

NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – February 2016

Chairman's Chatter

The ECF recently issued updated gradings which can be compared with the TPR estimates in the January Grand Prix table. The two new entrants were different but over 90% of the remainder who only play in club events were within 5 points and most were better than expected.

Paul Hanks

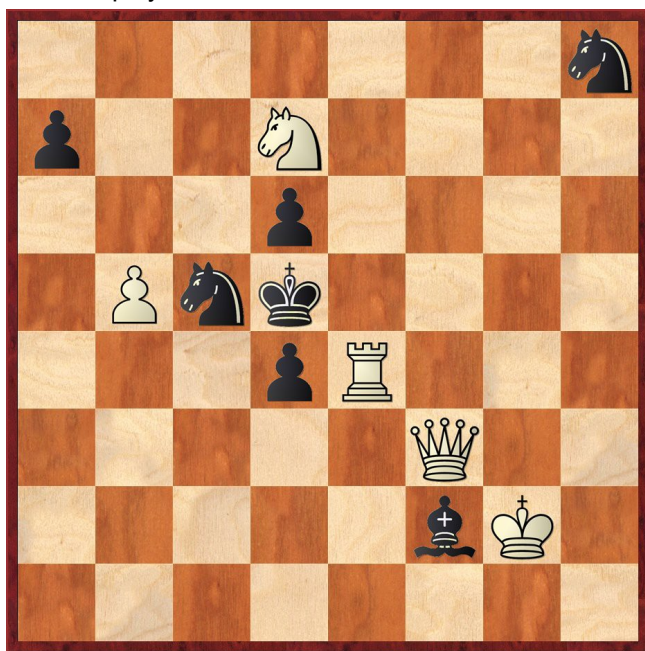
Diary Dates

After a hectic month in the leagues, we have a flood of internal events in February :-

3rd February Club Championship Round 3
10th February Handicap competition
17th February Club Rapidplay

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



Last Month's solution (A Miyara)

Position : 8/5K2/8/4BBkn/3N4/8/8/7R

1 Rh4 Kh6 2 Bf4# [1 ... Kxh4 2 Nf3; 1 ... N any 2 Bf6]

Window on the Web

Those of you who have visited chesslecture.com might be aware that one of their lecturers until last year was the US National Master Dana Mackenzie. He left to pursue other interests. His chess blog at <http://www.danamackenzie.com/blog/> is worth a visit.

There is much to explore here. The Home page contains the latest post. The *Profile* link takes you (as expected) to information about the author. There are

links to monthly older posts containing chess wisdom, games and positions. There are so many of these that quite a lot of spare time would be needed to read them all but, examples at random :-

- *January 2016* contains analysis of a very complicated ending with rooks and pawns, where one or other side could promote a pawn to achieve a queen v rook and pawns ending.
- *November 2015* includes *The Perils or Rewards of Doing Nothing* which discusses whether to play it safe or take risks when playing a weaker opponent.
- *September 2014* has part I of *Six Games, Six Positions* with analysis of critical points in the games.
- *March 2014* has *The Perils of Opening Preparation* in two parts, dealing with the Caro-Kann in Part 1 and the King's Gambit in Part 2.
- *September 2013* includes *Prophylaxis and Flexibility* with analysis of two positions showing it is better to play flexible moves that improve your position if you can, rather than impulsive committal moves that might end up ruining it.
- In *October 2011*, there is *The Fourth Endgame of the Apocalypse*, with instructive analysis of a difficult endgame.

There is also an index of categories of posts. *Openings*, for example, has many discussions of themes such as *Why Does Anybody Play 1 e4?* A good question, when you know the statistics...

Ron Jones

Website to Watch

February is a lean month for chess tournaments but six top grandmasters will compete in the Zurich Chess Challenge from 13th to 15th. It combines rapid and blitz events and can be followed at www.zurich-cc.com.

Result Round-up

Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

Peterborough A	1½	New England A	3½
A Timosenko	½	R Taylor	½
C Tandy	0	F Bowers	1
S Herring	0	P Hanks	1
M Connolly	½	S Caraway	½
N Fisher	½	M Dunkley	½

New England A	2	Warboys A	3
R Taylor	½	D McFarlane	½
F Bowers	0	C Watkins	1
P Hanks	1	M Misson	0
C Russell	0	B Duff	1
M Dunkley	½	J Beck	½

Buckden	3	New England B	1
A Chapman	½	P Turp	½
P Barkas	½	R Jones	½
S Buttercase	1	D Lane	0
C Norton	1	M Tarabad	0

Team 550 Competition

NE Cavaliers	3	NE Patriots	1
M Dunkley	½	S Caraway	½
R Jones	½	C Russell	½
D Lane	1	S Walker	0
P O'Gorman	1	N Foreman	0

Warboys	4	NE Cavaliers	0
R Mann	1	F Bowers	0
C Watkins	1	R Jones	0
M Onyons	1	D Lane	0
P Wells	1	M Tarabad	0

Godmanchester	P	NE Patriots	P
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NE Patriots	1	Warboys	3
S Caraway	½	C Watkins	½
S Walker	½	B Duff	½
P Weinberger	0	M Onyons	1
I Garratt	0	P Wells	1

NE Cavaliers	1½	Spalding	2½
P Turp	1	P Golimowski	0
R Jones	½	T Nottingham	½
D Lane	0	J Smith	1
M Tarabad	0	T Bennett	1

Club Championship

Round 2			
D Lane (1)	P	P	M Dunkley (1)
P Weinberger (1)	P	P	R Taylor (½)
I Garratt (0)	P	P	P Cairns (0)

Round 3			
R Jones (2)			P Hanks (2)
M Dunkley (1+P)			P Weinberger (1+P)
R Taylor (½+P)			D Lane (1+P)
M Tarabad (1)			S Wozniak (1½)
J Parker (1)			S Caraway (1)
F Bowers (1)			P Turp (1)
N Wedley (½)			S Walker (1)
C Russell (½)			I Garratt (0+P)
N Foreman (0)	?	?	P O'Gorman (0)
Match night : 3 rd February. Deadline : 29 th February. Next draw : 1 st March			

Round 3.5			
P O'Gorman (0+?)			P Cairns (0+P)

New England Club Ladder

White		Black	
N Foreman	0	1	P O'Gorman
P Hanks	1	0	I Garratt
J Parker	0	1	F Bowers
I Garratt	0	1	P Hanks
P O'Gorman	1	0	N Foreman
P O'Gorman	1	0	M Tarabad
P Weinberger	1	0	D Lane
I Garratt	0	1	R Jones

Position	Change		Player	Record @ 27/01/16
	Month	Overall		
1	+6	+8	P O'Gorman	1,0,0,0,0,1,1,1,1,1
2	-	+1	F Bowers	1,1,1,1,½,1
3	-2	+8	M Tarabad	1,0,1,0
4	-1	+8	P Hanks	1,1,½,1,1
5	-1	-4	N Wedley	1,1,1,1,½,0
6	-1	+8	R Jones	1,1
7	+1	-5	N Foreman	0,0,0,0,0,0,1
8	-2	-1	P Turp	1
9	-	-4	I Garratt	1,0,0,0
10	-	-6	J Parker	0,0,0,1,1,0,0
11	-	-5	P Cairns	0,0
12	-	-4	P Weinberger	0,0,0,1
13	-	-3	D Lane	0,0,½,0
14	-	-1	S Caraway	1,1

New England Grand Prix

Player	Champ	Ladder	League	Cup	550 Team	Total	TPR*
P Hanks	2	4½	5	½	½	12½	167
F Bowers	1	5½	2	½	1½	10½	167
S Caraway	1	2	3		3	9	171
P Turp	1	1	5		2	9	153
R Jones	2	2	3		2	9	125
P O'Gorman	0	6			2	8	
D Lane	1	½	2½		3	7	102
M Tarabad	1	2	1½		1½	6	81
N Wedley	½	4½				5	108
J Parker	1	2			1	4	90
M Dunkley	1		1	0	½	2½	137
C Russell	½			½	1	2	112
S Wozniak	1½		½			2	123
R Taylor	½		1½			2	162
P Weinberger	1	1				2	62
S Walker	1				½	1½	100
I Garratt	0	1				1	46
N Foreman	0	0			0	0	
P Cairns	0	0				0	16

* Tournament Performance Rating is approximate & includes Summer Sprint

Match of the Month

This game was played in the first victory for the A team in the past two seasons.

C Tandy v F Bowers

Peterborough A v New England A, 14.01.2016

1 e4 e5
2 f4

The King's Gambit has become a cinderella opening in grandmaster events at the highest level. Spassky used it roguishly to defeat Fischer in their first meeting (Mar del Plata, 1960) and it still appears spasmodically even with some big names as White (Nakamura, Ivanchuk, Short). Its charm from the romantic era has been replaced by its role as a surprise weapon to avoid your opponent's preparation.

2 ... exf4

If you want to reciprocate and take White into unfamiliar territory, you might like to consider the Keene Variation 2 ... Qh4+ 3 g3 Qe7 4 fxe5 d6.

3 Nf3 d6

Fischer played 3 ... g5 but was not happy with his play. His search for an improvement alighted on the text move which he claimed as a "refutation".

4 d4 g5

5 h4 g4
6 Ng1 Nf6
7 Nc3 Nh5

Avid readers of **NEW ENGLANDER** will remember the December 2015 issue which featured an Eye Opener article in which Grischuk faced the gambit with 3 ... g5. By advancing the kingside pawns and defending them with Nf6-h5, he cramped White's development. This game shows the same trait but here White's king's knight has not even reached an outpost on e5 thanks to the alternative at move 3.

8 Nge2 f3

8 ... Be7 comes into consideration when White might miss 9 Nxf4 Bxh4+ 10 Ke2 Ng6+. Already, the normal initiative after a gambit has passed to Black.

9 gxf3 gxf3
10 Nf4

Although it looks wrong, 10 Ng1 might be playable because Black seems unable to profit from 10 ... Bg4 11 Nxf3.

10 ... Bg4
11 Qd3 Ng3
12 Rh2 Be7
13 Nfd5

Perhaps White should damp down the flames on the kingside with 13 Bh3 Bxh3 (13 ... h5 14 Be3 and 15 0-0-0) 14 Rxh3 Bxh4 15 Qxf3 Nf5+ 16 Kd1 Nxd4.

13 ... Bxh4

The computer prefers 13 ... Nxf1 14 Kxf1 c6 but it is hardly in the spirit of the position. Instead, I am sacrificing a rook. It makes my philosophy simple – go for the jugular!

14 Nxc7+ Kd7
15 Nxa8 Nxe4+
16 Kd1 Nxc3+
17 Kd2

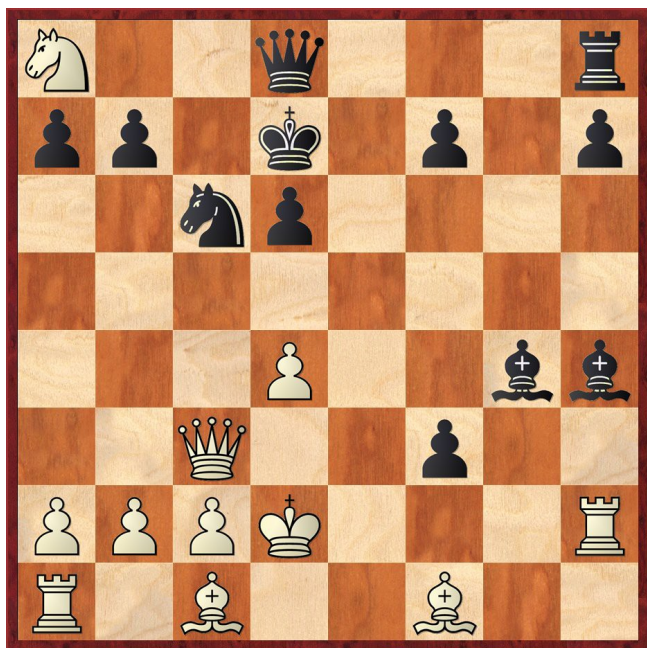
The series of forced moves comes to an end. 17 bxc3 is not viable because 17 ... f2+ 18 Be2 (18 Bd2 Bg5+) f1=Q and the new queen cannot be captured due to the pin. White had to assess 17 Qxc3 f2+ 18 Kd2 Nc6 (18 ... Qg5+ 19 Qe3) when there is a sudden calm in the storm. There are numerous tries from this position but at worst, I can take the knight in the corner to regain material equality while retaining very dangerous threats down the open e file. White is fairly helpless e.g. 19 Kd3 Re8 20 Bd2 (otherwise 20 ... Re1) b5 or 19 Qc4 Qe7 20 Kc3 Bf6.

17 ... Nc6

The strongest move is supposed to be 17 ... Ne2 but I think you need the long-range vision of a computer to justify this.

18 Qxc3

Black has to re-capture or be at a serious disadvantage. Unfortunately, 18 Kxc3 only leads to 18 ... Qa5+ 19 Kc4 d5+ 20 Kb3 Qb4# but this can be avoided by the zwischenzug 18 Nb6+ axb6 (18 ... Qxb6 19 Rxh4) 19 Kxc3 Qf6 20 Be3 Rc8 when Black is on top but not landing a knock-out blow.



18 ... Re8

I could have avoided lines in which Black returns some material by Rxh4 with 18 ... Bg3 19 Rh1 Qg5+ 20 Kd3 Qf5+ 21 Kc4 (21 Ke3 Qe4; 21 Kd2 Qf4+ 22 Kd3 Ne5+ 23 dxe5 Bf5#) 21 ... b5+ 22 Kb3 Qd5+ 23 Ka3 b4+.

19 Rxh4

White has to prevent 20 ... Be1+. After 19 Kd3, 19 ... Re1 stops any co-ordinated defence :-

- 20 Bh3 Bxh3 21 Rxh3 f2
- 20 Bg5 Bf5+ 21 Kc4 (21 Kd2 Qxg5+) 21 ... b5+ 22 Kb3 (22 Kd5 Be6#) 22 ... Be6+ 23 Ka3 Qxg5

19 ... Qxh4
20 Kd3 Bf5+
21 Kc4

Not 21 Kd2 Qe1#.

21 ... Nxd4 0-1

Faced with a discovered check (22 ... Ne2+) and a skewer (22 ... Rc8+), Black resigned. There is no escape e.g. 22 Kd5 Be6#; 22 Qxd4 Rc8+ 23 Kd5 Be6#; 22 Kb4 Nxc2+ etc.

Eye Opener

As shown above, the King's Gambit makes for great entertainment.

Podgorny v Stulik
Czechoslovakia, 1956

1	e4	e5
2	f4	exf4
3	Nf3	Be7
4	Bc4	Nf6
5	Nc3	Nxe4
6	Ne5	Nd6

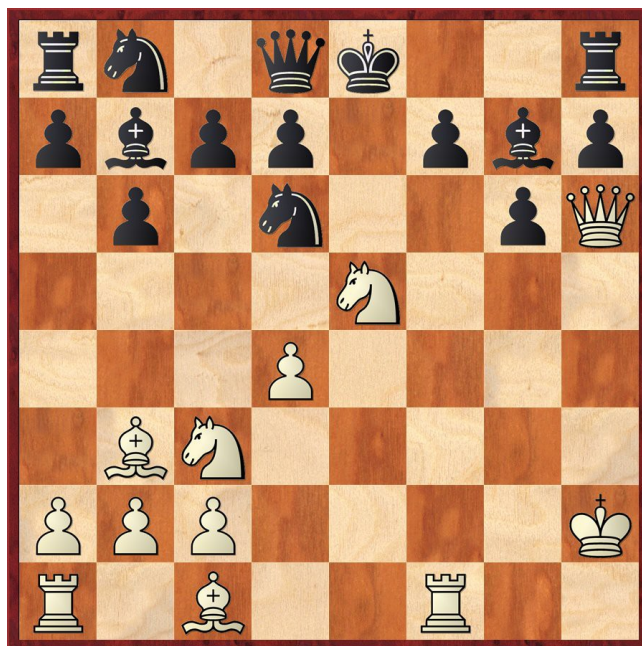
The antidote is supposed to be 6 ... Ng5.

7	Bb3	Bh4+
8	g3	fxg3

9 0-0 gxh2+
10 Kh1

At this point, White has sacrificed no less than four(!) pawns in the first ten moves. The heartless computer evaluates the position as being in Black's favour to the tune of 1.8 pawns. White's attacking chances in this Cunningham Defence are therefore worth 2.2 pawns.

10 ... Bf6
11 d4 b6
12 Qh5 Bb7+
13 Kxh2 g6
14 Qh6 Bg7



Black fights back with the tactic 15 Qxg7 Qh4+.

15 Nxf7

White could have played 15 Qh3 0-0 16 Bh6 and with Ng4 to follow, he has a continuing initiative. Instead, he has a surprising combination.

15 ... Bxh6
16 Nxd6+ cxd6

Black is cruelly exposed on the centre files 16 ... Ke7 17 Bxh6 cxd6 18 Rae1+ and if he flees with 17 ... Kxd6 18 Bf4+ Kc6 19 Bd5#

17 Bf7+ Ke7

17 ... Kf8 gives a choice of mates i.e. 18 Bxh6+ Ke7 19 Rae1+ Be4 20 Rxe4# or 20 Nd5#

18 Bxh6

Black has a choice of defences but none is adequate.

A) 18 ... Qc7 19 Bg5+ Kf8 20 Bd5+ Kg7 21 Rf7+ Kg8 22 Bh6 when Rf8# cannot be avoided

B) 18 ... Qc8 19 Nd5+ Bxd5 (19 ... Kd8 20 Bg5#) 20 Bg5+ Kf8 21 Bxd5+ Kg7 (21 ... Ke8 22 Rae1#) 22 Rf7+ Kg8 23 Bh6 Qxc2+ 24 Rf2#

C) 18 ... d5 19 Rae1+ Kd6 20 Bf4+ Kc6 21 Bxd5#

D) 18 ... Qg8 19 Bxg8 when Black cannot recapture due to 19 ... Rxc8 20 Bg5+ Ke6 21 Rae1+ so 19 ... Kd8 20 Rf8+ Kc7 21 Nb5+ Kc6 22 c4 costs a ruinous amount of material.