NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – May 2015

Chairman's Chatter

I have to admit it! There were mistakes in the last newsletter when I incorrectly reported the team in one match and failed to credit someone with a point in the Grand Prix. However hard I try, these things will happen and if you notice anything untoward, please let me know.

Paul Hanks

Diary Dates

Please note that the club ends its formal season and competitions on 31st May. Before that, however, there are several other events including :-

6 th May	Final round of club championship
7 th May	League Jamboree, Godmanchester
13 th May	Problem night
20 th May	Rapidplay

On 27th May, there is one last opportunity for a game in the Ladder Competition or to start the summer programme.

Several club members have informed me that they will be absent in the coming weeks so it is advisable to confirm all scheduled games in the coming month.

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



Last Month's solution (Kanonik 1974) Position : 1Q1B4/pp6/k7/p7/2K5/8/8/8 **1 Bb6 axb6 2 Qa8#** [1 ... a4 2 Qxa7#; 1 ... Kxb6 2 Qd6#]

Website to Watch

The FIDE Grand Prix series to decide the next challenger for the World Championship rolls on from 13th to 27th May in Khanty-Mansiysk. The events have been unreliable in the past and websites do not appear long beforehand. You may prefer to try <u>www.chessbomb.com</u> or Ron's recommendation in *Window on the Web* to follow the live games.

Window on the Web

<u>http://en.chessbase.com/</u> is such a large site that I'm surprised I have not mentioned it before. It is the site of the publisher of *fritztrainer* DVDs, chess engines and opening databases, with a well-stocked online shop.

There are many news pages (and I mean many: the news for 1st January 2015 is currently on page 21) covering chess events from around the world, such as the recent blitz match between Kasparov and Short, won by Kasparov $8\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$ (5-0 in the second half of the match). Last month also saw the 60^{th} birthday of John Nunn which was celebrated with a 16 player blitz tournament. Competitors included GMs Keith Arkell and Jonathan Mestel. The report includes many photographs of the players and a final cross table of the event, which was won by GM Gawain Jones. Among the news items there are puzzles and links to annotated games and tutorials.

The site is home to the *ChessBase Live Database* of games which doubles as an openings explorer. There is a link to *Playchess.com* which offers live commentaries during world-class tournaments and the ability to play chess online.

Ron Jones

Result Round-up

Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

New England B	1	Warboys B	3
D Lane	0	N Greenwood	1
J Sadler	1	P Baddeley	0
S Walker	0	M Onyons	1
J Parker	0	P Wells	1
Buckden	11⁄2	New England B	2 ½
Buckden C Norton	1½	New England B D Lane	2¹/2
			-
C Norton	1⁄2	D Lane	1/2

Warboys C	4 d	New England B	0 d

Fenland Trophy

New England A	0	Cambridge	4
S Caraway	0	D Redman	1
P Hanks	0	P Fallon	1
M Dunkley	0	R McCorry	1
D Lane	0	S Pride	1

Team 550 Competition

Warboys	3	NE Patriots	1
C Watkins	1⁄2	S Caraway	1⁄2
R Mann	1⁄2	P Hanks	1⁄2
P Baddeley	1	C Russell	0
M Onyons	0	Default	0

Club Championship

Round 3					
J Sadler (1 ¹ / ₂)	1d	0d	P Spencer (2)		
S Walker (1)	1d	0d	R Jones (1)		
	Rou	nd 4			
C Russell (1)	Ρ	Ρ	M Dunkley (1½)		
N Foreman (0)	0d	1d	B Sadler (0)		
	Rou	nd 5			
P Turp (3)	0	1	P Hanks (3½)		
M Dunkley (1½+P)	1/2	1/2	S Caraway (31/2)		
N Wedley (2)	1/2	1/2	D Lane (2½)		
J Sadler (21/2)	1	0	S Walker (3)		
C Russell (1+P)	1	0	J Parker (2½)		
P O'Gorman(1)	0	1	S Wozniak (1)		
B Sadler (1)	0	1	M Tarabad (1)		
I Garratt (1)	0	1	M Tarabad (2) – Rd 6		
Match night : 8th April Deadline : 30th April					
Final Round 6					
P Hanks (41/2)			J Sadler (3½)		
S Caraway (4)			$D \mid ane (3)$		

S Caraway (4) D Lane (3) S Walker (3) P Turp (3) J Parker (2½) M Dunkley (2+P) P O'Gorman(1) N Wedley (2½) C Russell (2+P) S Wozniak (2) I Garratt (1) B Sadler (1) Match night : 6th May Deadline : 31st May	1 Hunto (472)			
J Parker (2½) M Dunkley (2+P) P O'Gorman(1) N Wedley (2½) C Russell (2+P) S Wozniak (2) I Garratt (1) B Sadler (1)	S Caraway (4)			D Lane (3)
P O'Gorman(1)N Wedley (2½)C Russell (2+P)S Wozniak (2)I Garratt (1)B Sadler (1)	S Walker (3)			P Turp (3)
C Russell (2+P) S Wozniak (2) I Garratt (1) B Sadler (1)	J Parker (2 ¹ / ₂)			M Dunkley (2+P)
I Garratt (1) B Sadler (1)	P O'Gorman(1)			N Wedley (21/2)
	C Russell (2+P)			S Wozniak (2)
Match night · 6th May Deadline · 31st May	I Garratt (1)			B Sadler (1)
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New England Club Ladder

White						Black		
١G	I Garratt			0	0 1 N Wedley			
١G	arra	att		0	1	D Lane		
2	Cha	nge						
Position	Month	Overall	Player			Record 29/04/15		
1	-	+8	P Hanks	1	,1,½			
2	-	-	D Lane	1	,1,1			
3	+3	2	J Parker	0	,1,1,1	,1		
4	-1	-3	M Tarabad	0	,1,1,1	,1		
5	-1	+5	S Wozniak	1				
6	-1	-	P O'Gorma	n 1	,1,1,0	,1⁄2,1		
7	-	-4	N Wedley	0	,0,0,1	,0,1,1		
8	+1	-4	I Garratt	0	,1,0,0	,0,1,0,0,0,0,0		
9	-1	-2	N Foreman	0	,0,0			
10	+1	+2	S Caraway	1/	2			
11	-1	-	S Walker	1/	1/2			
12	-	-4	P Stevens	0	,0,0,0			

New England Grand Prix

Player	Champ	Ladder	League	Cup	550 Team	Total	TPR*
P Hanks	41⁄2	21⁄2	4	0	3	14	162
D Lane	3	3	31⁄2	0	3	12½	109
M Tarabad	3	4	2		3	12	100
J Parker	21⁄2	4	3		1½	11	96
M Dunkley	2		4	1⁄2	4	10½	159
S Caraway	4	1/2	3	0	2	91⁄2	159
P O'Gorman	1	41⁄2	0		31⁄2	9	83
J Sadler	21/2		2		3	71⁄2	124
P Turp	3		2	0	2	7	148
N Wedley	21/2	3			1/2	6	101
S Walker	2	1⁄2	11⁄2	0	1	5	87
S Wozniak	2	1	1/2		2	5½	114
P Spencer	2		1		1	4	133
R Jones	1		1	0	1½	31⁄2	126
I Garratt	1	2				3	55
C Russell	2		0		0	2	99
N Foreman	0	0				0	46
B Sadler	0					0	30
P Stevens		0				0	29

* Tournament Performance Rating is approximate & includes Summer Sprint

Website : <u>www.newenglandchess.org.uk</u>

Match of the Month

P Turp v K Clark

New England A v Royston, 09.05.2011

Chess can be unpredictable but when you play against Royston, one thing is certain – your opponent will be very strong! Here, I was playing the current county captain Kevin Clark whose grade is typically 180-200. Could I make use of this knowledge?

There is a principle of military strategy that a battle is won before it is fought. Triumphing in the face of overwhelming force merely by thorough preparation is straight from the realms of Hollywood but there is no doubt the you can shift the odds slightly by the correct approach. Facing a strong opponent, I opted for a quiet opening system and to fight on familiar territory.

1	Nf3	d5
2	c4	с6
3	g3	g6
4	cxd5	cxd5
5	Bg2	Bg7
6	0-0	Nc6

It is tricky to categorise such an amorphous opening. Had I refrained from d2-d4, it would have been an English or Reti Opening but now, it transposes into a Grunfeld Defence. It is not a main line, however, because the move order has precluded responding normally to cxd5 with Nf6xd5.

7	d4	Nf6
8	Nc3	0–0

The position is symmetric and could be assessed variously as either level or boring. In fact, the sequence of mirror-image moves is often broken by a check or capture that cannot be reciprocated and the point at which this happens can be quite intriguing. In L Da Silva v F Srivastava, Brazil 1997, the game continued 9 a3 Bf5 10 Bf4 Ne4 11 Ne5 Nxc3 12 bxc3 Nxe5 (*12 Nxc6 Nxd1 13 Nxd8 Nxf2 14 Nxf7 Nh3+ 15 Bxh3 Bxh3*) 13 Bxe5 Qd7 14 Bxg7 Kxg7 when Black has a backward pawn to target and went on to win.

9	a3	b6
10	b4	Ne4

This is where we part company from other recorded games. J Martinez v A Caro (2205) Caracas 1973 drifted away from symmetry with 10 \dots Bb7 11 Bb2 Rc8 12 Rc1 e6 13 e3 Ne7 14 Qb3 Nf5 but the game was still drawn.

11	Bb2	Bb7
12	e3	e6
13	Rc1	Rc8

Here, I felt I had reached a solid position but now I remember being stuck for a plan. I opted for a move which seems to get me in hot water more times than I'd care to remember - retreating a knight!

In retrospect, I may already be too late in formulating a plan for the middlegame. By leaving thoughts of strategy until after I have finished my development, I have committed my pieces without a specific aim. Around move 9, I have stabilised control of the centre but still had a bishop and rook on their home squares. How I choose to deploy them should have been dictated by my strategy. To illustrate this, let's scrutinise the phase of play between moves 9 and 13.

In *The Art of the Middlegame*, grandmaster Kotov defines five categories of pawn structure and the current game has the "fixed" type i.e. there are pawns in the centre but they are unlikely to advance or be exchanged. This formation suggests White should try to invade the opponent's half of the board via e5 or c5 while Black will resist this and counter with outposts on e4 and c4. From his moves 9 and 10, Kevin obviously recognised this. The alternative is to change the pawn structure and the only option is forcing e2-e4. This risks an isolated queen's pawn unless preceded by f2-f3 and the pawn on d4 needs strengthening when it loses the support of its neighbour.

In this light, the fianchetto Bc1-b2, the pawn push e2e3 and the knight retreat Nf3-d2 are consistent but it is not clear if the rook is needed on the c file or behind the pawns. As Ra1-c1 can be played at almost any time, it would be more flexible to delay its development. As it is, I do not seem to be following either strategic thread until move 17.

14	Nd2	Nd6
15	Re1	Ba6
16	Bf1	

If I want to push e3-e4, I will need control of the light squares and Black has just presented me with the opportunity by 16 b5 Bxb5 (16 ... Nxb5 17 Qa4) 17 Nxb5 Nxb5 18 Qa4.

16		Bxf1
17	Kxf1	b5

After this move, I thought "So I get c5, he gets c4 and I'm OK but..."

18 Nb3 a5 19 Nc5

Exchanging with 19 bxa5 Nxa5 20 Nc5 Nac4 leaves me with a weak pawn on the open a file whilst direct defence of b4 by 19 Na2 axb4 20 Nxb4 Nxb4 21 axb4 (21 Rxc8 Qxc8 22 axb4 Qc4+) Rc4 22 Na5 Rxc1 (22 ... Rxb4 23 Nc6) 23 Qxc1 Nc4 has taken my knight away from its intended outpost.

19		Nc4
20	Re2	axb4
21	axb4	Nxb4
22	Qb3?	

Not such a good idea. It is better than the picturesque 22 Nxb5 which loses to 22 ... Rxc5 23 dxc5 Nxb2 but even 22 Rb1!? leaves Black with an advantage.

22 ... Nc6

22 ... Rxc5 removes my outpost because 23 dxc5 Nd3 24 Rb1 Qf6 25 Nd1 Qf3 ties me in knots. Instead, 23 Qxb4 Rc6 24 Ba1 (24 Qxb5 Rb6) is also unpleasant.

23 Qxb5

23 Na2 was preferable because I had no inkling of what awaited me.



23 ...

Qa5?

Black lets it slip away. I certainly didn't see 23 ... Bxd4! which simply blows White away. Interesting how my assessment of my position was totally at odds with the possibilities for Black. After 23 ... Bxd4, it becomes clear that Black will call all the shots because the offer cannot be accepted (24 exd4 Nxd4 25 Qb4 Nxe2 26 Kxe2 Nxb2 27 Qxb2 Rxc5). Black can be even nastier if 24 Nb7 Qf6 25 exd4 Qf3 26 Kg1 (otherwise 26 ... Qh1#) Nxd4 when it is a struggle to predict how much material I am going to lose.

24	Qxa5	N6xa5
25	Kg2	Rc6
26	N3a4	Rb8
27	Bc3	Bf8

It's never too late to head for a symmetric position! There have been several options to each of the last few moves but White has slowly been regaining equilibrium.

28	Nd7	Rb5
29	Bxa5	Rxa5
30	Ndc5?	

Oh dear! Wrong knight! With 30 Nac5, White hangs on.

30		Rxa4!
31	Nxa4	Nxe3+!
32	fxe3	Rxc1

Black is a pawn up with a much better position.

33	Nb2	Rc3
34	Nd1	Rd3
35	Nf2	Rb3
36	Kf3	Bg7
37	Rd2	Kf8
38	Nd3	Bh6
39	h4	Ke7
40	g4	f6

The time control has been reached. White is fighting for a draw but Black has made little progress recently.

41 Nf4 g5

The general principle is that the stronger side in the endgame exchanges pieces, the weaker swaps pawns. Here 41 ... Bxf4!? 42 Kxf4 Kd6 would have made it easier for Black. White should have avoided the opportunity by 41 Ke2 Kf7.

42	hxg5	fxg5
43	Nd3	Bg7
44	Nc5	Ra3
45	Ke2	

White is close to equality.

45		Ra7
46	Rb2	e5
47	dxe5	Bxe5
48	Rb7+	

Not a good idea. Against a stronger opponent, I was trying to simplify but keeping the rook on must be better. Sitting tight with 48 Rd2!? is best.

48		Rxb7
49	Nxb7	Kf6
50	Nc5	Bd6
51	Nd3	Kg6
52	Ne1	h5

The computer recommends 52 ... Kf7 with a long period of manoeuvring to follow. With a clock ticking, immediate creation of a passed pawn is certainly menacing.

53 Kf3?

53 gxh5+ Kxh5 54 e4 gives good chances of saving the game. 54 ... dxe4 55 Ke3 g4 56 Kxe4 leads to a position that probably only requires basic endgame technique. On consulting a reference book, you receive the advice "Each case requires calculation." Thank you!

53		h4
54	Nd3	h3
55	Nf2	h2
56	Kg2	Kf6
57	Kf3	Bc5
58	Nh1	Ke6
59	Ng3	Bd6
60	Nh1	Kd7

I am trying to set up a fortress with a perimeter that the black king cannot penetrate. The weak spot is d2 but Kf3-e2 will plug the gap and the knight prevents zugzwang by hopping back and forth.

61	Nf2	Bc5
62	Nh1	Kc6
63	Ke2	Kb5

White is very close to the desired impasse but will be thwarted by an unfortunate combination of factors. Imagine the black king reaching c2 with the opposition, the bishop on d6 and the knight on h1. It looks as though Nh1-f2-h1 repeats the position indefinitely.

• After Nh1-f2, Black has Bd6-g3 and then Nf2h1 Bg3-h4 when the knight is dominated.

- The h pawn is defenceless and retreating the white king to capture it loses the e pawn.
- Black's active king will win the endgame effectively reduced to the d and e pawns.

Thus the white king must emerge beyond the picket line. With the white king on d3, Black has to analyse the threatened e3-e4 and find something other than the Bg3-h4 manoeuvre which drops the d pawn.

64 Kd3 Kb4

Pity but 65 e4 d5 66 e5 Kb5 67 e6 Kc6 is inadequate.

65	Nf2	Kb3
66	Nh1	

We have reached a critical point. Time pressure was a real problem for me especially as Fritz gives Black an advantage equivalent to 3 pawns.

66 ... Bxe3

According to Fritz, 66 ... Ka4 secures the point but this could be an instance when the computer is wrong! In its eyes, the move certainly maintains the advantage at 3 pawns but the longer you let it analyse, the closer its horizon should be to eventual victory and the assessment should increase in Black's favour. It doesn't – the evaluation remains stubbornly unchanged and even causes my computer's cpu to overheat! Black is not making progress and intuitively, this provokes Kevin into extreme measures.

67 Kxe3 Kc3 0–1

Here, in really bad time trouble, I think I resigned (the scoresheet is illegible) or lost on time believing my stronger opponent had seen and calculated this as winning for Black. But...

68 Kf3

This is the way White saves the day and it just didn't occur to me. Now White mops up the h pawn and then just moves the knight back. Such a simple idea but if I hadn't had faith in my opponent's analysis, I might have checked and found this.

d4
d3
Kd2
Ke2
d2
Ke3

The only move

74 Nd1+ 74 Kq3 Ke2 75 Kq2 also draws

-	5	
74		Kf4
75	Nf2	with a dead draw.

Phil Turp

Eye Opener

There has been a rash of short games recently on the master tournament circuit. This trend has been fuelled by some spectacular successes by the young Chinese players and hopefully will usher in an era with a refreshing openminded attitude to tactics. Here is a typical example of this fearless approach.

Vavulin (2453) v Predke (2537) Moscow 2015

1 d4 Nf6 2 Nc3 d5 3 Bg5 Nbd7 4 Qd3 c5 5 0–0–0 c4 6 Qf3 Qa5 7 Nh3 e6 8 Bd2 b5 9 Nxd5

The opening has not followed a mainstream variation and both players are being deliberately provocative. The computer recommends the melée resulting from the text move whereas human annotators prefer the circumspect 9 a3.

9		Qxa2
10	Nxf6+	Nxf6
11	Qc6+	Kd8
12	Bc3	

One alternative 12 Bf4 Qa1+ 13 Kd2 Bb4+ 14 Ke3 (14 c3 Qxb2+) 14 ... Qxd1 leaves Black with a massive attack whilst White's position is still inferior after 12 c3 b4 13 cxb4 Rb8 but the fight continues.

12		b4
13	Qxa8	

13 Ng5 offers little e.g. 13 ... bxc3 14 bxc3 Nd5 15 Kd2 Qa5 16 Qxc4 Ba6.

13 14	 bxc3	bxc3
8	<u> </u>	÷



The move played is strongest but 14 ... Nd5 immediately or in combination with Qa2-a3+ or Qa2-a5 also win.

15 Kd2

...

Obviously not 15 cxb4 c3.

15

Bxc3+

16 Kxc3

16 Ke3 Qxc2 is useless but now only giving up the queen will avoid checkmate.

16 ... Nd5+ 17 Kd2 Qa5+ 18 Kc1 c3 19 Qb8 Qa1+ 20 Qb1 Qa3+ 0-1

Website : <u>www.newenglandchess.org.uk</u>

Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

	Fen Ci	land up			C	Cambr	idges	hire L	eagu	е					Grading		
A Team	Peterborough 6th Nov	Cambridge 8th Apr	Royston 12 st Oct	St Neots 8th Oct	Warboys A 3 rd Dec	Peterborough A 10th Dec	Cambridge 7th Jan	Royston 23 rd Feb	St Neots 2 nd Feb	Warboys A 25 th Feb	Peterborough A 12th Mar	Cambridge 25 th Mar	Score	Appearances	Opponent Average	Performance	
Paul Hanks		0	0	1	1⁄2	1	0	0	1/2	1⁄2	0	1⁄2	4	11	172	158	
Phil Turp	0		0	0		0	0	1⁄2	1/2	1	0	0	2	10	173	142	
Mike Dunkley	1/2	0	1⁄2	1	1	1/2	0		1/2		0	1/2	4½	10	173	168	
Sam Caraway		0	0	1⁄2	0	1⁄2	1			0		1	3	8	174	161	
Des Lane		0			0		0		1	0	1	0	2	7	133	112	
Ron Jones	0		0	0									0	3	159	107	
Jonathan Sadler								0	0				0	2	160	90	
Paul Spencer					1⁄2	1⁄2							1	2	156	156	
Steve Walker	0										1/2		1/2	2	101	76	
Chris Russell								0					0	1	192	102	
Jason Parker								0					0	1	186	72	
Norman Wedley										1d			1d	1	-	-	
Total	1/2	0	1⁄2	2 ½	2	2 ½	1	1⁄2	2 ½	2 ½	1 ½	2	17 +	• 1 d			
B Team	Cambridge 15 th Oct	Royston 9th Feb	Peterborough B 2 ^m Oct	Spalding 29th Oct	Warboys B 12th Nov	Buckden 21 st Jan	Warboys C 18th Feb	Spalding 24th Feb	Peterborough B 25th Mar	Warboys B 1 st Apr	Buckden A 13th Apr	Warboys C 29th Apr	Score	Appearances	Opponent Average	Performance au	
Ron Jones			1⁄2		1⁄2								1	2	154	154	
Paul Hanks				0									0	1	197	146	
Des Lane			0		0	0	1	0		0	1⁄2		1½	7	140	109	
Jonathan Sadler			0	1		0	0			1	1d		2 + 1 d	6	119	109	
Jason Parker				0	1				1	0	1		3	5	85	95	
Mahmoud Tarabad						0	1	0	1				2	4	99	99	
Paul Spencer			0	0	0								0	3	149	99	
Steve Walker							1/2		1⁄2	0			1	3	117	100	
Steve Wozniak								0	1/2				1/2	2	143	109	
Peter O'Gorman						0		0					0	2	111	61	
Ivan Garratt											0		0	1	74	24	
Total	4d	0 d	1⁄2	1	1½	0	2 ½	0	3	1	2 ½	0 d	11 +	1d			

Cambridgeshire Team 550 Competition

	2 nd Oct	0 th Nov	S th Nov	30 th Apr	2 14 th Jan	28 th Jan	1 th Feb	z th Mar			Gra	ding
NE Patriots	New England 2 22 rd Oct	Spalding 19 th Nov	Godmanchester 6 th Nov	Warboys N 3	New England 2 14	Warboys N 2	Godmanchester 11 th Feb	Spalding 17 th Mar	Score	Appearances	Opponent Average	Performance
Sam Caraway	1/2	0		1/2		0	1		2	5	161	154
Paul Hanks				1/2	1	1/2		1	3	4	137	164
Jonathan Sadler	1		0			1		1	3	4	111	136
Jason Parker		1/2			1/2		0	1⁄2	11⁄2	4	99	86
Peter O'Gorman	1	1/2	1		1	0	0		3 ½	6	88	97
Chris Russell			0	0				0	0	3	119	69
Steve Wozniak		1/2	1				1/2		2	3	105	121
Paul Spencer	1/2				1/2				1	2	124	124
Total	3	1½	2	1	3	11⁄2	1 ½	2 ½	16			
NE Cavaliers	Spalding 7th Oct	New England 1 22 rd Oct	Warboys N 19th Nov	New England 1 14th Jan	Godmanchester 28th Jan	Spalding 11 th Feb	Godmanchester 9th Mar	Warboys N 18th Mar	Score	Appearances	Opponent Average	Derformance
Mike Dunkley		1⁄2	1		1⁄2	1⁄2	1	1⁄2	4	6	150	167
Phil Turp	1⁄2						1	1⁄2	2	3	155	174
Ron Jones	1	1⁄2	0						11⁄2	3	134	134
Des Lane	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	8	101	88
Mahmoud Tarabad	1		0	0	0		1	1	3	6	91	91
Steve Walker		0		1⁄2	1⁄2	0			1	4	97	72
Ivan Garratt						0			0	1	79	29
Norman Wedley				1⁄2					1⁄2	1	133	133
Total	3 ½	1	2	1	1	1⁄2	3	3	1	5		