

NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – July 2016

Chairman's Chatter

The County Association holds its Annual General Meeting soon (see Diary Dates) and will discuss two important changes for the coming season.

In line with County team chess and many congresses, League matches may introduce a Fischer time control. The proposal is for the clocks to be set to 70 minutes + 15 seconds per move for the entire game. A familiarisation trial has been suggested during the coming month.

A new format for the Fenland Trophy with an Open section (as currently) but with teams entering the Plate competition directly on an grade-limited basis similar to the Team 550 event.

Paul Hanks

Diary Dates

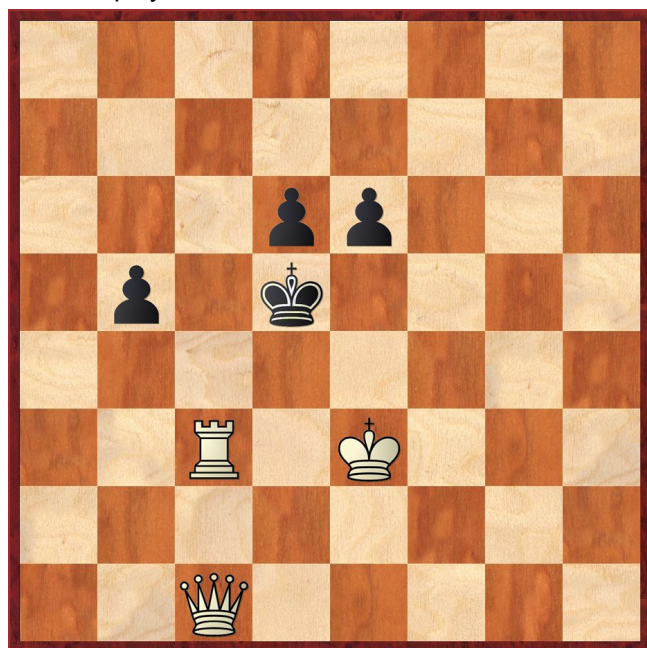
13th July Cambridgeshire County Chess Association Annual General Meeting 7-30pm at Warboys

13th & 20th July Trial games with Fischer time limit

25th September Cambridgeshire Rapidplay at Whittlesford Memorial Hall. Entry can be made via the CCCA website at www.cambschess.co.uk/Whittlesford

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



Last Month's solution (Locker 1972)

Position : 8/5k1P/8/6K1/4Q3/8/8/8

1 h8R Kg7 2 Qh7#

Website to Watch

There are two major tournaments during July. From 9th to 17th, the Sparkassen Chess-Meeting takes place in Dortmund. Although yet to be updated for the 2016 event, the website that I expect will broadcast the games is www.sparkassen-chess-meeting.de. I particularly like the fact that the star is W Kramnik!

From 13th to 25th July, the Bilbao Masters will occupy a field of 6 elite grandmasters and event information appears at bilbaochess2016.com.

Window on the Web

Garry Kasparov became World Chess Champion in 1985 by defeating Anatoly Karpov. After a glittering career in chess, he retired in 2005, turning his energies to writing and politics. An article he wrote in 2010, reviewing a book on artificial intelligence and the human mind, can be found at the website : <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/2010/02/11/the-chess-master-and-the-computer/> .

The article is mainly a series of reminiscences about his experience of computer chess, beginning with a simultaneous exhibition in 1985 against 32 of the strongest computers in the world, 8 of them named after him. He won every game, despite being in trouble against one of the Kasparov models. By 1996, chess artificial intelligence (AI) was much stronger and he narrowly won a match against the *Deep Blue* supercomputer but was defeated by an upgraded version of *Deep Blue* the following year. Kasparov explains that although that event shocked many people, chess GMs knew that the AI was improving all the time and suspected that humans would soon be no match for the computers. Apparently, many programmers had expected the improvements to result in a machine that could think and play like a human with creativity and intuition, rather than a brute force number-cruncher with no sign of human-like intelligence.

Kasparov believes that chess will never be solved (in the sense of tabulating every move in all possible games), because the number of possible games is 10 followed by 119 zeros. He goes on to discuss how computers have helped today's best young players to excel and reveals that in a 1999 tournament game against Topalov at Hoogoven, he was able to visualise the winning position a full 15 moves ahead, although he missed a quicker win that a computer would probably have found.

Ron Jones

Result Round-up

Club Lightning : 1st June 2016

Group 1		1	2	3	4	5	Gp2	Tot
1	F Bowers	X	1	1	1	1	½	4½
2	C Russell	0	X	½	1	1	0	2½
3	N Wedley	0	½	X	1	1	0	2½
4	P Weinberger	0	0	0	X	1	0	1
5	J Parker	0	0	0	0	X	0	0
Group 2		1	2	3	4	5	Gp1	Tot
1	S Caraway	X	1	1	1	1	1	5
2	P Turp	0	X	1	1	1	½	3½
3	D Lane	0	0	X	1	1	1	3
4	N Foreman	0	0	0	X	1	1	2
5	I Garratt	0	0	0	0	X	1	1

Position	Play-off				Position
	White		Black		
1	F Bowers	1	0	S Caraway	2
4	P Turp	0	1	C Russell	3
5=	N Wedley	½	½	D Lane	5=
7	P Weinberger	1	0	N Foreman	8
10	J Parker	0	1	I Garratt	9

Serious Study

P Hanks v C J Russell

New England Club Championship Rd 2, 03.12.2015

1 d4 e6
2 e4

First blood to Chris. I have been diverted away from my normal opening repertoire as White and find myself up against the French Defence which I frequently employ as Black!

2 ... d5
3 Nd2 c5
4 Ngf3 Nc6
5 c3

White is either avoiding his opponent's preparation by following one of the more obscure variations or showing his complete ignorance. You choose.

In fact, 5 exd5 leads back to main theoretical lines when the accepted wisdom is "Except in the variation 5 ... Qxd5, Black is prepared to accept an isolated pawn. By way of compensation for this pawn weakness (but then, is it *really* weak?), he is able to develop his pieces quickly and comfortably, with genuine prospects of counterplay." - Psakhis.

I was regurgitating Fallon v Hanks, Fenland Plate 2015. In that game, I maintained the central tension with 5 ... Nf6, blundered quickly and lost in short order. Chris plays much better.

5 ... c4

I do not favour continuing this way. It cramps White's light-squared bishop but also cuts down Black's later options.

6 Be2 Nf6
7 e5 Nd7
8 Nf1 Be7

My principal problem was guessing on which flank Black was going to castle (if at all). I decided to make a probing move on the queenside so that I could start an assault there if necessary.

9 b3 b5
10 Ng3

I thought for some time at this point which I considered a strategic crossroads. White can proceed with the text move with hopes of an offensive on the kingside or play 10 a4 to continue opening the queenside. The latter is only effective at this juncture because the rook on a8 is undefended and 10 ... a6 fails to 11 axb5. After the imminent Bc8-b7, the opportunity will have evaporated but Black can also meet 10 a4 with 10 ... Qa5 11 Bd2 b4 or the immediate 10 ... b4. In either case, I seemed to be attacking where Black was strongest.

10 ... Bb7
11 Qc2 0-0
12 0-0 f6
13 bxc4 bxc4
14 Rb1

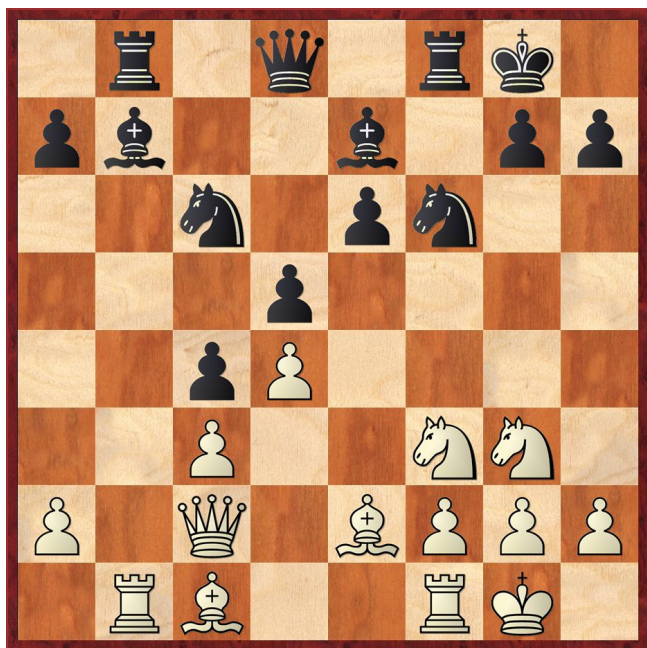
14 exf6 is supposed to be strongest but many variations are transpositions of continuations that will be dealt with later in the commentary. My version gave me hopes of winning the bishop on b7 after 14 ... Rb8 if I could engineer Bc1-f4.

14 ... Rb8
15 exf6 Nxf6

Black has an awkward decision. Recapture with which piece?

- 15 ... gxf6 does not look good and falls in with White's plans to attack on the kingside. After 16 Bf4 e5 17 Bh6 Re8 18 dxe5 fxe5 (18 ... Ndx5 19 Nxe5 Nxe5 20 Bh5) 19 Qf5, Black has to protect against 20 Qg4+ e.g.
 - 19 ... Nf6 20 Qe6+ Kh8 21 Qf7 Rg8 (21 ... Bf8 22 Bg5 Bg7 23 Rxb7) 22 Nf5
 - 19 ... Bf6 20 Nh5 threatening 21 Qxd7 Qxd7 22 Nxf6+
- 15 ... Rxf6 16 Nh5 Rg6/f7 (16 ... Rf5 17 Nf4 Nf8 18 Nxe6) 17 Bf4
- 15 ... Bxf6 16 Nh5 was probably Black's best try.

The moves played in the remainder of the game are not of paramount interest because White's play is inconsistent and the game was decided by an avoidable mistake. For the record, **16 Re1 Bc8 17 Rxb8 Nxb8 18 Qa4 a6 19 Ne5 Nfd7 20 Bg4 Nxe5 21 Rxe5 Bd7 22 Bxe6+ 1-0**. Chris had no appetite for dragging out an inferior endgame.



Far more important is the plan of campaign White ought to have played and the reasoning behind it.

In this position, Black has an obvious weakness in the shape of the backward pawn on e6. Since move 10, however, White has been deploying his forces with the idea of building a kingside attack. Is this the time to relinquish this strand and concentrate on overwhelming e6?

When faced with making this decision, I looked at my attacking prospects with 16 Ng5 Qd7 (say) 17 Nh5 g6 and Black defends quite easily. So I set aside all thoughts of aggressive forays on the kingside. This is both bad and cowardly. The piece co-ordination created by my previous intentions has a curiously persistent quality and should have been exploited if possible. What did I miss? What should I learn?

16 Ng5

Point 1 : 16 Ng5 combines the themes of kingside attack against h7 and pressure on e6.

16 ... Bc8

In the game, Chris continued this way so I will make it the main analysis path. The alternatives were

- 16 ... Qd7 17 Bg4 Nd8 18 Re1 was my aim in the game with 16 Re1 but this move order is much more forceful
- 16 ... e5 17 dxe5 Nxe5 18 Ne6 loses material trivially.

Point 2 : Check other move orders, particularly the most direct method.

17 Nh5 g6

The move is virtually forced to alleviate the threat of Nh5xf6+ and Qc2xh7#. 17 ... Ne4 leaves Black with a shattered pawn structure after 18 Nxe4 Rxb1 19 Qxb1 dxe4 20 Qxe4.

18 Rxb8 Nxb8
19 Nf4

I did not appreciate this motif. The text move is another with combined effect. Not only does a second knight hit e6, it will create entry points in the enemy king's pawn screen.

Point 3 : Learn to recognise patterns such as this. Push the depth of your analysis especially if it terminates in a conflict with your intuition.

19 ... Qd7

Black is struggling to defend e6 and attending to this prevents him strengthening his defence e.g. 19 ... Qd6 20 Nxc6 hxc6 21 Qxc6+ Kh8 22 f4 with a winning attack (Rf1-f3-h3). Note here that the text move is superior to 19 ... Qd6 because Be7-d6 remains possible. In that case, the black queen on d7 could instantly protect h7 and negate the eventual rook lift.

Point 4 : Try to fathom the nuances and potential failings of each defensive try.

20 Nxc6

This attack is not one that rapidly leads to checkmate or massive material gain. For the piece, White gets two pawns and countless threats.

White had another route to victory starting 20 Nxc6

- 20 ... Nxc6 21 Qxc6+ Kh8 22 Qg4 – I have not seen this theme with a discovered check after 23 Ng6+ before - 22 ... Nf6 23 Ng6+ Kg7 24 Nxf8 (or 24 Qg5 according to Fritz).
- 20 ... Kxh7 21 Qxc6+ Kh8 22 Qh6+ Kg8 (22 ... Nh7 23 Qg4 transposes to the line above) 23 Qg5+ Kh7 (23 ... Kf7 24 Qg6#) 24 Ng6 Re8 (24 ... Rg8 25 Qh6#) 25 Qh6+ Kh8 26 Qh8+ Kf7 27 Ne5#

Point 5 : Practise attacks to gain the confidence with the tactics and develop your skill to identify positions in which sacrifices are justified.

20 ... hxc6
21 Qxc6+ Kh8
22 Qh6+ Kg8
23 Bg4

Not 23 ... Nxc6 24 Qh7#

Point 6 : An attack based on the principle of two weaknesses is normally irresistible.

23 ... Qe8
24 Nxe6 Rf7

24 ... Bxe6 25 Bxe6+ Rf7 26 Qg6+ Kf8 27 Bh6+. Had you forgotten this piece?

Point 7 : Use all your forces. They can participate even from the first rank.

25 Qg6+ Kh8
26 Nc7

The black queen is overloaded and cannot simultaneously save the pieces on f7 and c8 e.g. 26 ... Qf8 27 Bxc8 Qxc8 28 Rxf7 Qxc7 29 Re1.

Point 8 : Learn from your mistakes!

If I had played this well, the game could have made a worthwhile **Match of the Month**. What a pity!