

NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – July 2013

Chairman's Chatter

The solstice is past but there is still time to improve your game before the darker nights herald the start of the new season. Masterclass clinics will continue through the summer and this issue also directs you to some interesting web resources. No excuses then!

Paul Hanks

Diary Dates

Here are some advance dates to note :

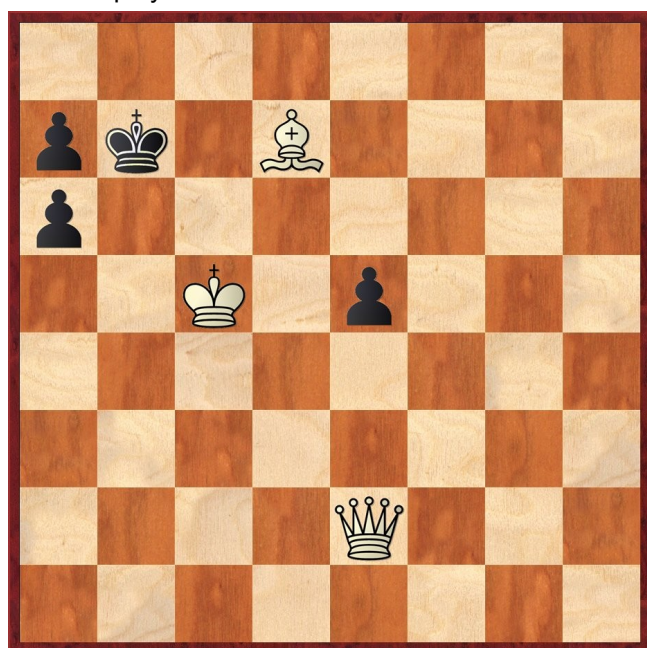
10 th September	League North v South match at Godmanchester
12 th September	County Executive Committee Meeting
2 nd & 3 rd November	County Individual Championship at Fenstanton

Website to Watch

Just as I was about to say that the Grand Prix events to decide the next world championship challenger were back to their scheduled venues, it has changed again. For Berlin, read Beijing! The tournament is due to be held from 3rd to 17th July but it was still remarkably difficult to find references to the website <http://beijing2013.fide.com>.

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 3



Last Month's solution

Position : 3q4/5Q2/4N1P1/1R1p3/2B1kp2/1n3N1R/5P1K/8

1 Nfd4 Qxd4 2 Ng5# [1 ... Nxd4 2 Nxc5#; 1 ... cxd4 2 Bd3#; 1 ... exd4 2 Qxf4#; 1 ... Qf6/Qg5 2 Qb7#; 1 ... other 2 Qf5#].

Note that 1 Ned4 Qxd4 2 Ng5# (1 ... Nxd4 2 Nd2#; 1 ... cxd4 2 Rxe5#; 1 ... exd4 2 Qe6#; 1 ... Qf6/Qg5 2 Qd5#; 1 ... other? 2 Qf5#) though similar, fails to 1 ... Qd7.

Window on the Web

<http://www.chessvideos.tv/> is a site well worth visiting. It is similar to chesslecture.com which I reviewed in November 2011, but it contains forums and even more videos, claiming to have the most available on the web. In fact one of the main contributors of videos to chessvideos.tv is FM Dennis Monokroussos who also produces videos for chesslecture.com.

The vast majority of the videos are free to view, but recently a small charge was introduced for those deemed to have "premium" content, i.e. those by FM Monokroussos. Membership is not necessary to view most videos and other content, but registration is free, quick and easy, allowing you to post new topics in the forums and comment on existing discussions.

There are thousands of videos of various lengths on the site available to view, suitable for players of all strengths, from *Beginner Chess Strategy Videos* to *Master Hangout* videos, which contain commentary on a game in progress or analysis of a past game, by one of the many masters who contribute to the site. There are also strategy videos aimed at the intermediate or advanced player. The section *Training Videos from the Masters* features instructional analysis by titled players, including GM Josh Friedel (who is also a contributor to chesslecture.com). There is an extensive library of *Endgame Videos*, covering pretty much everything from basic pawn endings to endings with various pieces.

Guides and free software are provided to enable any member who wishes to do so to record their own chess videos analysing their own games and post them to the *Game Analysis Videos* area of the site.

Various chess tools are offered - *Diagram Generator* which can be used to post a specific position to a blog to this or another site, *Endgame Simulator* for practising typical endgames against the Crafty chess engine, *Game Replayer* which converts PGN files of past games into a replayable format that can be posted and *Visualisation Trainer* which provides exercises against the clock with no board, to hone your visualisation skills.

This site is so large I can only offer an overview here. If you are looking for web-based chess instruction and have the time to spare why not have a look?

Ron Jones

Result Round-up

Club Handicap : 15th May 2013

Pos	Player	Round					Pts
		1	2	3	4	5	
1=	J Sadler	0	1	1	1	1	4
	P Spencer	1	1	1	0	1	
	F Bowers	1	1	0	1	1	
4	S Caraway	1	0	1	1	0	3
5	P O'Gorman	0	0	½	1	1	2½
6	I Garrett	0	1	0	1	0	2
7	N Wedley	1	0	0	0	0	1
8	B Sadler	0	0	½	0	0	½

Problem Night : 12th June 2013

Pos	Pair	Rd 1	Rd 2	Tot
1	S Walker & J Sadler	20	16	36
2	D Lane & N Wedley	16	16	32
3	F Bowers & B Sadler	20	10	30
4	M Tarabad & C Russell	16	12	28
5	P Turp & I Garrett	12	5	17

Club Championship

Round 5			
P Spencer (1)	0	1	D Lane (2)

Round 6			
S Walker (2½)	0	1	D Lane (3)

Pos	Player	Round						Pts
		1	2	3	4	5	6	
1=	F Bowers	1	1	½	½	1	1	5
	P Turp	1	1	½	1	1	½	5
3	S Caraway	1	0 _d	1	1	1	½	4½
4=	D Lane	0	1	0	1	1	1	4
	M Dunkley	1	½	1	½	0	1	4
6=	P Hanks	1	1	½	1	0	0	3½
	C Russell	1	½	0	0	1	1 _d	3½
8	J Sadler	0	0	1	-	1 _d	1	3
9=	N Wedley	1	0	0	1	½	0	2½
	S Walker	½	1	1	0	0	0	2½
	R Jones	½	1 _d	½	0	½	0 _d	2½
12=	P Spencer	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
	P O'Gorman	0	0	1 _d	-	1	0	2
	J Parker	0	0	1	0	0	1 _d	2
13	I Garrett	0	0	0	1 _d	0	0	1
14	H Curry	0	0	0 _d	0 _d	0 _d	0 _d	0

New England Grand Prix

Player	Champ	Ladder	League	Cup	Team 550	Total
F Bowers	5	13½	3½	1	1	24
D Lane	4	1	7	1½	5½	19
P Spencer	2	6	8½	0	1½	18
S Caraway	4½	5	4	1½	3	18
P Hanks	3½	4	5	1	2	15½
P Turp	5	1	4½	1	3	14½
M Dunkley	4	-	6	½	2½	13
J Parker	1	1	5		4½	11½
S Walker	2½	2	3	½	2	10
R Jones	1½		4½	0	3½	9½
N Wedley	2½	5				7½
C Russell	2½	-			1½	4
J Sadler	2	1			0	3
S Wozniak	-	½			2	2½
I Garrett	0	2	0		½	2½
M Tarabad	-	0		0	1	1
H Currie	0	0				0
P O'Gorman	1	0				1

Club Rapidplay : 5th June 2013

Pos	Player	Rd 1	Rd 2	Rd 3	Rd 4	Tot
1=	F Bowers	1	1	1	½	3½
	S Caraway	1	1	1	½	
3=	D Lane	1	0	1	1	3
	P Hanks	1	1	0	1	
5=	J Sadler	0	1	0	1	2
	N Wedley	1	0	0	1	
	S Walker	1	0	1	0	
	P Spencer	0	1	0	1	
9=	M Tarabad	0	1	0	0	1
	I Garrett	0	0	1	0	
	J Parker	0	0	0	1	
12	P O'Gorman	0	0	0	0	0

Serious Study

“At last!” I hear you cry. We have reached 6 Bg5 in our study of the Najdorf Sicilian (1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6). The continuation in this article was once regarded as the main line of the variation and in my formative years, it (and occasionally 6 Bc4) was all that would be seen in books and newspaper columns. Certainly, this was due in part to the preference for publications to feature short, sharp games but the patronage of Keres, Tal and Spassky is a recommendation to take seriously.

With such a heritage, 6 Bg5 has accumulated a vast body of theory that would be impossible to cover in an encyclopaedic work let alone a newsletter article. We have to put our faith in the verdicts of grandmaster commentators so let's see what an expert has to say.

“The Najdorf variation 6 Bg5 Nbd7 has been in fashion for the last two years. I think not only because the move 6 ... Nbd7 is the strongest one but mostly because other variations have caused satiety being elaborated much more. Black tried all the moves after 6 ... e6 7 f4 and only 7 ... Qb6 can be played according to latest theory The move 6 ... Nbd7 is pretty elastic, Black keeps a possibility to pay e7-e5 in one move, or with g6 perhaps change into Dragon (Najdorf hybrid) or move into well-known positions with e6.” I Ivanisevic (2628) in 2010 (*Informator 110*)

This guidance supports the fundamental logic of the position :

- by playing the bishop to g5, White must be prepared to part with the bishop pair on f6. It would wreck Black's pawn structure and make the kingside too draughty for the black monarch to take up residence even though his alternatives are also compromised.
- Black can submit to White's intentions e.g. 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Qc7 8 Qf3 b5 9 Bxf6 gxf6. Classically, White has a decent position – a development advantage, central presence and a weakness on f6 to target. He just has to decide whether to hold up the disruptive b5-b4 with 10 a3 and risk being exposed there later or to go for a rapid initiative with 10 0-0-0.
- if Black wishes to avoid having to recapture with g7xf6, the choices are
 - e7-e6 followed by Bf8-e7 breaking the pin and giving the black queen some mobility
 - the aforesaid Nb8-d7 either immediately or after some moves of the previous line to untangle the logjam of pieces on the dark squares
 - playing the joker with Qd8-b6 with a counterattack against the pawn on b2 albeit at the cost of development time. Again, Black has a choice as to when the punch is landed.

The last of these three is the most provocative and leads directly to tactical sequences. Fischer liked the

materialistic “Poisoned Pawn” line and backed his judgement with a sting of fine results. Tellingly, none reaches his epic anthology “*My 60 Memorable Games*” because Black has elected to suffer a long and desperate defence. Typical tactics include

C H O'D Alexander v Walther
Dublin, 1957

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6 6 Bg5 e6 7 f4 Qb6 8 Qd2

8 a3 Qxb2 9 Na4 is a crude, standard trap whereas 8 Qd3 is an offbeat option that became fashionable around 2008.

8 ... **Qxb2**
9 **Rb1**

9 Nb3 is another variant used to great effect by Spassky in the 1972 World Championship match.

9 ... **Qa3**
10 **e5** **dxe5**
11 **fxe5** **Nfd7**
12 **Ne4** **Qa4**

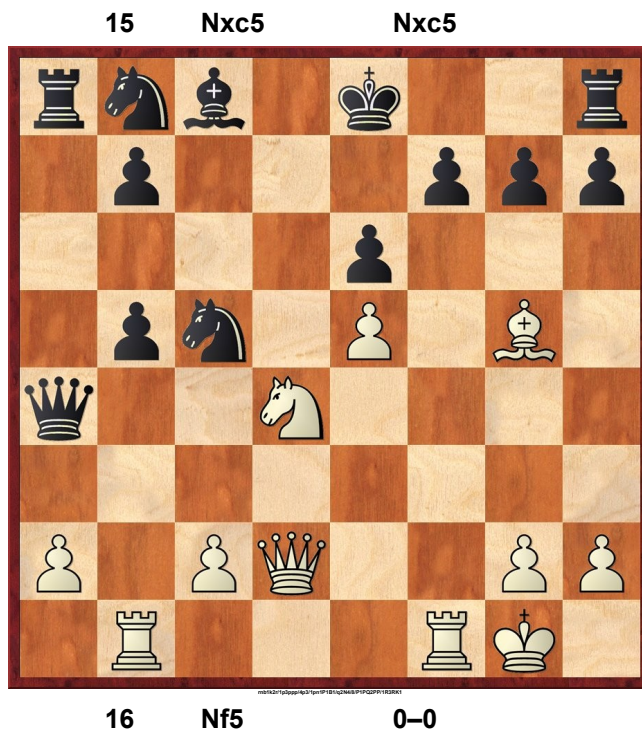
So far, this is a textbook variation but the currently accepted continuation runs 12 ... h6 13 Bh4 Qxa2 14 Rd1 Qd5 15 Qe3 Qxe5 16 Be2 Bc5 which Anand has played with both colours.

13 **Bb5**

A sacrifice purely to gain time for development and king safety. Black's problem around moves 12–14 is that the threats are not immediate and the array of defences bewildering.

13 ... **axb5**
14 **0-0** **Bc5**

14 ... Ba3 is the computer's initial try for an advantage but after 15 Nxe6 Qxe4 (15 ... fxe6?? 16 Nd6+) 16 Nxg7+ Kf8 17 e6, it starts to favour White. Now comes a neat execution.



17 Ne7+ Kh8
 18 Rxf7 Nbd7
 19 Qf2 Rg8
 20 Rf4

when Black cannot both save his queen and prevent 21 Ng6+.

For players without thorough preparation (naming no names), games like these are generally easier for the attacker to play. Reviewing the 2010 Wijk aan Zee tournament, Jan Timman remarked "In the main group, there were seven games with 6 Bg5 And there wasn't a single game with the Poisoned Pawn. I find this strange since I do not know exactly what the best way is for White to tackle this system. Apparently, no-one at the highest level had the courage to try it, undoubtedly because the computers have found deep variations that are not satisfactory for Black." *New in Chess* magazine 2010/2

So what are the more sedate alternatives?

- Conventionally, White continues with f2-f4, Qd1-f3, 0-0-0 and tries to attack with e4-e5 or f4-f5. The latter is sometimes criticised as producing gridlock if White cannot swiftly exploit the hole at d5 that appears after Black's e6-e5
- Similarly, Black has some familiar responses b7-b5, Bc8-b7 Qd8-c7 (or a5) with counterplay on the queenside starting b5-b4 also with pressure against e4
- White wishes to enjoy the flexibility of deploying his rooks either on the centre files or the kingside according to the focus of the assault. As a result, where White's light-squared bishop goes becomes critical.
 - On c4, play reverts to the Sozin set-up examined in the March and April issues with pressure on e6 often culminating in sacrifices there
 - On d3, the bishop supports f4-f5 and will eventually hit h7 but it blocks the rook that is restraining Black's pawn break d6-d5
 - On e2, it blocks the e file and if the white queen follows Rauzer's advice and sits on d2, the bishop will hinder her from reaching the kingside files
 - On g2 or h3, it may assist with tactics on the long diagonals but again impedes opening files after a kingside pawnstorm

Perhaps it is best not to be too dogmatic and let the bishop choose its home to respond best to Black's development

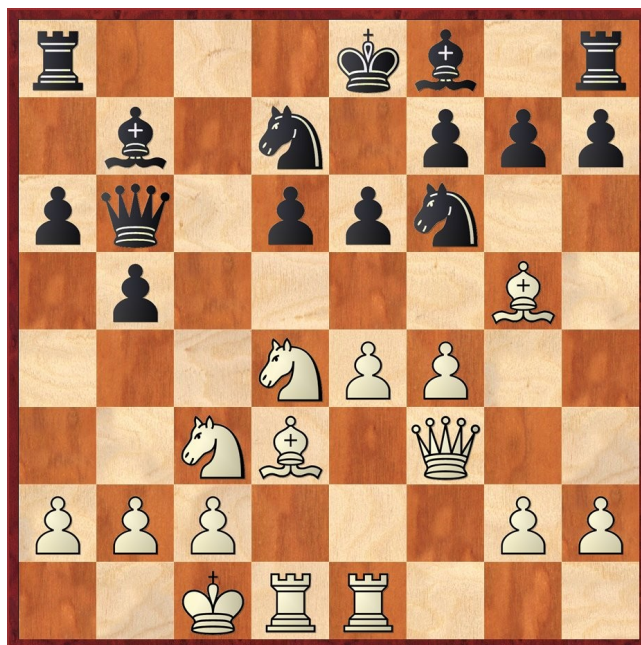
- Black needs to guard against Nc3-d5 ripping open the centre files against his uncastled king

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 b5
 10 Bd3 Bb7
 11 Rhe1

So far, both sides are obeying the formula and Black's next move introduces the Gelfand Variation.

11 ... Qb6



12 Nd5

This is the sharp response which might come as a shock if unprepared.

12 ... Qxd4

As 12 ... Nxd5 13 exd5 leaves White with a dream position (without a material deficit due to 13 ... Qxd4 14 Rxe6 fxe6 15 Qh5+), Black has to be careful e.g. 12 ... exd5 13 Nc6 dxe4 (13 ... Bxc6 14 exd5+) 14 Bxe4 Nc5 15 Bxf6 gxf6 16 Bd5+ Kd7 17 Qh5 Kc7 (17 ... Bxc6 18 Qxf7+ Kc8 (18 ... Kd8 19 Qxf6+) 19 Bxc6 Qxc6 20 Re8+)

13 Bxf6 gxf6

13 ... Nxf6 14 Bxb5+

14 Bxb5 Qc5
 15 b4 Qa7

15 ... Qc8 16 Bxd7+; 15 ... Qxb5 16 Nc7

16 Nxf6+

I suppose I have fallen into the same trap as the published games. White has developed aggressively and can unleash some unpleasant tactics. Opening theory gives assessments of equality or unclear positions with best play but for Black, it does assume good knowledge of the variations, a keen eye for traps and deep analytical skills. Good luck!