C Davison	1
P Hanks	½	S Pride	½
P Spencer	1	C Roberts	0
Buckden B	0	New England B	4
C Hamilton	0	M Dunkley	1
C Money	0	P Spencer	1
B Taylor	0	D Lane	1
A Ellul	0	J Parker	1

New England B	4	Warboys C	0
R Jones	1	D E Fault	0
P Spencer	1	D E Fault	0
D Lane	1	D E Fault	0
J Parker	1	D E Fault	0

Fenland Plate

New England B	1½	Peterborough	2½
P Spencer	0	R Ilett	1
D Lane	1	G Ward	0
S Walker	½	M Connolly	½
M Tarabad	0	N Fisher	1

Team 550 Competition

Warboys N	2½	New England 1	1½
R Mann	0	F Bowers	1
B Duff	1	S Caraway	0
M Onyons	½	J Parker	½
K Harbour	1	I Garrett	0

St Neots	2½	New England 1	1½
A Chapman	½	P Hanks	½
R Gompelmann	1	P Spencer	0
C Emery	1	C Russell	0
M Friday	0	M Tarabad	1

New England Club Ladder

White		Black	
N Wedley	0	1	J Sadler
F Bowers	½	½	S Caraway

Position	Change		Player	Record 24/04/13
	Month	Overall		
1	-	+13	F Bowers	1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,1,½
2	-	+2	P Spencer	1,1,1,1,1,0
3	+8	+12	J Sadler	0,0,0,1
4	-1	+3	N Wedley	0,0,0,0,1,1,0,1,1,0
5	-1	+5	P Hanks	½,½,1,1,1
6	+1	+2	S Caraway	1,½,0,0,1,1,½
7	-2	+6	S Walker	1,0,0,0,1
8	+2	-2	M Tarabad	0
9	-3	-	D Lane	0,1
10	-2	+2	I Garrett	0,1,0,1,0,0,0,0,0,0
11	-2	-10	J Parker	0,1,0,0,0,0
12	-	-10	H Currie	0,0
13	-	+3	P O'Gorman	0,0
14	-	-9	P Turp	1
15	-	-12	R Jones	
16	-	-5	S Wozniak	½

Club Championship

Round 3			
J Sadler (0)	1	0	N Wedley (1)
H Currie (0)	P	P	P O'Gorman (0)

Round 4			
P Turp (2½)	1	0	R Jones (2)
M Dunkley (2½)	½	½	F Bowers (2½)
S Walker (2½)	0	1	P Hanks (2½)
C Russell (1½)	0	1	S Caraway (2)
N Wedley (1)	1	0	P Spencer (1)
D Lane (1)	1	0	J Parker (1)
J Sadler (1)	P	P	P O'Gorman (0+P)
H Currie (0+P)	P	P	I Garrett (0)
Match night : 17th April. Deadline : 30th April. Next draw : 1st May			

Round 5			
P Hanks (3½)			P Turp (3½)
S Caraway (3)			M Dunkley (3)
F Bowers (3)			S Walker (2½)
R Jones (2)			N Wedley (2)
P Spencer (1)			D Lane (2)
J Parker (1)			C Russell (1½)
H Currie (0+2P)			J Sadler (1+P)
P O'Gorman (0+2P)			I Garrett (0+P)
Match night : 8th May. Deadline : 26th May. Next draw : 28th May			

New England Grand Prix

Player	Champ	Ladder	League	Cup	Team 550	Total
F Bowers	3	11½	3½	1	1	20
D Lane	2	1	7	1½	5½	17
P Spencer	1	5	8½	0	1½	16
P Hanks	3½	4	5	1	2	15½
S Caraway	3	4	4	1½	3	15½
P Turp	3½	1	4½	1	3	13
M Dunkley	3	-	6	½	2½	12
J Parker	1	1	5		4½	11½
S Walker	2½	2	3	½	2	10
R Jones	1		4½	0	3½	9
N Wedley	2	4				6
C Russell	1½	-			1½	3

I Garrett	0	2	0		½	2½
S Wozniak	-	½			2	2½
J Sadler	1	1			0	2
M Tarabad	-	0		0	1	1
H Currie	0	0				0
P O'Gorman	0	0				0

Serious Study

It is easy to see why the Najdorf Variation of the Sicilian Defence (1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6) is such a combative opening. White's natural theatre of operations is on the kingside whereas Black's arena is on the opposite flank and both sides go for a direct attack on the enemy king.

In the March and April 2013 issues of the New Englander newsletter, we examined continuations with 6 Bc4 and saw how this invites Black's counterplay with b7-b5-b4. This third study module asks whether White can enjoy advancing the kingside pawns without putting his pieces in harm's way on the queenside. Step forward the English Attack 6 Be3.

What are the benefits and disadvantages of leaving the light-squared bishop at home for the time being?

- Picture the black pawn advancing to b4. If the white bishop were played to c4, the pawn would force it to retreat to b3 and when the knight on c3 is attacked, it is vulnerable to being trapped if it jumps to a4. Without the bishop, the knight on a4 could be supported by b2-b3 when the retreat Na4-b2 becomes available with a solid queenside pawn structure. I could even sell you a later Bf1-c4 as having both attacking and defensive intent!
- White does not lose a tempo reaching the desired diagonal if Bf1-c4 comes after b5-b4
- White retains the flexibility to develop the bishop alternatively on d3 or after the g pawn advances, on g2 or h3
- Black can occupy the diagonal first with e7-e5 and Bc8-e6. Indeed, this is the most popular response currently
- Fischer's tactics f2-f4-f5 are taken out of the equation but the line still has some terrors :

N Dukic (2525) v Palac (2604)
Sarajevo 2012

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	cx d4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	a6
6	Be3	e6
7	g4	e5
8	Nf5	g6
9	g5	gxf5
10	exf5	



I was very surprised to see play continue

10 ... d5
11 Qf3 Ne4

The tactical pitfalls thus avoided include 11 gxf6 d4 12 Bc4 dxe3 (12 ... Qc7!) 13 Bxf7+ and White can even try 11 Qf3 d4 12 0-0-0 Nfd7 (12 ... Nbd7!) 13 Bxd4 exd4 14 Re1+ Be7 15 f6 dxc3 16 Rxe7+ Kf8 17 Rxf7+ Kxf7 18 Qd5+ with a mating attack.

From the diagram, surely Black can retreat the attacked knight and maintain a healthy material plus?

- After 10 ... Nfd7 however, White has 11 Qh5 and suddenly the congestion in Black's position makes it hard to defend f7 after 12 Bc4.
 - 11 ... Be7 12 Bc4 Rf8 13 0-0-0 Nc6 14 Ne4 and Black cannot hope to survive
 - 11 ... Qe7 12 Bc4 Kd8 13 Bxf7 and the threat of f6 regains the piece 13 .. e4 14 0-0-0 Nc6 15 f6 Qe5 16 Rd5
 - 11 ... e4 12 0-0-0 with a massive attack
- 10 ... Ng8 is slightly better. 11 Nd5 Nd7 (11 ... Bxf5 12 Bb6 Qxg5 13 Nc7+) is given as level by the computer but how does Black develop?

This Perenyi Gambit must be standard stuff at grandmaster level but contains plenty of practical chances for club players.

In Volume 1 of *Garry Kasparov's Greatest Chess Games* by Igor Stohl, an annotated game contains the remark "... a continuation that was only just beginning to steal the limelight in 1993. The English Attack at that time [was] little more than an aggressive and interesting sideline..." By Volume 2, it was probably the most hotly contested opening. Let's analyse the characteristics of the opening.

1 e4 c5
2 Nf3 d6
3 d4 cx d4
4 Nxd4 Nf6

5 Nc3 a6
6 Be3

There is an alternative at this point - 6 f3.

- It often transposes back into the main line though 6 ... Qb6 is a continuation with independent significance. In the latter case, White's main options are the unforced but imminent retreat 7 Nb3 or to try to show Black has merely blocked his own queenside advance by pressing on with 7 g4.
- It avoids the irritating 'reconnaissance manoeuvre'. After 6 Be3 Ng4 and the threat to obtain the bishop pair by Nxe3, Black forces White to choose between a) repetition 7 Bc1 Nf6 8 Be3, b) transposition 7 Bc1 Nf6 8 f3 or c) a new direction with 7 Bg5. We shall be looking at this latter development in a separate article but mostly in conditions in which White can exchange the bishop for the knight on f6. Here this is not available and the game can continue 7 ... h6 8 Bh4 g5 9 Bg3 Bg7 10 Be2 h5 (but not 10 f3?? Ne3 11 Qd2 Bxd4 12 Qxd4 Nxc2). Paradoxically, the danger is coming from Black's advancing kingside!
- It is the move order favoured by Anand and Topalov.

6 ... e6

As stated previously, Black has a major alternative and more fashionable alternative in 6 ... e5. This move is the trademark of the classical Najdorf and relies on the fact that Black has adequate defence for the weak pawn on d6. Rather than giving a detailed analysis, I will give later an illustrative game with this line and compare and contrast it with the text move.

With the pawn on e6, the variation goes under the title Scheveningen/Najdorf Variation and its raison d'être is the use of the pawn to make the white knights think twice before jumping to d5 or f5.

7 f3 b5

The consensus is that Black should strive for queenside counterplay immediately as with the Sozin Variations considered previously.

8 g4

In the study module for the Velimirovic Attack, there was a discussion about the best placement for the white queen. Since Qd1-e2 would block the undeveloped light-squared bishop, it is not yet available but Qd1-d2 is often seen almost interchangeably with the text move.

- One advantage of leaving her majesty at home is the flexibility to play 9 Rg1. This appears to support the advance of the g pawn but also has the hidden point of having two pieces protecting the g4 square. If Black plays casually 8 ... Nbd7 9 Rg1 Ne5, White has the opportunity to play 10 f4 because capturing on g4 gives great compensation after 10 ...

Nexg4 11 Rxg4 Nxg4 12 Qxg4 e5 13 Nf5 g6 14 0-0-0.

- On the other hand, it is claimed that 8 Qd2 has the effect of delaying b5-b4 because after Nc3-a4, Black has to attend to the threat of Qd2xb4. I am not convinced by the argument as having your opponent's queen flaunting herself on open files in front of her consort is a prize for which Black may well sacrifice a pawn. The critical game to study is probably Anand v Kasimdzhanov, Leon 2005.

8 ... h6

Black holds up the advance and White responds by trying to reinstate the threat by normal development.

9 Qd2 Nbd7
10 0-0-0 Bb7
11 h4 b4
12 Na4 Qa5
13 b3 Nc5
14 a3

This is a typical sequence that has occurred in several games with variations usually based on the older move 12 Nce2 or for Black, d6-d5 on either move 12 or 13. The mainline continues

14 ... Nxa4 15 axb4 Qc7 16 bxa4 d5 17 e5 Nd7 18 f4 Nb6

when White has a choice between the attacking 19 f5 which is thought to lead to a draw and the defensive 19 Rh3. Kasparov and Topalov faced each other in this position with either colour so it must give chances to both sides!

Here is an example of an alternative strategy.

Inarkiev (2689) v Kovchan (2565)
 Moscow 2012

1 e4 c5
2 Nf3 d6
3 d4 cxd4
4 Nxd4 Nf6
5 Nc3 a6
6 Be3 e5

In place of the flexible 6 ... e6, Black tries a rigid formation which trusts the static strength of the e5, d6 pawn chain and their supporting pieces. White's advance f2/3-f4 can be ignored since f4xe5 is adequately answered by d6xe5 and the black king can happily sit in the centre behind his pawns until the king's rook is needed. In the long term, the elimination of e4-e5 adds value to the central break d6-d5. Furthermore, it forces White into an early strategic decision...

7 Nb3

This move is played more frequently than 7 Nf3 or 7 Ne2 possibly because it is similarly available after the move order 6 f3 e5 and you only deal with one system. That said, it places another piece on the queenside when the motivation of the English Attack is to leave that flank vacant ahead of Black's advancing pawns. After 7 Nf3, the position takes on

more of the character of a symmetric king's pawn game and is noticeably more peaceful.

7	...	Be6
8	f3	h5

Black tries to spike White's thematic thrust g2-g4 but I believe it is based on a logical flaw. The pawn on h5 requires a rook on h8 to support it but if you have not castled, why fear a kingside advance?

9	Qd2	Nbd7
10	0-0-0	Rc8
11	Kb1	b5

11 ... Be7 is the main move. Black tries to save a tempo thinking the bishop protects d6 equally from f8 and e7. The piece development is necessary, however, to give the black king an escape route.

12 g3

A useful ply which bolsters f3-f4 and in the longer term, allows Bf1-g2 supporting an invasion of the d5 square.

12	...	Nb6
13	f4	b4

The recommendation to continue weakening White's queenside is 13 ... Na4.

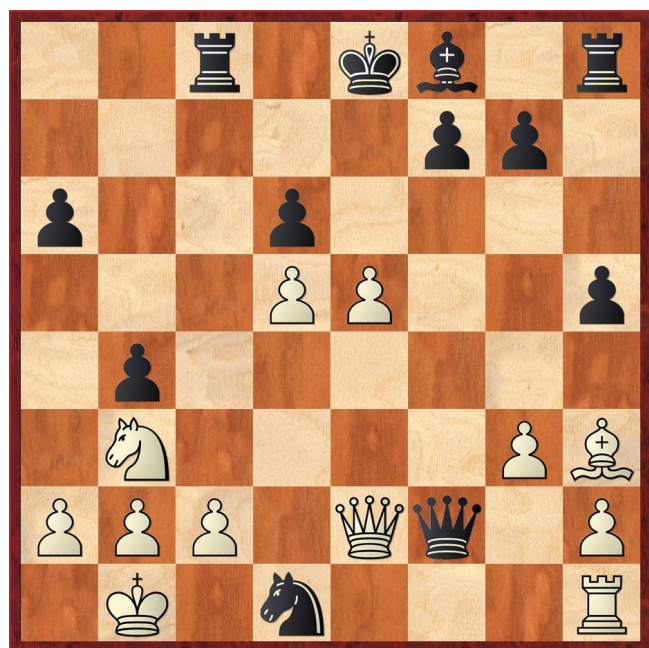
14	Bxb6	Qxb6
15	Nd5	Bxd5

Black hands his opponent a comfortable advantage after 15 ... Nxd5 16 exd5 Bd7 17 Re1 and has few prospects of counterplay. Instead, he further neglects his development, leaves the pawn chain with little support and goes on a raid using only part of his army.

16	exd5	Ne4
17	Qe2	Nf2
18	fxe5	Nxd1
19	Bh3	

Not 19 exd6+ when 19 ... Ne3 gives sufficient shelter.

19	...	Qf2
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20	exd6+	Qxe2
21	d7+	Ke7

You reap the rewards of solving chess problems after 21 ... Kd8 when there are simple mates by 22 dxc8Q+ Ke7 23 d6+ Kxd6 (23 ... Kf6 24 Qf5#) 24 Qc5#.

22	dxc8Q	Ne3
23	Qc7+	Kf6
24	Qf4+	1-0

White has a winning attack.

- 24 ... Kg6 25 Nd4 Qd2 26 Bf5+ Kf6 27 Be6+ Kg6 [27 ... Ke7 28 Nc6+ Ke8 29 Qxf7#] 28 Bxf7+ Kh7 29 Qe4+
- 24 ... Ke7 25 Nd4 Qd2 (25 ... Qc4 26 Qe5+ Kd8 27 Nc6+) 26 Nc6+ Ke8 27 Qb8#

At club level, we still know the main themes but often do not have the knowledge of the variations, lack the confidence to push ahead immediately and make more preparatory moves. Note below that g2-g4 appears on move 15 whereas grandmasters try to engineer it earlier.

F J Bowers v R Mann

New England A v Warboys A, 27.02.2013

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	d4	cxld4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	d6
6	f3	e5
7	Nb3	Be6
8	Be3	Be7
9	Qd2	a6

Not quite the classic move order but White has played the same first 9 moves as Inarkiev v Kovchan and Black's major deviation is the placement of his queen's knight.

10	Nd5	Nd7
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Black must continue to contest the d5 square.

11	0-0-0	Rc8
12	Kb1	Bxd5
13	exd5	Ncb8

Black continues passively when 13 ... Nd4 will give up a pawn but give compensation.

14	Bd3	0-0
15	g4	

White rightly grabs the initiative on the kingside while Black is still trying to untangle his pieces.

15	...	Nb6
16	h4	N8d7
17	g5	f5
18	f4	Nc4

The computer thinks this is premature and prefers 18 ... Qc7.

19	Bxc4	Rxc4
20	fxe5	Nxe5

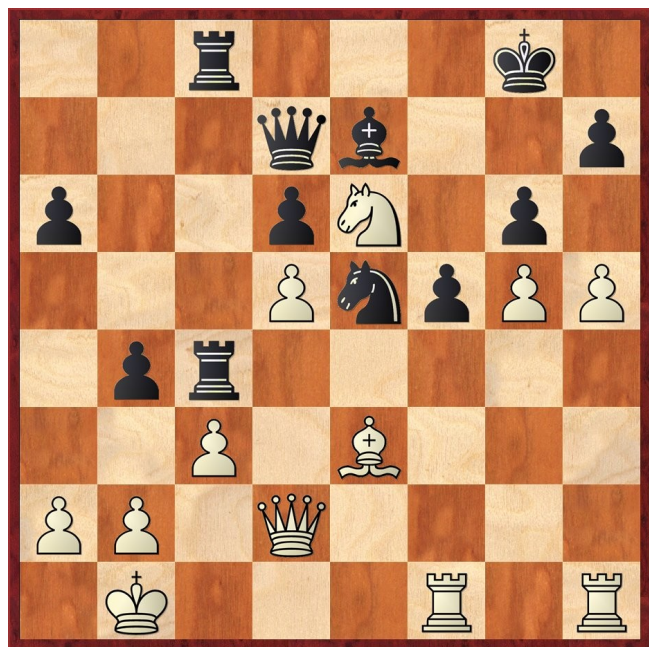
Black has to give an entry point at e6 because 20 ... dxe5 21 d6

21	Nd4	Qd7
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22	Ne6	Rfc8
23	c3	b5
24	Rdf1	g6

I think I would ignore the threat to f5 and continue 24 ... b4 25 cxb4 (25 Rxf5 bxc3 26 bxc3 (26 Qe2 Qb7) 26 ... Rxc3 27 Rhf1 h5 28 g6 Bf6) 25 ... Qa4 when both sides have to worry about their king's safety.

25	h5	b4
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Now White's pawnstorm arrives first.

26	hxg6	bxc3
27	Qh2	

Sadly (for Black), he has no time for 27 ... c2+ 28 Kc1 (28 Ka1 c1Q+ 29 Bxc1 is also OK for White) 28 ... Nd3+ 29 Kd2 c1Q+ because 30 Rxc1 Rxc1 31 Qxh7#.

27	...	Bf8
28	g7	1-0

A nice interference theme to finish. 28 ... Bxg7 [28 ... Kf7 29 Rxf5+ Ke7 (29 ... Ke8 30 gxf8Q#) 30 g8N+ Ke8 31 Rxf8#] 29 Qxh7+ Kf7 30 Qxg7+ Ke8 31 Qf8#

Eye Opener

P Hanks v S Pride
New England A v Cambridge, 10.04.2013

1	d4	c5
2	Nf3	

I try to avoid a standard Benoni (2 d5) and its very sharp standard variations but this is not the way.

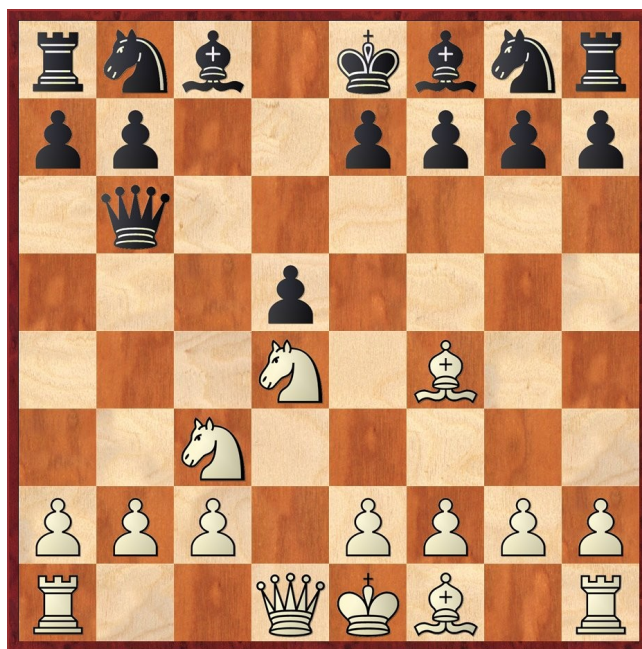
2	...	cxg4
3	Nxd4	d5
4	Bf4	

At this point, I realised I was not yet thinking properly and playing some very poor moves. Already, Black could claim some advantage after 4 ... f6 and I was unsure how I would continue. Thankfully, my opponent did not put me to the test.

4	...	Qb6
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Bad play by both sides can lead to interesting positions!

5	Nc3
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I analysed 5 ... Qxb2 6 Ndb5 and felt the threats at c7 and b1 were sufficient e.g. 6 ... Na6 7 Rb1 but I was worried about missing a deflection such as 6 ... e5 7 Bxe5 Bf5 but 8 Rb1 Qxc2 leaves a choice of 9 Nc7+ or 9 Qxd5. Finally, I could not see to the end of 6 ... Qb4 7 Nc7+ Kd8 when I can win the rook in the corner but might not be able to save my minor pieces (8 Nxa8 Qxc3+ 9 Bd2 Qc6 when the trapped knight will eventually be lost). With the power of a computer, you can see that the best move is 8 N7xd5 when Black struggles to find a square for his queen that avoids a disastrous discovered check e.g. 8 ... Qc5 9 Bc7+ Kd7 (9 ... Ke8 10 Nf6+) 10 Ne4.

5	...	e6
6	Ndb5	Na6
7	e4	Bc5
8	Qd2	Ne7
9	Na4	Qc6
10	Nxc5	Qxc5
11	Nd6+	

Now I stop following what the computer says is the best line - 11 Bd6. This also prevents castling due to 11 ... Qb6 12 Qg5 - I missed this - 12 ... Ng6 13 exd5 exd5 (13 ... f6 14 Qh5 exd5 15 Bd3) 14 0-0-0 Be6 15 Bd3 with a massive attack against the central king.

11	...	Kf8
12	e5	

Again, not an optimal move as 12 0-0-0 uses the back rank mate to prevent 12 ... dxe4 13 Nxe4 Qd5 14 Qc3. I still have a healthy advantage but now the way forward is not as clear as the foregoing aggressive play and eventually the game was drawn.