

NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – February 2015

Chairman's Chatter

It happens to the best of us. In the Match of the Month, you will see a missed opportunity – a mate in one! How is that possible? Then, I looked at my most recent league match and guess what I did...

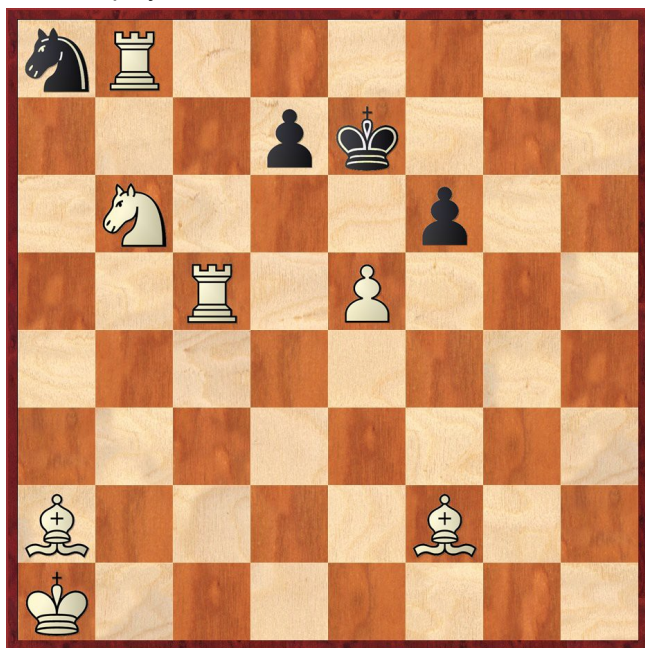
Paul Hanks

Diary Dates

We are now in the busiest part of the season but we still need to squeeze in the second round of the Fenland Trophy. Please be ready in case the two matches are arranged at short notice.

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



Last Month's solution (Grunenwald 1950)

Position : KR6/1nk5/Q7/4N3/3n4/8/8/8

1 Re8 Nd8 2 Re7# [1 ... Nd6 2 Qa5#; 1 ... Nc5/a5 2 Rc8#; 1 ... Nd4-any 2 Qxc6#]

Christmas Puzzles

P1 : 8/8/4K3/7p/1p1k4/6P1/P7/8

Yildiz v Danielian, Istanbul 2009 continued 1 Kd6? Ke4 (1 ... Kc3? 2 Kc5 draws) 2 Kc5 (2 Ke5 Kf3) 2 ... Kf3 3 Kxb4 Kxg3 4 a4 h4 5 Kb5 (5 a5 h3 6 a6 h2 7 a7 h1Q) 5 ... h3 6 Kb6 h2 7 a5 h1Q 8 Ka7 Qh7 9 Kb8 Qb1 10 Ka7 Qb5 0-1

and Black also wins after 1 Kf5 Kc3 2 Kg5 Kb2 3 Kxh5 Kxa2 4 g4 b3 5 g5 b2 6 g6 b1Q 7 Kh6 (7 g7 Qh7+) 7 ... Qh1+.

1 Ke7 Kc3 [1 ... Ke4 2 Kf6 Kf3 3 Kg5=] **2 Kd6 Kb2 3 Kc5** drawing. The white king can capture either pawn

Website : www.newenglandchess.org.uk

from e6 or e7 in 3 moves so 1 Ke7 does not take it further from the action. Black wins if he can divert his king to the opposite flank to White's.

P2 : 8/5pkp/5qp1/2Rp1n2/8/3PPNP1/rr3PKP/2Q2R2

Bouwmeester v Botvinnik, Wageningen 1958 was drawn after 27 ... d4 but **27 ... Rb1 28 Qxb1 Nxe3+ 29 Kg1** (29 Kh3 Qf5+) **Qxf3** forces checkmate.

P3 : r2q1b1k/p6p/1p2pNp1/2p1Q3/3n2P1/1P6/PBPP3P/3RK1

Carlsen v Anand, Zurich blitz 2014 ended quickly but the forcing continuation was **20 Ne8+ Kg8 21 Qh8+ Kxh8 22 Rf8#**.

P4 : 5rk1/2p1bppp/Q7/1p2n3/5n2/2Pq4/PP1P1PbP/RNBRR1K1

The computer Hal9000 in *2001 : A Space Odyssey* announced mate by **1 ... Qf3 2 Bxf3 Nxf3#** but the full solution is **2 Qc8 Rxc8 3 h3 Nxf3+ 4 Kh2 Ng4#**. Incidentally, the computer using descriptive notation erroneously started "queen to bishop three" (see en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Poole_versus_HAL_9000).

Website to Watch

Suddenly, we have an explosion of tournaments in February.

| Start | End | Tournament | Town | Website |
|------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------|--|
| 2 nd | 9 th | GRENKE | Baden Baden | www.grenkechessclassic.de |
| 13 th | 19 th | Chess Classic | Zurich | www.zurich-cc.com |
| 23 th | 9 th Mar | European Individual | Jerusalem | www.eicc2015.com |

The GRENKE website is fairly rudimentary and may not carry live games. This is surprising given the high quality of the field. There are no such doubts for the Zurich Chess Challenge which is an elite competition with Kramnik, Anand, Nakamura, Caruana, Aronian and Karjakin. The European Individual Championship boasts nearly 100 competing grandmasters.

Window on the Web

In any field, much general knowledge can be learned from the quotes of experts. Quotations about chess should therefore be of benefit to any player. Unsurprisingly, such quotes can be found at www.chessquotes.com which "contains a collection of wisdom and interest from world champions, grandmasters, theorists and prominent chess personalities."

First published in 2010, the site contains over 1,000 quotes from over 20 players including Fischer, Lasker, Spassky and Tal, on over 40 topics such as analysis, bishops, knights, openings, endings, losing and pawns.

For example, this from the inventor of the Elo rating system: "The process of rating players can be compared to the measurement of the position of a cork bobbing up and down on the surface of agitated water with a yard stick tied to a rope and which is swaying in the wind" - Arpad Elo.

On the topic of whether to play the position or the opponent: Question: "Who is your opponent tonight?" Answer: "Tonight, I am playing against the black pieces" - Akiba Rubinstein. An opposite view: "I am trying to beat the guy sitting across from me and trying to choose the moves that are most unpleasant for him and his style" - Magnus Carlsen.

Or these on losing: "Chess is a contributor to net human unhappiness, since the pleasure of victory is greatly exceeded by the pain of defeat" - Bill Hartston. "Some people think that if their opponent plays a beautiful game, it's OK to lose. I don't. You have to be merciless" - Magnus Carlsen.

Why not follow the link and browse the wisdom of the masters?

Ron Jones

Result Round-up

Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

| New England A | 1 | Cambridge | 4 |
|---------------|---|------------|---|
| P Turp | 0 | D Redman | 1 |
| M Dunkley | 0 | M Symanski | 1 |
| S Caraway | 1 | S Pride | 0 |
| P Hanks | 0 | C Roberts | 1 |
| D Lane | 0 | C Geach | 1 |

| Royston | P | New England A | P |
|---------|---|---------------|---|
|---------|---|---------------|---|

| New England B | 0 | Buckden | 4 |
|---------------|---|--------------|---|
| D Lane | 0 | P Barkas | 1 |
| J Sadler | 0 | C Norton | 1 |
| P O'Gorman | 0 | S Buttercase | 1 |
| M Tarabad | 0 | B Taylor | 1 |

Team 550 Competition

| NE Cavaliers | 1 | NE Patriots | 3 |
|--------------|---|-------------|---|
| D Lane | 0 | P Hanks | 1 |
| N Wedley | ½ | P Spencer | ½ |
| S Walker | ½ | J Parker | ½ |
| M Tarabad | 0 | P O'Gorman | 1 |

| NE Cavaliers | 1 | Godmanchester | 3 |
|--------------|---|---------------|---|
| M Dunkley | ½ | J Wright | ½ |
| D Lane | 0 | A Rankine | 1 |
| S Walker | ½ | J Bygrave | ½ |
| M Tarabad | 0 | A Ellul | 1 |

| NE Patriots | 1½ | Warboys | 2½ |
|-------------|----|------------|----|
| S Caraway | 0 | C Watkins | 1 |
| P Hanks | ½ | B Duff | ½ |
| J Sadler | 1 | P Baddeley | 0 |
| P O'Gorman | 0 | M Onyons | 1 |

New England Club Ladder

| White | | Black | |
|----------|---|-------|------------|
| S Walker | ½ | ½ | P O'Gorman |

| Position | Change | | Player | Record <small>28/01/15</small> |
|----------|--------|---------|------------|--------------------------------|
| | Month | Overall | | |
| 1 | - | +1 | D Lane | 1,1 |
| 2 | - | -1 | M Tarabad | 0,1,1,1,1 |
| 3 | - | +7 | S Wozniak | 1 |
| 4 | +1 | -1 | N Wedley | 0,0 |
| 5 | -1 | +1 | P O'Gorman | 1,1,1,0,½ |
| 6 | - | -1 | J Parker | 0,1 |
| 7 | - | +2 | P Hanks | 1 |
| 8 | - | -1 | N Foreman | 0,0,0 |
| 9 | - | -5 | I Garratt | 0,1,0,0,0,1 |
| 10 | +1 | +1 | S Walker | ½ |
| 11 | -1 | -3 | P Stevens | 0,0 |

Club Championship

| Round 2 | | | |
|---------------|---|---|---------------|
| P Turp (1) | 1 | 0 | S Wozniak (0) |
| S Caraway (1) | 1 | 0 | C Russell (0) |

| Round 3 | | | |
|---------------|---|---|---------------|
| J Sadler (1½) | P | P | P Spencer (2) |
| S Walker (1) | P | P | R Jones (1) |
| M Tarabad (0) | 1 | 0 | N Foreman |

| Round 4 | | | |
|--|--|--|----------------------|
| P Hanks (3) | | | S Caraway (3) |
| D Lane (2) | | | J Parker (2) |
| P Spencer (2+P) | | | M Dunkley (1½) |
| P Turp (2) | | | J Sadler (1½+P) |
| R Jones (1+P) | | | C Russell (1) |
| M Tarabad (1) | | | S Walker (1+P) |
| S Wozniak (1) | | | N Wedley (1) |
| N Foreman (0) | | | B Sadler (0) |
| I Garratt (0) | | | N Foreman (0) – Rd 1 |
| N Foreman (0) – Rd 2 | | | P O'Gorman(1) |
| Match night : 11 th March Deadline : 31st March Next draw : 1st April | | | |

New England Grand Prix

| Player | Champ | Ladder | League | Cup | Team 550 | Total | TPR* |
|------------|-------|--------|--------|-----|----------|-------|------|
| P O'Gorman | 1 | 3½ | 0 | | 3½ | 8 | 93 |
| P Hanks | 3 | 1 | 2½ | | 1½ | 8 | 160 |
| M Dunkley | 1½ | | 3 | ½ | 2 | 7 | 163 |
| D Lane | 2 | 2 | 0 | | 2 | 6 | 105 |
| M Tarabad | 1 | 4 | 0 | | 1 | 6 | 91 |
| S Caraway | 3 | | 2 | | ½ | 5½ | 160 |
| J Parker | 2 | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 5 | 96 |
| J Sadler | 1½ | | 1 | | 2 | 4½ | 126 |
| P Spencer | 2 | | 1 | | 1 | 4 | 133 |
| R Jones | 1 | | 1 | 0 | 1½ | 3½ | 126 |
| S Wozniak | 1 | 1 | | | 1½ | 3½ | 118 |
| P Turp | 2 | | 0 | 0 | ½ | 2½ | 148 |
| S Walker | 1 | ½ | | 0 | 1 | 2½ | 80 |
| I Garratt | 0 | 2 | | | | 2 | 58 |
| N Wedley | 1 | 0 | | | ½ | 1½ | 94 |
| C Russell | 1 | | | | 0 | 1 | 104 |
| N Foreman | | 0 | | | | 0 | 43 |
| B Sadler | 0 | | | | | 0 | 30 |
| P Stevens | | 0 | | | | 0 | 21 |

* approximate & includes Summer Sprint

Match of the Month

Editor's note : When Ivan submitted this game, I noticed a move on the scoresheet I had never seen before – Rj1! He confessed later to have typed up the game for me while enjoying Scotland's finest export. Under the mistaken apprehension of a different influence, he labelled his efforts here as a "Geriatric Pantomime". I have included some commentary in parentheses hoping that contrary to what they say, you really can teach an old dog new tricks.

Peter Stevens v Ivan Garratt

New England Club Ladder, December 2014

| | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| 1 | e4 | c5 |
| 2 | Nf3 | Nc6 |
| 3 | Nc3 | e5 |

A Sicilian Defence, sort of ...

| | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| 4 | Bb5 | a6 |
| 5 | Ba4 | Be7 |

In the recent world championships, most openings like this resulted in exchanges and doubled pawns ... Times change.

[Both players are obviously unfamiliar with the Noah's Ark trap. That occurs in the Ruy Lopez but a simpler version is available here with 5 ... b5 6 Bb3 c4.]

| | | |
|----|------|-----|
| 6 | a3 | Nf6 |
| 7 | d3 | 0-0 |
| 8 | Bb3 | Nd4 |
| 9 | Ba2 | b5 |
| 10 | Nxe5 | Bd6 |
| 11 | Nf3 | |

Remembering the masterclass on the Greek Gift sacrifice, I thought it would be fun but he hasn't castled yet so...

| | | |
|----|-----|-----|
| 11 | ... | Re8 |
| 12 | 0-0 | |

As he has replaced his knight,

| | | |
|----|------|-------|
| 12 | ... | Nxf3+ |
| 13 | Qxf3 | |

That's solved the knight problem on the kingside but the queen is now dominating that space.

| | | |
|----|-----|----|
| 13 | ... | h5 |
|----|-----|----|

In theory, a support for the move I intended with my knight.

| | | |
|----|-----|--|
| 14 | Bg5 | |
|----|-----|--|

[White had a discovered attack at his disposal i.e. 14 e5 Bxe5 15 Qxa8.]

| | | |
|----|-----|-------|
| 14 | ... | Bxh2+ |
|----|-----|-------|

[No-one can decry the notion of enjoying a game of chess but sacrifices are even more fun when they succeed! Suppose Black were to offer the Greek Gift under the most favourable conditions possible in a structure similar to the present position e.g. imagine the play had instead gone 14 Qe2 (perhaps to prepare f2-f4) Bxh2+. There are several things to consider :-

- if declined (15 Kh1), is the pawn gained worth the tempi invested? So far, so good*
- if accepted and the white king retreats, can Black force checkmate i.e. 15 Kxh2 Ng4+ 16 Kg1 Qh4? Sadly not due to 17 Bf4*
- if the king advances with 16 Kh3, is there a profitable discovered check from the bishop on c8? Drat, there is still a pawn on d7! 13 ... d6 would have been a better preparatory way to cover g4 but even this was not possible since the bishop was blocking this square*
- if the king advances with 16 Kg3, how do you continue? The usual way to follow up would be 16 ... Qg5 with the threat of another discovered check but this square is covered by the bishop on c1. The initial sacrifice would be much stronger if

 - o *a black pawn had reached e4 to chase away White's king knight while also preventing escape by Kg3-f3 and*
 - o *there were a white pawn on e3 shutting out the defensive bishop.**

For a true Greek Gift, you need the absence of avenues for defending pieces on the kingside (Bc1-f4), a helpful pawn structure (e3 & e4) and the possible intervention of supporting pieces (Bc8).

On a historical note, discovery of this sacrifice is normally attributed to the Calabrian player Gioacchino Greco who published the following game in 1656 : 1 e4 e6 2 d4 Nf6 3 Bd3 Nc6 4 Nf3 Be7 5 h4 0-0 6 e5 Nd5 7 Bxh7+ Kxh7 8 Ng5+ Bxg5 9 hxg5+ Kg8 10 Qh5 f5 11 g6 Re8 12 Qh8#. It is believed, however, that the method was known to Alessandro Salvio in 1619 and possibly also Giulio Polerio before 1600. Back then, the game was different because the rules of castling and en passant had yet to be standardised. Even Ivan would struggle to remember that!]

15 Kh1

Should I retreat my bishop?

[More to the point, should White accept the sacrifice? On the surface it looks as though the check with the knight recovers the piece 15 Kxh2 Ng4+ 16 Kg1 Qxg5 but there is a sting in the tail with 17 Bxf7+. Incidentally, 16 Qxg4 is also an option.]

15 ... d6

Link the pawns and introduce the other bishop.

[In answer to Ivan's earlier question - Yes! 15 ... Be5 prevents the piece becoming trapped on h2.]

16 g3 Bg4

The pawn was supposed be for supporting the knight but I got lucky.

17 Qg2 Re5

I do like it when the king and queen start getting cosy.

18 Kxh2

[As the bishop has no escape, its capture is not yet urgent. With 18 f4, White can protect his own piece and gain the tempo needed to allow the Greek Gift to be accepted next move.]

18 ... Rxg5
19 Rfe1 h4

What a lovely pawn!

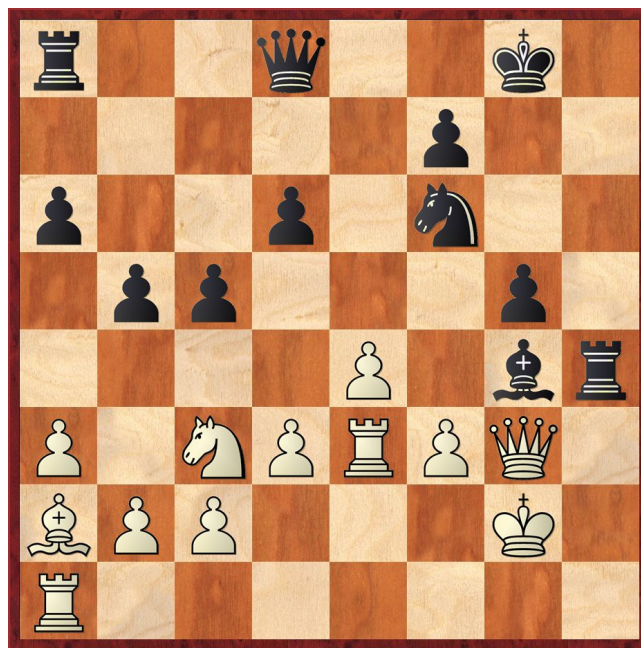
20 gxh4 Rh5
21 Qg3 g6

I do like pins...

22 Re3 g5
23 Kg2 Rxh4
24 f3

[At this point, the computer's recommendation 24 ... Nh5 leads to variations that are too deep for human analysis. 25 Qe1 is best if you have the confidence to encounter quiet moves like 25 ... Nf4+ 26 Kg1 Qf6 27 fxg4 Qh6 – Black wants to sacrifice a bishop, after all! Instead 25 Qf2 would lead to serious trouble 25 ... Nf4+ 26 Kg3 (26 Kf1 Rh1+ 27 Qg1; 26 Kg1 Nh3+) 26 ... Rh3+ 27 Kxg4 and the white king will be hunted to death e.g. 27 ... Qd7+ 28 Kxg5 Ne6+

- 29 Kf6 Qd8+ 30 Kf5 Qg5#
- 29 Kg4 Ng7+ 30 Kf4 Nh5+ 31 Kg5 Kh7
- 29 Kf5 Rh5+ 30 Kg4 (30 Kf6 Qd8#) 30 ... f5+ 31 Kxh5 (31 Kg3 Qg7#) 31 ... Qh7#]



24 ... Bh3+

25 Kf2 Nh5

26 Qg1 Qf6

She would like to join the party

27 Qh2 Bg4

28 Qg1 Nf4

29 Kg3 Bh3

[Black could still exploit the pattern that combines discovered check and a fork 29 ... Qe5 30 Kf2 Nh3+.]

30 Rae1 Qe5

31 Kf2 Kg7

I now realised that White has Bxf7+ which at the right time could be critical so I wanted to break the pin and free the access for the queen's rook.

[An amusing change of direction occurs if Black foregoes checkmate and turns his attention to the white queen with 31 ... Bg2 threatening 32 ... Rh1.]

32 Rd1 f6

That's tidied things up.

33 Rd2 Be6

34 Bxe6 Qxe6

In retrospect, I should have recaptured with the knight and let the queen stay with the action.

[Did you consider not bothering to recapture and ploughing straight on with 34 ... Rah8?]

35 Ke1 Rah8

36 Rh2

[The text move looks like a blunder but in fact is an ingenious way for White to keep his queen on the board. He cannot avoid the pin arising after Rh4-h1 by 36 Qg3 Rh1+ 37 Kf2 R8h2+.]

36 ... Rxh2

37 Qg4 Rh1+

[Black's move is winning but White would have been more stretched to counter the build-up of force following 37 ... Rxc2 38 Qg1 (38 Kd1 Qb3) 38 ... Qb3 39 Kf1 Rc1+ 40 Re1 Rxe1 41 Kxe1 Qc2.]

38 Kd2 R8h2+
 39 Ne2 Qa2
 40 Qd7+ Kg6

I should have swapped queens.

41 Qf5+ Kh5

[Anything but this! 41 ... Kh6 is a must!]

42 Qg4+

[42 Qh7# - a subject for a future masterclass, maybe.]

42 ... Kh6

43 Qf5 Qb1

44 Qxf6+ Ng6

45 Kc3 Qe1+

[The white king is managing to put distance between himself and the black attackers. With 45 ... Rc1, Black could have kept on his tail.]

46 Kb3 Qd2

[46 ... a5 shepherds his majesty to a2 for slaughter.]

47 f4 Qxe3??

48 Qxg5+ Kg7

49 Ng3 Rg1

[Black is losing focus on checkmate which would follow 49 ... Qd2 in a few moves. It should be noted that the proximity of the white queen to the black king and knight deprives White of hopes for a draw by perpetual check.]

50 Nf5+! Kf7

51 Qxg1

[51 Nxd6+ might have tested Ivan's stamina. There are some nasty ways for Black to go wrong.

- 51 ... Kg8 only draws. Since 52 Qd5+ removes the attack from the white queen, Black cannot escape from the back ranks without allowing the fork on f5 e.g. 52 ... Kh8 53 Qa8+ Kh7 (53 ... Kg7 54 Nf5+) 54 Qb7+ Kh8 (54 ... Kh6 55 Nf5+, 54 ... Ne7 55 Qxe7+ Rg7 56 Qxg7) 55 Qc8+ etc.
- 51 ... Ke6 even loses to 52 Qd5+ Kd7 (52 ... Kf6 53 Qf7#; 52 ... Ke7 53 Nf5+) 53 Nf5+
- Black has to find (and not guess!) 51 ... Kg7 52 Nf5+ Kh7 53 Nxe3 Rxc5 54 fxc5]

51 ... Qxg1

52 Resigns

I got so lucky. Peter had more senior moments than I did.

Ivan Garratt

Eye Opener

I recently lost a game in the Semi-Slav Defence – well, more of a debacle – and thought there would be some solace in seeing someone doing worse than I did. I found the following game which also links to the Match of the Month.

Mihai Suba (2565) v Peter Wells (2495)

1st Ubeda Open, 1996

1 c4 Nf6 2 Nf3 c6 3 Nc3 d5 4 e3

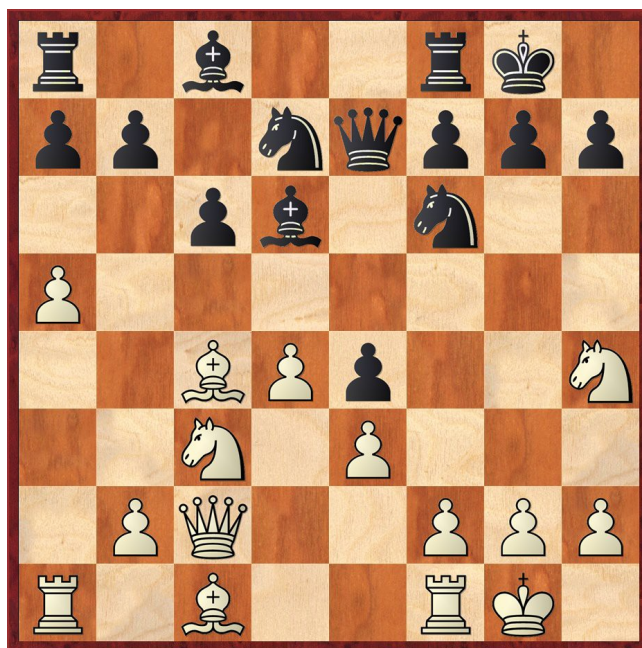
This is the most solid variation. By transposition I could try something more enterprising 1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nf3 c6 4 Nc3 Nf6 5 Bg5 though the bishop can become exposed. One possibility to be aware of is 5 ... Qa5 6 e3 Bb4 7 Qb3 Ne4 8 Rc1 dxc4 9 Bxc4 Bxc3 10 bxc3 Nxc5.

4 ... e6 5 d4 Nbd7 6 Be2 Bd6 7 Qc2 0-0 8 0-0 dxc4 9 a4 e5 10 a5

White's queenside expansion has prevented b7-b5 so that White does not have to hurry to recapture on c4. Furthermore, the black knight on d7 has been restricted to very few squares.

10 ... Qe7 11 Bxc4 e4 12 Nh4

Following on from the previous comment, this knight wants to go to f5 because the light squares in Black's position have a temporary lack of cover. The undefended knight adds to the aforementioned elements of the Greek Gift sacrifice.



12 ... Bxh2+ 13 Kxh2

White can decline with 13 Kh1 Bc7 but loses a pawn.

13 ... Ng4+ 14 Kg3

There is no mate after 14 Kg1 Qxh4 15 Re1 because the e2 escape square is unoccupied (another feature to consider!) but Black has a great position.

On the other hand, 14 Kh3 Ndf6 makes White defend against 15 ... Nxe3+ attacking the queen, bishop and rook. Neither 15 Qe2 Nh6+ 16 Kg3 (16 g4 Bxg4+; 16 Kh2 Neg4+ as before) Qd6+ 17 f4 exf3+ 18 Kxf3 Bg4+ nor 15 Qb3 Nxe3+ 16 Kg3 Nh5+ 17 Kh2 Qxh4+ 18 Kg1 Ng4 19 Rd1 Qxf2+ 20 Kh1 Ng3# will do.

14 ... Ndf6 15 Nf5

The discovered check comes into play if 15 f4 Nh5+ 16 Kh3 Nxe3+.

15 ... Bxf5 16 Rh1 Qd6+ 17 Kh4 Nh5 0-1

18 ... g5+ 19 Kh3 (19 Kxg5 Qf6+ 20 Kxh5 Qh6#) Nxf2# is threatened.