

# New Englander

## Chess Club Update – January 2018

### Chairman's Chatter

January again and time to starting thinking afresh! Maybe, welcome and introduce yourself to new member Jamie Sutherland and, hopefully, Mike Williams. We are even trying to add a new twist to the regular *Match of the Month* article. Happy New Year!

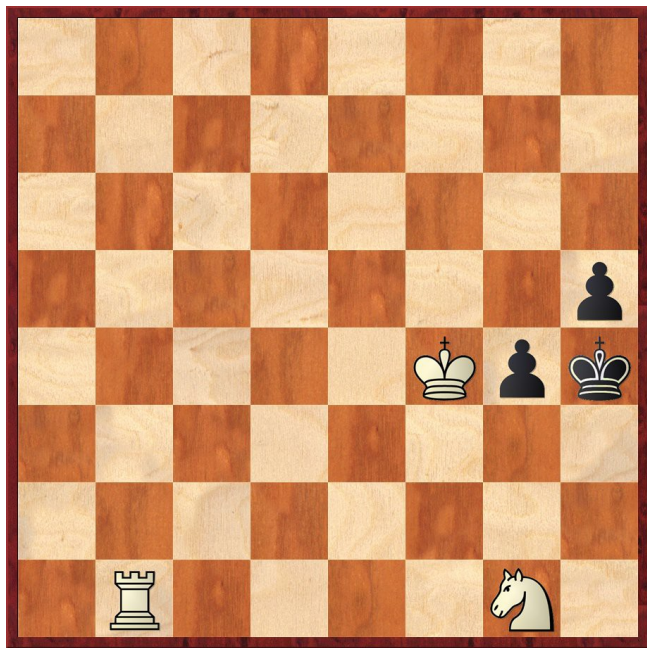
*Paul Hanks*

### Diary Dates

3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> January Club Championship rounds 3-5. Please look out for emails giving details of the successive draws.

### Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



Last Month's solution

Position : 8/8/8/8/6Np/7K/3Qp3/5k2

1 Qe3 Ke1 2 Qc1# [1 ... e1Q/R/B/N 2 Nh2#]

### Website to Watch

The world's elite grandmasters are out in force from 13<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> January at the last regular major chess festival, Tata Steel Chess 2018 at Wijk aan Zee. The field is headed by champion Carlsen and includes Anand and Kramnik from the old guard and young guns Caruana and So. Baskaran is a dark horse you can watch on <https://www.tatasteelchess.com/#>.

From 21<sup>st</sup> January to 1<sup>st</sup> February, yet another Tradewise Gibraltar Chess Festival will slip by without Phil Turp fulfilling his long-held ambition to participate. See what he is missing on <http://www.gibchess.com/>.

### Result Round-up

#### Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

New England A	3	Peterborough A	2
R Ilett	0	C Tandy	1
P Walker	1	A Kaszuba	0
F Bowers	½	K Johns	½
P Hanks	½	M Connolly	½
P Spencer	1	A Groom	0

New England B	3	St Neots B	1
P Hanks	1	R Palumbo	0
P Spencer	0	P Barkas	1
R Jones	1	Default	0
D Lane	1	F Rock	0

#### Fenland Plate

St Neots	2	NE Patriots	2
P Barkas	0	R Ilett	1
R Palumbo	½	P Hanks	½
M Friday	1	C Russell	0
F Rock	½	S Wozniak	½

#### Team 550 Competition

NE Patriots	2	NE Cavaliers	2
C Russell	½	R Jones	½
S Wozniak	½	D Lane	½
S Walker	1	M Ingram	0
I Garratt	0	M Tarabad	1

#### Christmas Special : 20<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Pos	Player	1	2	3	4	5	Total
1	R Ilett	1	1	1	1	1	5
2=	F Bowers	1	1	0	1	1	4
	M Tarabad	1	1	1	0	1	4
4	S Wozniak	1	1	1	0	0	3
5	N Wedley	0	0	0	1	1	2
6=	P O'Gorman	0	0	0	0	1	1
	M Ingram	0	0	1	0	0	1
	D Lane	0	0	0	1	0	1
9	T Ingram	0	0	0	0	0	0

## Club Championship

Round 1			
P Spencer	P	P	P Weinberger
Round 3			
P Weinberger (1+P)	0	1	F Bowers (1)
R Ilett (2)			E Serban (2)
D Lane (2)			P Hanks (2)
P Spencer (1+P)			J Parker (1)
S Wozniak (½)			P O'Gorman (1)
M Tarabad (0)			M Ingram (0)
T Ingram (0)			I Garratt (0)
J Sutherland (2P)			S Walker (0)
Match night : 3 <sup>rd</sup> January    Deadline : 3 <sup>rd</sup> January Next draw : 4 <sup>th</sup> January (1 <sup>st</sup> if possible)			

## New England Club Ladder

White		Black	
P O'Gorman	1	0	T Ingram
M Tarabad	1	0	N Wedley
S Walker	1	0	M Ingram

Position	Change		Player	Record @ 13/12/17
	Month	Overall		
1	-	+3	P Hanks	1,1
2	-	+5	P Spencer	1
3	-	-2	F Bowers	1,1,½,½
4	+8	+8	M Tarabad	0,½,1
5	-	+1	P Walker	0,½,1
6	-2	-3	N Wedley	½,0,1,1,1,½,0
7	-1	-5	J Parker	0,½,1,0,0,1,½
8	-1	-	R Ilett	1,1,½,0
9	-	-4	S Walker	0,1
10	-	-	P O'Gorman	0,0,0,1
11	-3	-2	M Ingram	0,1,½,0
12	-1	-1	P Weinberger	0
13	-	-	R Jones	1
14	-	-	T Ingram	1,0
15	-	-	D Lane	0,0
16	-	-	I Garratt	0

## New England Grand Prix

Player	Champ	Ladder	League	Cup	550 Team	Total	TPR*
P Hanks	2	2	7	1	½	11½	171
F Bowers	2	3	4½	1		10½	175
R Ilett	2	2½	1	1½	½	7½	166
P Walker	3	1½	2½	½		7½	169
J Parker	1	3	0	0	2	6	103
P Spencer	1	1	2		1	5	138
M Tarabad	0	1½	1	0	2	4½	94
R Jones	2	1	1		½	4½	128
N Wedley	½	4				4½	105
S Walker	0	1			3	4	115
D Lane	2	0	1		½	3½	96
P O'Gorman	1	1		½	1	3½	83
E Serban	2		1			3	147
P Weinberger	1	0	1		1	3	110
M Ingram	0	1½	1		0	2½	86
C Russell	1			0	1	2	96
S Wozniak	½			½	½	1½	92
T Ingram	0	1				1	62
I Garratt	0	0			0	0	25

\* Tournament Performance Rating is approximate and excludes Summer League

## Blunder of the Month

I had been thinking of dropping in to the last round of the London Chess Classic in December but when I saw that every game in the first three rounds had ended in a draw, I decided to make other plans. They may have been playing flawless chess but it was not very competitive or interesting. Here, we aim to reflect the game as it operates at club level ... warts and all!

Ron was obviously thinking in this vein when he suggested an occasional, light-hearted article which celebrates the times when we do not quite match up to the challenges of the chessboard and commit humorous, embarrassing or just plain frustrating mistakes. Chris Russell supported him claiming many of his previous submissions already qualified and as a connoisseur of the artform, he should know.

So we have *Blunder of the Month*. I hope we read it in the spirit of Nelson Mandela who said, "I never lose. I either win or learn."

*Paul Hanks*

### Bob Taylor (178) v Ron Jones (120)

Cambs County Championship Round 1, 18.11.2017

What could be worse than to start a tournament drawn against the defending champion?

1 e4 d6  
2 d4 Nf6

The moves suggest a Modern Defence is coming but that usually involves a kingside fianchetto by Black.

3 Bd3 c6  
4 Nf3 Bg4  
5 Nbd2 Nbd7  
6 h3 Bh5

There is no reason to exchange my "good" bishop for his knight.

7 a4 e5

On which side will White castle? If he intends 0-0, he's unlikely to play g2-g4 and so must find another way to unpin his knight, perhaps eventually with Qd1-b3.

8 c3 Be7  
9 Nf1 d5  
10 Ng3 Bxf3  
11 gxf3 exd4  
12 cxd4 Bb4+

If now 13 Bd2, I had planned 13 ... Qa5 when 14 Bxb4 Qxb4+ would win the d4 pawn.

13 Kf1 Nf8

If I had decided to play 13 ... 0-0, White can take advantage of his open file by 14 Rg1 with a kingside attack in prospect. Also, 13 ... Qb6 threatens little because 14 ... Qxd4 can be met by 15 Nf5 favourably regaining the pawn.

14 Be3 Ne6  
15 e5 Nd7  
16 f4 c5  
17 f5 Nxd4  
18 Qg4 Rg8



After defending my g7 pawn, I was temporarily a pawn up but White can now recapture it.

19 Bxd4 cxd4  
20 Qxd4 Qa5

The only move to defend d5 and b4. Taking stock of the position, material is equal but I have a passed d pawn. White has a space advantage with f and e pawns on the 5<sup>th</sup> rank. Neither king is castled but White's king, which can hide on g2, looks safer than mine. We have opposite coloured bishops. Each side has three pawn islands but White has doubled f pawns. White will be first to the open c file with his rooks. I didn't like the look of 21 Bb5 pinning the d7 knight and cutting off my queen from the defence of my d5 pawn, followed by 22 Qxd5 and 23 Rd1.

21 Rc1 a6  
22 e6 Nf6

Defending d5 and blockading the f5 pawn.

23 Qe5 Qb6

Over the past few moves, there is a high correlation between Fritz's first choices and Bob's actual moves.

24 exf7+

Here, however, the software recommends 24 Qc7. It has spotted that the rook gains a tempo when attacking my bishop after 24 ... Qxc7 25 Rxc7 fxe6 26 Rxb7 and thereby wins a pawn 26 ... Bd6 27 fxe6.

24 ... Kxf7  
25 Qc7+ Qxc7  
26 Rxc7+ Be7  
27 Kg2

The game position looks very similar to the previous note in that 27 Rxb7 was possible (without hitting the bishop) but in this case, I would have 27 ... Rgb8. One of my rooks would reach the seventh rank and give me sufficient compensation e.g. 28 Rxb8 Rxb8 29 Bxa6 Rxb2 30 Kg2 Bc5 31 Rf1 Ne4 32 Nxe4 dxe4 33 Kg3 Kf6 33 Bc8 Ra2 34 Bd7 Rd2.

27 ... Rab8

White spared this pawn last move, preferring to activate his other rook, so I simply defended it. If 21 R1c1, I intended 21 ... Rgd8.

28 Re1 Rge8  
29 Re6

This looks aggressive but I am not sure the white rook achieves anything on this square. Presumably, it maintains pressure on e7 while preparing to undertake a knight manoeuvre starting Ng3-e2. An alternative might be 29 Be2 with possible tricks on h5. For instance, 30 Bh5+ Nxh5 (30 ... g6 31 fxc6 hxc6 32 Bxc6) 31 Nxh5 threatens 32 Nxc7.

29 ... Kf8



Unpinning the bishop; making my next move possible.

**30 Ne2 Bd8**

I need to repel the insurgent white pieces before they become too active.

**31 Rxe8+ Nxe8**  
**32 Rd7 Nf6**  
**33 Rd6 Bc7**  
**34 Re6 Re8**  
**35 Nd4 Be5**  
**36 Nb3**

After a series of accurate moves by both sides, Fritz has a slight preference for 36 Rxe8+ Nxe8 37 Ne6+.

**36 ... Rxe6**  
**37 fxe6 Ke7**  
**38 Nc5 b6**  
**39 Nxa6 Bxb2**

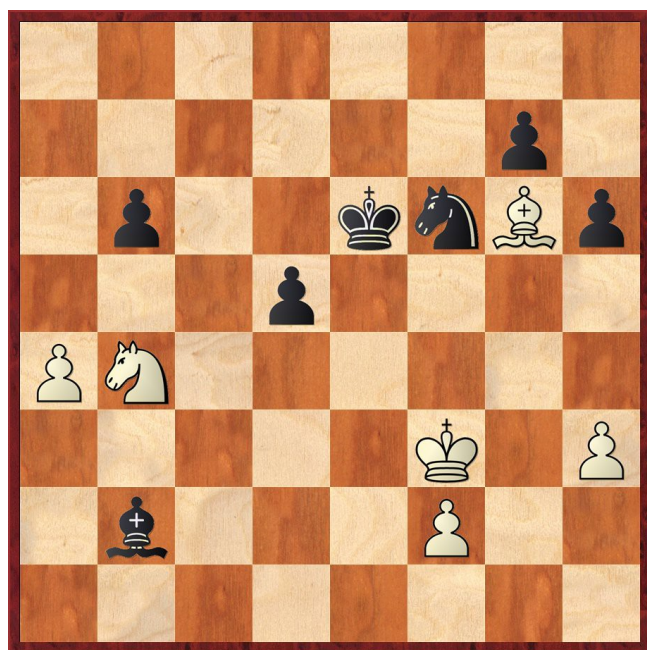
About here, we were both getting short of time, with about three minutes each left. I was about to be a pawn up and it's a passed pawn, but with his opposite coloured bishop White will easily hinder its advance. Even with a 15 second increment, I felt under pressure to move quickly in what is not a simple position. Getting into deep thought can soon use up valuable time.

**40 Nb4 Kxe6**  
**41 Kf3 h6**

On this move or the next, I could have brought my bishop "out of the cold" and had a centralised position with 41 ... Be5. 41 ... .h6 puts another pawn on a dark square so his bishop can't attack it, but weakens g6.

**42 Bg6**

Taking away squares from my knight and king.



Black to move and lose!!

**42 ... Ke5??**

Possibly one of the worst blunders I have ever played. Worse still, the computer gave me an advantage of around 1.3 pawns prior to this move. When I asked it how I should have maintained my edge, I had to stop looking after it listed at least eight alternatives.

**43 Nd3+ 1-0**

A disappointing and embarrassing end to a good game against a much stronger opponent. I must try harder to ALWAYS carry out a blunder check before moving, even in time trouble.

*Ron Jones*

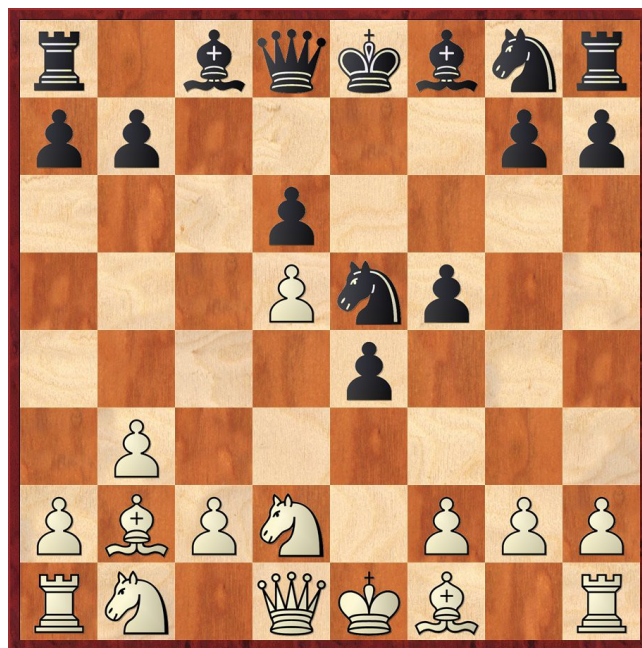
### Eye Opener

Most of us would recognise the Damiano Defence (1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 f6) as a blunder due to continuations such as 3 Nxe5 fxe5 4 Qh5+ g6 5 Qxe5+ with 6 Qxh8 to follow. Is the construction so bad after Black has moved his d pawn?

#### Li Chao v Wang Yue

World Rapid Championship, Riyadh; 28.12.2017

**1 b3 e5 2 Bb2 d6 3 e3 c5 4 d4 cxd4 5 exd4 Nc6 6 Nf3 e4 7 Nfd2 f5 8 d5 Ne5**



**9 Nxe4 fxe4**  
**10 Bxe5 dxe5**  
**11 Qh5+ g6**  
**12 Qxe5+ Kf7**  
**13 Qxh8 Bg7**  
**14 Qxh7 Qg5 0-1**

Because the h3 square is covered, the white queen has no escape from the trap and will eventually succumb to Ng8-f6.