

# New Englander

## Chess Club Update – January 2020

### Chairman's Chatter

Welcome to new decade! It is hardly necessary to make a New Year resolution – there is so much chess in the pipeline! Please remember postponed games in the Club Championship and the Ladder competition. Then, there are league matches and on 8<sup>th</sup> January, we relaunch the Chairman's Challenge...

*Paul Hanks*

### Diary Dates

8<sup>th</sup> January Chairman's Challenge plenary round

### Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2. This position appeared in Leonard Barden's *Guardian* column so please expect a difficult key move and more variations than usual.



Last Month's solution (Locker 1966)

Position : 8/8/8/8/K1kp4/2p2B2/6Q1/5N2

1 Bb7 Kc5 2 Qc6# [1 ... Kd3 2 Ba6#; 1 ... d3 2 Qd5#; 1 ... c2 2 Qxc2#]

### Website to Watch

January heralds the return of the biggest classical tournament at Wijk aan Zee from 10<sup>th</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> sponsored by Tata Steel. Fourteen grandmasters including Carlsen and Caruana contest the Masters section and there is a similar event for Challengers. The official website is [www.tatasteelchess.com](http://www.tatasteelchess.com).

From 21<sup>st</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> is the Gibraltar International Chess Festival (see [www.gibchess.com](http://www.gibchess.com)). Book those tickets, Phil!

### Result Round-up

Christmas Special : 18<sup>th</sup> December 2019

Player	Round					Total
	1	2	3	4	5	
R Ilett	½	2	2	1	1	6½
P Turp	1	2	2	0	½	5½
P Hanks	½	2	-	1	1	4½
E Knox	1	1	2	½	0	4½
D Lane	0	0	2	0	0	2
P Spencer	0	1	0	0	1	2
C Russell	0	0	0	1	½	1½
N Wedley	1	0	0	½	0	1½

### Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

New England A	2½	Warboys A	2½
J Dille	1	C Watkins	0
R Ilett	1	B Duff	0
P Spencer	0	N Greenwood	1
E Knox	0	J Beck	1
C Russell	½	P Baddeley	½

St Neots B	3	New England B	1
R Palumbo	1	P Spencer	0
P Barkas	1	C Russell	0
O Worsfold	1	E Knox	0
F Rock	0	R Jones	1

### Team 550 Competition

NE Patriots	1½	Spalding	2½
P Spencer	0	T Nottingham	1
C Russell	0	J Smith	1
S Walker	½	R Coats	½
M Ingram	1	T Bennett	0

### Fenland Trophy

New England A	1½	Cambridge	2½
J Dille	1	T Sauerwald	0
R Ilett	½	P Finn	½
P Spencer	0	B Buisman	1
E Knox	0	P Fallon	1

NE Cavaliers	1½	Peterborough	2½
R Ilett	½	A Richards	½
E Knox	1	C Bengston	0
J Parker	0	L Howland	1
Default	0	G Waterman	1

#### Club Championship

Round 1			
E Knox	P	P	M Tarabad
J Sutherland	P	P	R Ilett

Round 2			
R Ilett (P)	½	½	R Jones (1)
C Russell (½)	P	P	P Turp (1)
D Lane (0)	P	P	P Hanks (1)

Round 3			
J Sutherland (½+P)	P	P	M Tarabad (0+P)
R Jones (1½)	P	P	P Spencer (1)
S Wozniak (2)	P	P	P Turp (1+P)

Round 4			
P Turp (1+2P)	P	P	E Knox (1½+P)
D Lane (1+P)	P	P	T Ingram (½)
J Sutherland (½+2P)	P	P	R Jones (1½+P)
M Tarabad (0+2P)	P	P	E Smith (0)

Round 5			
R Ilett (2+P)			S Wozniak (2½+P)
R Jones (1½+2P)			P Hanks (2½+P)
E Knox (1½+2P)			S Walker (2½)
P Turp (1+3P)			P Spencer (1½+P)
N Wedley (1½)			C Russell (1½+P)
D Lane (1+2P)			J Sutherland (½+3P)
T Ingram (½+P)			E Smith (0+P)
M Tarabad (0+3P)			P Weinberger (1)
Match night : 12 <sup>th</sup> February      Deadline : 31 <sup>st</sup> March			
Next draw : 1 <sup>st</sup> April			

#### New England Club Ladder

Position	Change		Player	Record @ 18/12/19
	Month	Overall		
1	-	+3	J Sadler	½,1
2	-	+1	M Tarabad	½,0
3	-	-1	P Spencer	1
4	-	-1	P Weinberger	0

#### Chairman's Challenge

Player	AB	ES	SW	MT	NW	JP	JS	Tot
A Bhattacharyya	X	4/3	0	22/1	25/3	29/1	1/4	0
E Smith	4/3	X	11/3	11/3	8/1	19/2	8/1	
S Wozniak	1	11/3	X	8/1	19/2	11/3	19/2	1
M Tarabad	22/1	11/3	8/1	X	19/2	11/3	19/2	
N Wedley	25/3	8/1	19/2	19/2	X	8/1	11/3	
J Parker	29/1	19/2	11/3	11/3	8/1	X	8/1	
J Sutherland	1/4	8/1	19/2	19/2	11/3	8/1	X	

#### New England Grand Prix

Player	Champ	Ladder	League	Cup	550 Team	Total	TPR*
R Ilett	2		3	½	1	6½	171
R Jones	1½		2½		1	5	136
P Spencer	1½	1	½	½	1	4½	122
P Hanks	2½		½	1	½	4½	162
S Wozniak	2½				1	3½	141
C Russell	1½		1	1	0	3½	107
J Dille			2	1		3	209
S Walker	2½				½	3	118
J Sadler		1½			1	2½	146
E Knox	1½		0	0	1	2½	113
P Weinberger	1	0	1		0	2	93
M Ingram				1	1	2	111
M Tarabad	0	½			1	1½	103
P Turp	1		½			1½	136
J Sutherland	½				1	1½	105
N Wedley	1½					1½	91
D Lane	1					1	93
T Ingram	½					½	70
A Bhattacharyya	0					0	30
E Smith	0					0	44
J Parker					0	0	41

\* Tournament Performance Rating is approximate

#### Match of the Month

##### Ray Ilett v Ron Jones

Club Championship Rd 2; 04.12.2019

We had last played in May in last season's championship. I had had the White pieces and held my own for most of the game but blundered a pawn and lost on time. To find a record of our previous meetings, I have had to go back much further – Ray played me twice with White and won both league

games when I was playing for Bourne, in 1994 and 1997. He usually played 1 d4 then and still does.

1 d4 d6  
2 Nf3 Bg4

The Wade Defence. Alternative names have been given to it. It is one of the lines of the Pirc/Old Indian complex. The chess bible of my youth *Modern Chess Openings* devotes just one column to it (in descriptive notation, of course!) but the efforts of Julian Hodgson gave it a measure of relative popularity in the nineties.

3 c4

An offbeat option here is 3 Qd3. It covers f3 to avoid the pawn structure damage that can be inflicted by Bg4xf3 à la Trompowsky and it also threatens 4 Qb5+ winning a pawn on b7 – a theme we shall revisit.

Direct occupation of the centre with 3 e4 is a more direct challenge. With my bishop outside the pawns, I can opt for e7-e6 and leave confrontation until later in the game but that is also a way to get crushed! A more conventional path might be 3 ... e5 4 Nc3 Nc6 5 Bb5 exd4 6 Qxd4. Then, 6 ... Nge7 is more prudent because 6 ... Nf6 7 Bg5 Be7 8 Bxf6 forces 8 ... gxf6 because the natural 8 ... Bxf6 runs into 9 Bxc6+ bxc6 10 e5. I can escape with 10 ... Bxf3 11 exf6 Bxg2 12 Rg1 but White gains a threatening advanced pawn on g7 and options to attack down the e file.

3 ... Nd7  
4 Nc3 e5  
5 e3 Ngf6  
6 h3 Bh5

In his book on 1 ... d6, Cyrus Lakdawala suggests 6 ... Bxf3, but I prefer to retain the bishop. The game Kasparov v Anand, Paris 1992 witnessed Garry playing h2-h3 on move 4 in a slightly different line and Vishy also preferred to preserve the bishop pair.

7 dxe5

Here, White has 7 Qb3 leading to an interesting psychological point. Would I take on a higher graded player with the gambit 7 ... Be7 or choose a defensive move? Either 7 ... Rb8 or 7 ... Qc8 are less attractive than the suggested free developing move for White and after 7 ... Nb6 8 a4 a5, White is better placed to occupy the hole on b5 than I am to retaliate on b4.

7 ... dxe5  
8 Be2

White could continue to exert pressure against b7 by changing direction with 8 g4 Bg6 9 Bg2.

8 ... c6

Restricting the c3 knight, while giving my queen some scope. A more tactical approach by 8 ... e4 9 Nd4 Bxe2 10 Qxe2 c5 11 Nf5 Ne5 might have posed a few problems but Ray could have calmly defended with

- either 12 0-0 Qd3 13 Qxd3 exd3 14 b3 0-0-0 when the computer favours White
- or 12 Ng3 and although 12 ... Nd3+ 13 Kf1 looks promising for Black, the eventual weakness of my e4 pawn will become clear.

9 0-0 Be7

Simple development, preparing to castle.

10 Nh4

Unmasking an attack to my bishop, but not threatening to win it. Now, 10 ... Bg6 11 Nxg6 would ruin my pawn structure. The blunder 10 ... g6?? would be met by 11 g4.

10 ... Bxe2

Houdini gives this or 10 ... 0-0 as equal, and 10 ... Bg6 0.30 in White's favour.

11 Qxe2 g6

Delaying castling to keep White's knight out of f5, while White's e3 pawn prevents 12 Bh6.

12 e4 Nh5

Discovering an attack against the h4 knight.

13 Nf3 Qc7

14 Be3

If White plays 14 Bh6, I could continue 14 ... 0-0-0 but 14 ... Nf4 practically forces the loss of tempo 15 Bxf4 because an alternative e.g. 15 Qc2 allows 15 ... g5. Capturing this pawn would reveal the vulnerability of g2 after 16 ... Rg8 and the bishop on h6 is otherwise in danger.

14 ... 0-0

Connecting the rooks at last, but I was torn between that move and 14 ... Nf4, which I should have played while I could.

15 g3

Preventing 15 ... Nf4.



15 ... a5

It would be nice to say that Black can throw caution to the winds at this point and start an attack with 15 ... f5 16 exf5 gxf5. Sadly, Ray again has sufficient defensive resources. I cannot quite focus my forces in time for a decisive blow after 17 Nxe5 Nxg3 18 fxf3 Qxe5 19 Kg2 Rae8 20 Rae1 Bd6 21 Qf2 or 17 Bh6 Bc5 18 Kh1 (18 Bxf8 Nxg3) Rf6 19 Nh4 (though not



easy to foresee) 19 ... Rxh6 20 Nxf5 when the black king starts to look exposed.

Or am I being old-fashioned? In 2017, the Artificial Intelligence chess engine *AlphaZero* crushed *Stockfish*'s more exhaustive "search and evaluate" technique. One characteristic of *AlphaZero*'s play is its willingness to accept a small material minus or even open positions for its king when a long-term initiative will probably prevent the opposition from exploiting the disadvantage. The above variations stray into this sort of territory. Two problems though. Here, White is well-prepared for defence and I have to play as well as *AlphaZero*!

16 Rfd1 Nc5

Clearing the d file so I could counter possible doubled White rooks.

17 Nh2 Ne6

I immediately regretted this move, because this knight was controlling the a4 square. I expected 18 Na4 with c5 and Nb6 to follow, paralyzing my queenside. If I played 18 ... c5?, I would give White a strong outpost on d5. However, we had both been playing slowly and deep study was a luxury I could no longer afford.

18 Ng4 Bg5

19 Kg2

I am sure Ray would have wished to rebuff my move with 19 f4 but I have no less than 5 pieces covering that square! Instead, 19 Bxg5 Nxc5 20 Qe3 Ne6 (20 ... f6 21 Nxf6 or 20 ... Nxh3 21 Kg2 trapping the knight but a little more analysis is required due to 21 ... f5) 21 Rd3 Rad8 22 Rad1 is rated as being equal.

19 ... Bxe3

20 fxe3

I had not expected this doubling of his pawns, but presumably Ray wanted to keep my knight out of d4. Houdini prefers 20 Qxd3.

20 ... Rad8

21 Rf1 Kg7

22 Rad1 Rxd1

23 Rxd1 f6

Ray could have tested my alertness with 24 Nf2 to see if I noticed 25 g4 trapping the knight or that this was no threat at all due to 25 ... Nhf4+! However, we both had about 5 minutes on our clocks at this point and a draw was agreed, neither of us relishing a time scramble.

*Ron Jones*

## Eye Opener

R Jovicic (2268) v M Milojevic

Belgrade; 25.11.2006

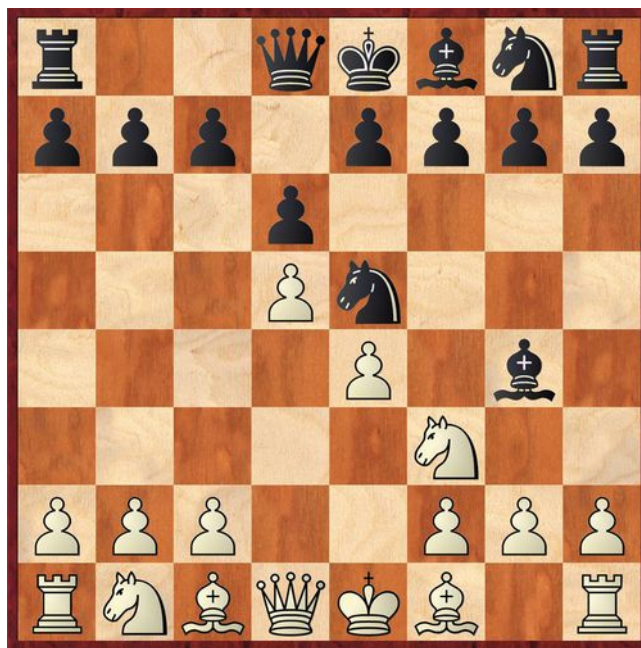
1 d4 d6

2 Nf3 Bg4

3 e4 Nc6

The main game hinted that in the Wade Defence, Black could play provocatively and this is an excellent way to rattle White's cage.

4 d5 Ne5



5 Nxe5

Were you prepared to get into time trouble at move 5? Fortunately, now come a few forced moves...

5 ... Bxd1

6 Bb5+ c6

7 dxc6 Qa5+

Most queen moves lose immediately a) 7 ... Qc8 8 c7+ Qd7 9 Bxd7# b) 7 ... Qc7 8 cxb7+ Kd8 9 Nxf7# and c) 7 ... Qb6 8 cxb7+ Kd8 (8 ... Qxb5 9 bxa8Q+ mating) 9 bxa8Q+ Kc7 10 Nc3 and Black does not survive. However, 7 ... a6 is worth considering but 8 c7+ axb5 9 cxd8Q+ Rxd8 10 Nxf7 Kxf7 11 Kxd1 should be a lost endgame.

8 Nc3 0-0-0

8 ... a6 allows the deflection 9 b4 Qxb4 10 cxb7+.

9 cxb7+

The computer prefers 9 Nc4 Qb4 (9 ... Qc7 10 Nd5 Qb8 11 c7 Qa8 12 cxd8Q+ Kxd8 13 Kxd1) 10 a3 Qc5 11 Be3 Qh5 12 cxb7+ Kxb7 13 Na5+ Ka8 14 Rxd1. This is inconclusive but White has a continuing attack with Na5-c6 and Rd1-d4-a4 etc.

9 ... Kxb7

If 9 ... Kb8 10 Nc6+ and 9 ... Kc7 10 Nc4 Qb4 transposes into the previous note.

10 Nc6 Qc7

11 Nd5 Qc8

12 Ndb4

12 Be3 (12 Kxd1 Qg4+) is rated as equal with one line being 12 ... Bxc2 13 f3 a6 14 Na5+ Kb8 (14 ... Ka8 15 Nb6+) 15 Nc6+ with perpetual check.

12 ... Qg4

13 Nxd8+ Kb6

13 ... Kc8 is correct.

14 Bd3 Qxg2

15 Nd5+ 1-0

It is checkmate after 15 ... Ka5 [15 ... Kc5 16 Be3#] 16 Nb7+ Ka4 17 b3#.