

# NEW ENGLANDER

## Chess Club Update – January 2015

### Chairman's Chatter

From what you read here, you may think I am getting rather whimsical but I am a great believer in tradition. It was saddening then to miss my usual visit to the London Chess Classic due to the re-timed sessions.

Another tradition, however, was gratefully observed and Phil Turp again provided the sumptuous catering at the Christmas Special. Many thanks from the club.

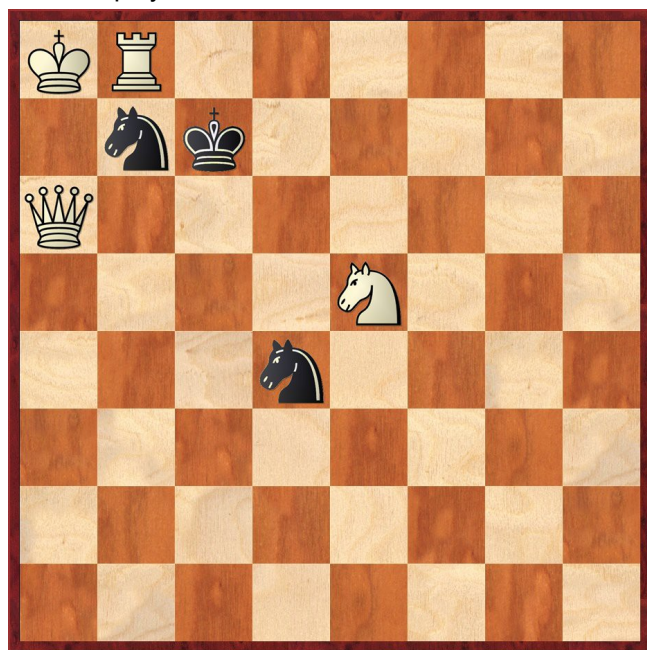
*Paul Hanks*

### Diary Dates

The list of postponements in the club championship is growing to worrying proportions. With mostly league commitments in the coming weeks, at least half the club will have no match on some evenings. Please try to clear your arrears during January.

### Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



Last Month's solution (B Genkin, 1964)

Position : 8/8/8/3p4/1QNKp3/B7/3K4/8

1 Qe7 dxc4 2 Bc5# [1 ... dxe4 2 Qc5#; 1 ... Kxc4 2 Qb4#]

### Website to Watch

Thank heaven for the Tata Steel Chess Tournament which takes place from 10<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> January in Wijk aan Zee. It is virtually the only elite grandmaster event that can be relied on to run every year. Youth dominates the participant list with Carlsen, Caruana, Giri, So, Vachier-Lagrave, Ding and Hou Yifan invited to the Masters section - see [www.tatasteelchess.com](http://www.tatasteelchess.com).

Website : [www.newenglandchess.org.uk](http://www.newenglandchess.org.uk)

The Tradewise Gibraltar Chess Festival starts on 26<sup>th</sup> January. It boasts an impressive field for an open tournament including Topalov, Nakamura and Svidler with the evergreen past winner Nigel Short only 18<sup>th</sup> seed. Full details appear on the website [www.gibraltarchesscongress.com](http://www.gibraltarchesscongress.com).

### Window on the Web

Were you given a chess book for Christmas? Or did you buy one for yourself? If so, did it meet your expectations or did something disappoint, such as a lack of diagrams or too much impenetrable analysis? A good way to avoid any disappointment is to find out, before purchase, what other players think by visiting a website such as [chessbookreviews.wordpress.com](http://chessbookreviews.wordpress.com) which contains reviews written by John Hartmann aimed at the club player.

The site is up to date, with Dvoretsky's new *Endgame Manual (4<sup>th</sup> Edition)* being the subject of his latest review. Jacob Aagaard's *Grandmaster Preparation: Endgame Play* earns a positive review. Another very recent review is of *Bent Larsen's Best Games*. There is an archive with posts arranged monthly starting with January 2013 and ending currently with December 2014, covering various subjects. For example, I randomly looked at the February 2014 archive and found it to be devoted to books on checkmate and general tactics.

There are links to enable searches by category e.g. openings, studies, tactics and problems. From 2013, in addition to books, there are buying guides for clocks, chess interfaces, databases and engines.

*Ron Jones*

### Result Round-up

#### Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

Warboys A	3	New England A	2
R Mann	0	M Dunkley	1
D McFarlane	1	S Caraway	0
J Beck	½	P Hanks	½
C Watkins	½	P Spencer	½
M Misson	1	D Lane	0

New England A	2½	Peterborough A	2½
P Turp	0	A Timosenko	1
M Dunkley	½	C Tandy	½
S Caraway	½	F Bowers	½
P Hanks	1	F Davies	0
P Spencer	½	M Connolly	½

### Team 550 Competition

<b>Godmanchester</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>NE Patriots</b>	<b>2</b>
J Wright	1	C Russell	0
A Rankine	1	J Sadler	0
J Bygrave	0	S Wozniak	1
A Ellul	0	P O'Gorman	1

<b>Warboys</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>NE Patriots</b>	<b>P</b>
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### New England Club Ladder

White		Black	
I Garratt	0	1	J Parker
S Wozniak	1	0	N Wedley
P O'Gorman	0	1	M Tarabad
D Lane	1	0	N Foreman
I Garratt	1	0	P Stevens

Position	Change		Player	Record <small>17/12/14</small>
	Month	Overall		
1	-	+1	D Lane	1,1
2	-	-1	M Tarabad	0,1,1,1,1
3	+7	+7	S Wozniak	1
4	-	+2	P O'Gorman	1,1,1,0
5	-2	-2	N Wedley	0,0
6	-1	-1	J Parker	0,1
7	-1	+2	P Hanks	1
8	-1	-1	N Foreman	0,0,0
9	-1	-5	I Garratt	0,1,0,0,0,1
10	-1	-2	P Stevens	0,0

### Xmas Special : 17<sup>th</sup> December 2014

Player	Round						Total
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
P Turp	5	5	5	13	5	5	38
N Wedley	5	5	5	0	0	5	20
S Caraway	5	5	0	3	0	5	18
D Lane	5	0	5	2	5	0	17
J Sadler	0	2½	0	0	5	5	12½
S Wozniak	5	2½	5	0	0	0	12½
C Russell	0	0	5	2	5	0	12
P O'Gorman	5	0	5	0	0	0	10
N Foreman	0	5	0	0	0	0	5
I Garratt	0	0	0	0	5	0	5
B Sadler	0	0	0	0	0	5	5

### Club Championship

Round 2			
P Turp (1)	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>	S Wozniak (0)
S Caraway (1)	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>	C Russell (0)

Round 3			
J Sadler (1½)	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>	P Spencer (2)
S Walker (1)	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>	R Jones (1)
M Tarabad (0)	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>	N Foreman (0)
Deadline : 31st January		Next draw : 1st February	

### New England Grand Prix

Player	Champ	Ladder	League	Cup	Team 550	Total	TPR*
M Dunkley	1½		3	½	1½	6½	172
P Hanks	3	1	2½			6½	167
P O'Gorman	1	3			2½	6½	94
D Lane	2	2	0		2	6	114
M Tarabad	0	4			1	5	109
J Parker	2	1	1		½	4½	92
S Caraway	2		1		½	3½	160
P Spencer	2		1		½	3½	136
R Jones	1		1	0	1½	3½	126
J Sadler	1½		1		1	3½	125
S Wozniak	1	1			1½	3½	124
I Garratt	0	2				2	58
P Turp	1		0	0	½	1½	146
N Wedley	1	0				1	97
S Walker	1			0	0	1	73
C Russell	1				0	1	105
N Foreman		0				0	45
B Sadler	0					0	30
P Stevens		0				0	21

\* approximate & includes Summer Sprint

### Match of the Month

*"They seek him here, they seek him there,  
His clothes are loud but never square,  
It will make or break him so he's got to buy the best,  
'Cause he's a dedicated follower of fashion"*

If you are of a certain age, look around at the other members of the chess club. Does any of them strike you as avid fans of The Kinks? Was I on the list?

I never expected to be accused of being trendy but in a recent game, I found myself unwittingly drawn into a topical debate on opening theory. The variation in

question featured in no less a game than Anand v Carlsen, Sochi 2014 – the first game of the recent World Championship match! After 48 moves (see [www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1778621](http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1778621)), it was drawn but we can do better, can't we?

**P Hanks v F Davies**

New England A v Peterborough A, 10.12.2014

1	<b>d4</b>	<b>Nf6</b>
2	<b>c4</b>	<b>g6</b>
3	<b>Nc3</b>	<b>d5</b>
4	<b>cxd5</b>	<b>Nxd5</b>

The Exchange Variation of the Grunfeld Defence was put under the spotlight in the January 2009 issue of **NEW ENGLANDER** but I suspect you can remember as much about it as I can! Quite right too... I chose a "modern" continuation that was not considered there.

5	<b>Bd2</b>	<b>Bg7</b>
6	<b>e4</b>	<b>Nxc3</b>
7	<b>Bxc3</b>	<b>0-0</b>
8	<b>Nf3</b>	

Anand transposed White's 8th and 9th moves.

8	...	<b>Nc6</b>
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Before we knew Carlsen's preference for this provocation, grandmasters played 8 ... Bg4 9 Be2.

9	<b>Qd2</b>	<b>Bg4</b>
10	<b>d5</b>	<b>Bxf3</b>
11	<b>Bxg7</b>	<b>Kxg7</b>
12	<b>Qc3+</b>	

The world championship game took a slightly different course i.e. 12 gxf3 Ne5 13 0-0-0 c6 14 Qc3 f6 which avoids a variation that becomes available in the text. Club players are obviously less aware of the implications of transposition.

12	...	<b>f6</b>
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12 ... e5 looks suicidal but is the computer's best suggestion with the possible continuation 13 dxe6+ Qf6 14 e7 Nxe7 15 Qxf6+ Kxf6 16 gxf3. Black is supposed to hold a minimal edge, presumably due to the superior pawn structure. Note that by displacing the black knight with 12 gxf3 before Qd2-c3, Anand prevented this option.

13	<b>gxf3</b>	<b>Ne5</b>
14	<b>f4</b>	<b>Nf7</b>
15	<b>Bc4</b>	

15 Bh3 was an option I considered. Anand sensed that an isolated d pawn was inevitable and prepared to defend it with the bishop from e6. He was also canny enough to realise that from h3, this bishop also covers the c8 square. Black cannot then build threats on the white queen (and king in his case) with a rook down the c file. Needless to say, I missed this nuance.

15	...	<b>Qd6</b>
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I also overlooked this strong but thematic move (Carlsen played it on move 17 in similar circumstances). Now, e4-e5 is virtually impossible and White starts to feel the insecurity of his pawns.

16	<b>Qd2</b>	
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After the game, we discussed 16 Qe3 Qb4+ 17 Qc3 Qd6 with a draw by repetition but both of us were in combative mood. But there our common outlook diverged. Black's strategy aims at proving the weakness of White's centre by slow positional exploitation whereas I was looking for tactical complications based on advancing the pawns.

At the board, my opponent's approach looked sounder. Worse still for my confidence, his quick play suggested he was familiar with what was going on.

16	...	<b>Rad8</b>
17	<b>0-0</b>	

I really wanted to play 17 0-0-0 but feared the opening of the c file. Without Black's fianchetto, Fritz tells me it is feasible provided I am prepared to invest a tempo subsequently in Kc1-b1.

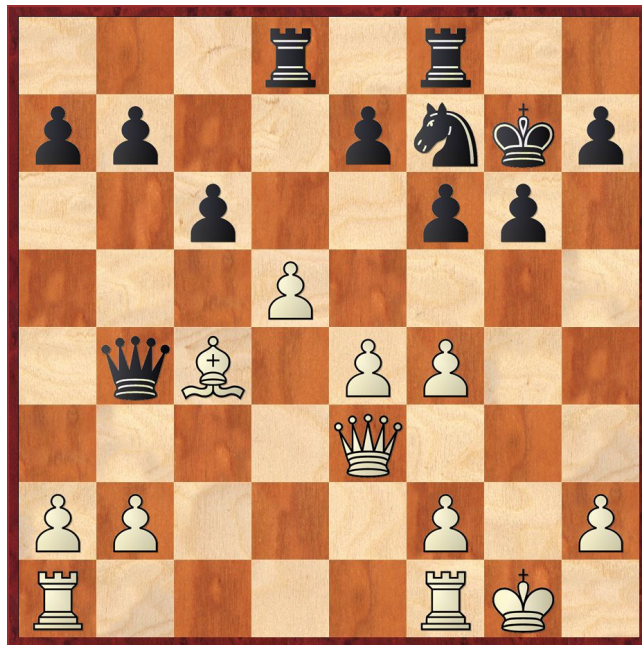
17	...	<b>c6</b>
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17 ... e5 was probably a better challenge in the centre. Objectively, there is still everything to play for but after 17 fxe5 Nxe5, I may well miss the fork on f3.

Had the game gone 16 ... c6 17 0-0-0 cxd5 18 exd5 Rad8, we should still be following Anand v Carlsen apart from a) the white bishop being on h3 and b) due to Carlsen playing c6xd5 before Qd8-d6 (another transposition!), Anand had the alternative Qc3-d4.

18	<b>Qe3</b>	<b>Qb4</b>
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I was quite pleased to see this move which steers the game into paths more to my liking. 18 ... b5 19 Bb3 c5 is quieter but by shifting the focus to the queenside, Black has changed his plans.



19	<b>Rac1</b>	
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OK. 19 ... Qxb2 20 Rb1 Qc2 21 Bb3 is a cheap trap. I came across this when analysing 19 a3 and only then realised 19 ... Qxc4 refuted my variation. I was keen not to let the idea go to waste.

Initially, I was torn between the text move and 19 Rfc1 when 19 ... Nd6 (19 ... Qxb2 20 Rab1) 20 a3 Qxb2 21 Rab1 Nxc4 gives White similar problems. In the end, I

decided the king's rook might be needed on the d or e files.

19 ... Nd6  
20 Qd4

From my previous train of thought, I had planned 20 a3 again anticipating 20 ... Qxb2 21 Rb1 Qc2 22 Bb3 but Black's 19<sup>th</sup> move allows either 22 ... Qxe4 or 21 ... Nxc4. Having seen this in time (for once!), I immediately turned to 20 b3 b5 21 Bd3 cxd5 22 exd5. It is barely palatable as White is saddled with long-term pawn weaknesses. Unfortunately, the alternative played did not seem any better.

20 ... cxd5

I was afraid of 20 ... b5 when 21 a3 is forced.

- 21 ... c5 22 axb4 cxd4 23 Bd3 is evaluated by Fritz as roughly level
- 21 ... Qa4 is more critical. 22 b3 (again forced) Qxa3 23 Bd3
  - 23 ... cxd5 24 Ra1 Qxb3 25 Rfb1. Hurrah!
  - 23 ... Qxb3 24 Rxc6 and despite being a pawn down and facing a queenside majority, White has compensation by eventually threatening e4-e5.

20 ... c5 is recommended by Fritz when 21 Qd3 b5 22 Bb3

- 22 ... a5 is best if not obvious at a distance
- 22 ... c4 23 Qd4 is still complicated
- 22 ... Nxe4 23 a3 Qd4 24 Qxd4 cxd4 25 Rfe1
- 22 ... Qxe4 23 Qxe4 Nxe4 24 Rfe1 f5 25 f3 and White will regain the material on c5 e.g. 25 ... c4 26 Bxc4 bxc4 27 fxe4 fxe4 28 Rxe4.

Fortunately, trying to fathom these variations was costing my opponent a great deal of time.

21 a3 Qa4  
22 Qxd5

Black had not taken this move seriously. He could start exchanges at almost any point but that, of course, would probably peter out into a draw.

22 ... b5  
23 b3

If I had been thorough in the key position at move 20, I should have seen some of the elements in lengthy options at this point :

- 23 Bb3 Qxe4 24 Qxe4 Nxe4 25 Rfe1 f5 26 f3 Rd3 27 fxe4 Rxb3 28 exf5 Rxf5 29 Rxe7+ Rf7 30 Rxf7+ Kxf7 31 Rc7+, however, never entered my head.
- even 23 Be2 Qxe4 (23 ... Nxe4 24 Q/Bxb5) 24 Qxe4 Nxe4 25 Bxb5 Rd2 26 Rc7 Rxb2 27 Rxa7 (or 27 Re1) Rxb5 28 Rxe7+ is more playable.

I thought 23 b3 was forced but my memory was playing tricks. In a previous note to move 20, a variation arose in which the text was the only move and I falsely associated it with the current position.

23 ... Qa6

If 23 ... Qxa3, I had foreseen 24 Bxb5 Nxb5 25 Qxb5 Rb8 26 Qd7 when I felt I could hold the position but after Fritz's continuation 26 ... Rf7 27 Ra1 Qxb3 28 Rxa7 Rb4, 29 e5 fxe5 30 fxe5 Qf3 or 29 Re1 Rxe4 30 Rxe4 Qb1+ show there is still plenty of scope for error.

24 Be2 Nc4

I had not seen this far in advance and here, it is the turn of my queen to run short of squares!

25 Qc5 Rc8?

Black was surprisingly running into time trouble and squanders his advantage. Barely 7 moves ago, he had hardly expended any of his 75 minute allocation.

Even without the pressure from the clock, Black still has to play precisely. He can be quickly devastated by 25 ... Nxa3 (25 ... Qxa3 26 Rxc4) 26 Qxe7+ Rf7 (26 ... Kh8/h6/g8 27 Rc7) 27 Qxd8. An admission of error by 25 ... Nd6 is probably best but 25 e5 Rc8 (25 ... Nf5 26 Bxb5) 26 Qd5 is unpleasant to face with precious few minutes remaining.

26 Qxe7+ Rf7

Black is in trouble. 26 ... Kh6 27 Rc3 is decisive and Kg8 27 bxc4.

27 Qb4 Qb7

The black queen is overloaded after 27 ... Nxa3 28 Rxc8 but the attractive 27 ... Nd6 28 Bxb5 fails to 28 ... Nxb5 29 Rxc8 Qxc8 30 Qxb5 Qg4+ with a perpetual check though White can improve with 28 a4. Deflated, in a poor position and time pressure, Black tries a pure gamble hoping for tactics against the exposed white king.

28 bxc4

I have to call his bluff otherwise 28 ... a5 will make me enter the time scramble without the initiative.

28 ... Qxe4  
29 Rfe1 Qxf4  
30 Qxb5 Rfc7  
31 c5

Not the best defence though after 31 ... Qg5+ 32 Kh1 Qd5+ 33 f3 Rxc5, White still has a substantial edge. 31 Rcd1 is correct but by now, I was trying to reach move 36 without excessive risks.

31 ... Re7  
32 c6 Re5  
33 Qb7+ Kh6  
34 Qxc8 Rg5+

34 ... Rxe2 would be a final doomed flourish.

35 Kh1 Qxf2  
36 Qf8#

If you take the time to compare this game with Anand v Carlsen, you may like to do so while humming Substitute by The Who.

*"My game was played by another guy,  
My grade went up and I'm feeling high,  
The lines are long, all complicated,  
I look pretty young but I'm just backdated, yeah..."*

*Paul Hanks*