

# New Englander

## Chess Club Update – July 2020

### Chairman's Chatter

When lockdown restrictions came in and over the board play was suspended, one of the first things I did was to delete the *Result Round-up* section of forthcoming newsletters. Times change. In this issue, there is a full page of the details from competitions in the past and in progress. This shows how the club has adapted to the situation and embraced (hopefully temporarily) the online world as the arena for our sport. I hope you are enjoying the alternative and are maintaining your interest through the events being organised :-

Tuesday 8pm                    Masterclass sessions  
 Wednesday 7-30pm        Club online tournament  
 World Cup                      Individually timed challenges

There has been an announcement that the Lancaster Club venue is re-opening for business from 4<sup>th</sup> July but so far, the conditions preclude the club from holding meetings and this seems to be the prospect for some time to come. I look forward to the day when we can meet again.

*Paul Hanks*

### Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2. This is the starter problem for the Winton British Chess Solving Championship. Entries must be submitted by 31<sup>st</sup> July - for more details of the competition, please see [www.theproblemist.org/wbcsc/wbcsc.pl?type=current&sect=starter](http://www.theproblemist.org/wbcsc/wbcsc.pl?type=current&sect=starter). Please note I have to crack it in order to publish a solution in the next newsletter!



White to play and win



Last Month's solutions

Position : 8/8/8/8/8/8/KBBkpQp1/8

Shinkman 1847-1933 : **1 Qf3 Kxc2 2 Qxe2#** [1 ... e1Q 2 Qd3#; 1 ... e1N 2 Qf2#; 1 ... g1Q 2 Qc3#; 1 ... Ke1 2 Bc3#]

Position : r3r1k1/1p3p2/p6p/P1pP2p1/N3P2q/Q4P1n/7R/6RK

**Fiaes v Rodrigues**, Brazilian championship 2015

**1 ... Rxe4 2 fxe4** [2 Nc3 (otherwise 2 ... Rxa4) Re1 is a winning attack e.g. 3 Rxe1 Qxe1+ 4 Kg2 Nf4#] **2 ... Qxe4+ 3 Rhg2** [3 Rgg2 Nf2+ 4 Kg1 Qe1#] **3 ... Nf2+ 4 Kh2 Qh4+ 5 Qh3 Qxh3#**

### Result Round-up

Online Challenge Match : 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2020

New England	6	Linton	3
J Dille	½&A	C Davison	½&A
R Ilett	½&0	P Kemp	½&1
P Hanks	0&1	S Gorden-Shah	1&0
P Spencer	1&1	B Varea	0&0
E Knox	1&1	R Davies	0&0
A = game abandoned by website!			

Online tournaments : June 2020

Player	June				Total	Tie break
	3rd	10th	17th	24th		
R Ilett	2	2	3	2½	7½	2
P Hanks	-	2	3	2½	7½	-
P Spencer	2	3	2	2	7	2
M Tarabad	1	0	2	1	4	0
P Turp	-	-	4	-	4	-
S Walker	½	0	1½	1	3	0
J Dilley	3	-	-	-	3	-
C Russell	½	-	1½	-	2	-
E Knox	-	-	2	-	2	-
J Parker	-	-	1	-	1	-
P Weinberger	-	1	-	-	1	-

New England World Cup

Group games			
S Walker	0	1	P Turp
M Tarabad	0	1	E Knox
P Weinberger	½	½	P Hanks
C Russell	½	½	P Spencer (1)
P Turp	Rd	2	M Tarabad
E Knox	Rd	2	S Walker
P Hanks	Rd	2	C Russell
P Spencer	Rd	2	P Weinberger
E Knox	Rd	3	P Turp
S Walker	Rd	3	M Tarabad
P Spencer	Rd	3	P Hanks
P Weinberger	Rd	3	C Russell

Group A	PT	EK	MT	SW	Total	Tie break
P Turp	X			1	1	
E Knox		X	1		1	
M Tarabad		0	X		0	
S Walker	0			X	0	

Group B	PH	PS	CR	PW	Total	Tie break
P Hanks	X			½	½	
P Spencer		X	½		½	
C Russell		½	X		½	
P Weinberger	½			X	½	

Semi-Finals			
Winner : Gp A	Sf	1	Runner-up : Group B
Winner : Gp B	Sf	2	Runner-up : Group A
3 <sup>rd</sup> place : Gp A	Sf	3	4 <sup>th</sup> place : Group B
3 <sup>rd</sup> place : Gp B	Sf	4	4 <sup>th</sup> place : Group A

Finals (toss for colours)			
Winner : Sf 1			Winner : Sf 2
Winner : Sf 3			Winner : Sf 4

Match of the Month

**D May v E Knox**  
EACU Championship; 08.03.2020

This was the final round in the U130 section of this year's EACU championship. I was on 2.5/4 after some disappointing play on the first day but was still hopeful of taking 2nd place overall with a win.

1      **d4**                      **g6**  
2      **Bf4**

No surprises here. It had become apparent from watching each others games over the weekend that we both played the London System with White. So, what should I play against the London with Black?

2      ...                      **Bg7**  
3      **e3**                      **d6**  
4      **Nf3**                      **Nf6**

To be honest, I wasn't really sure what to play. With White, I often struggle against an early c7-c5 and Qd8-b6 but seemed to remember that there are some lines where White can force a draw and I wanted to avoid these. I also find kingside fianchettoes more difficult to play against with White in the London System, so thought I would go for this option instead.

5      **Bd3**                      **Nh5**  
6      **Bg5**                      **h6**  
7      **Bh4**                      **g5**  
8      **Nfd2**

I had forgotten about this line, but was still happy to have started the advance on the kingside. If he castles this side then I'll aim to castle queenside and keep pushing.

8      ...                      **Nf6**  
9      **Bg3**                      **Nbd7**  
10     **Nc3**                      **e5**  
11     **dxe5**                      **Nxe5**  
12     **Bxe5**                      **dxe5**  
13     **Qe2**                      **Be6**  
14     **Nde4**                      **Qe7**



I didn't just play this to fill up the e-file (although it was a consideration)! My main concern was getting my queen off the d file and getting ready potentially to castle queenside.

15 **Bb5+** **Nd7**  
16 **0-0**

16 Bxd7+!? must be considered.

- 16 ... Bxd7 17 Nd5 Qd8 18 0-0-0 with a lot of pressure due to threats on f6 e.g. 18 ... 0-0 19 Ndf6+ Bxf6 20 Rxd7
- 16 ... Qxd7 17 Nc5 with an advantage due to 17 ... Qc6 18 Nxe6 fxe6 (18 ... Qxe6 19 Qb5+ c6 20 Qxb7) 19 Qh5+ when the black king is stranded in the centre.

16 ... **0-0-0**

Time to castle and get the kingside pawns rolling...

17 **a4** **f5**  
18 **Nd2** **g4**  
19 **Nc4?** **c6**

19 e4 f4 would have kept White in the game. The text move for Black looks obvious at first to trap the bishop. However I thought for a long time here, as it does open up my king, with Na5 and Qa6 looking scary. However the odd looking Nb8 seems to hold everything together.

20 **Bxc6** **bxc6**  
21 **Na5** **Nb8**  
22 **e4** **f4**  
23 **Rfd1** **h5**  
24 **Nb5**

A desperate last effort to resist the inevitable.

24 ... **cxb5**

This opens up my king even more, but now I am two pieces up and should be able to survive with a little care and then my material advantage should be too much.

25 **Qxb5** **Qc7**  
26 **Rd3** **Rxd3**  
27 **cxd3** **Bd7**  
28 **Qd5** **Rd8**  
29 **h3** **gxh3**  
30 **gxh3** **Bxh3**  
31 **Ra3** **Rxd5 0-1**

This game may appear to revolve around my opponent giving away material so I am giving a second game for which Paul has provided the backbone of the commentary.

*Ed Knox*

Occasionally, when reading through a published grandmaster game, the commentator will use the expression "... and in this position, it is hard to give White/Black any advice." I had thought that this was just lazy journalism – the writer either could not identify an earlier faux pas or was unable to explain its connection to the current predicament. That was until I started to think about whether to annotate the following game. Around halfway, I suddenly found myself not knowing what to say. The position did not look too bad but there just did not seem to be a sensible way to proceed.

It was played in one of the club's online tournaments held every Wednesday during the lockdown restrictions. There are several advantages to this. Firstly, the score is immediately available for post-mortem analysis on a computer (playing moves chronologically but easily backtracking) and also, the time taken is recorded at each step. Being able to weigh the significance each player gives to the progressing situation is an added dimension that was advocated by David Bronstein and the number of seconds is denoted here in brackets.

**P Turp (1591) v E Knox (1527)**  
Chess.com, 01.04.2020; 15 mins

1 **e4 (5)** **g6 (3)**  
2 **d4 (8)** **Bg7 (2)**  
3 **Nf3 (7)** **d6 (2)**

Is the younger man quicker with the mouse? The Modern Defence is part of Ed's repertoire and can be played against most opening move orders by White. The speed difference is probably due to Black's game being on autopilot.

4 **Bd3 (9)**

Looking through previous games in this variation (for advice!), you do not find much grandmaster activity. A common option is 4 Bc4, possibly hoping for the simple trap 4 ... Nd7 5 Bxf7+. The text move has appeared previously but rarely Black does without Ng8-f6 for long.

4 ... **a6 (13)**  
5 **c3 (46)** **Nd7 (24)**  
6 **0-0 (15)** **b5 (10)**  
7 **Be3 (15)**

The text move is perfectly good but White is ahead in development as a result of Black's queenside pawn

moves. Normally in this opening, hoping to turn a space advantage into a kingside attack, White occupies the centre and Black attacks it. Here, however, White can turn to the flank with 7 a4 and put pressure on the advanced pawns. 7 ... bxa4 8 Qxa4 is not enticing in terms of pawn structure or strategy as White gets what he wants after 8 ... Bb7 9 Ng5 (threatening 10 Qb3) 9 ... e6 10 f4. 7 ... Bb7 indirectly defends b5 by attacking e4 and a small skirmish can ensue over that square after 8 Nbd2 Nf6.

<b>7</b>	...	<b>Bb7</b> (10)
<b>8</b>	<b>Qc2</b> (14)	<b>c5</b> (48)
<b>9</b>	<b>dx c5</b> (38)	

This looks to be a slightly strange decision. Having protected the pawn front with his bishops, White destroys it and surrenders the bishop pair. Perhaps, there were thoughts of problems along the open c file but are they are mirage? After 9 Nbd2, Black may not exchange 9 ... cxd4 because White will keep the c file closed with 10 Bxd4 and either a fine outpost on d4 or if Black expels it with 10 ... e5, a backward pawn on d6 to target. If 9 ... c4, White can be happy with 10 Be2 Ngf6 11 b3 d5 12 e5 Ng4 13 Bf4 when it is more difficult for Black to coordinate his pieces.

<b>9</b>	...	<b>Nxc5</b> (14)
<b>10</b>	<b>Nbd2</b> (48)	

The bishop cannot be saved from exchange due to 10 Be2 Bxe4.

<b>10</b>	...	<b>Nxd3</b> (61)
<b>11</b>	<b>Qxd3</b> (3)	<b>Nf6</b> (88)
<b>12</b>	<b>Rad1</b> (20)	

Remember 12 a4?

<b>12</b>	...	<b>0-0</b> (29)
<b>13</b>	<b>Ne1</b> (158)	<b>Qc7</b> (98)
<b>14</b>	<b>f4</b> (60)	<b>Qc6</b> (53)

Generally, in the King's Indian Defence (pawns on c4, d4 and e4), it is the d pawn that is weak due to the absence of supporting pawns on adjacent files. In the Modern Defence without c2-c4, White could play c3 to give d4 protection but now having played f4, the soft spot has moved to e4. By luck or good judgement, Ed latches on to this fact and successfully undermines White's imposing centre. How does White prevent losing this pawn?

<b>15</b>	<b>e5</b> (85)	<b>dx e5</b> (63)
<b>16</b>	<b>f5</b> (17)	

16 fxe5 Ng4 is no better.

It was around this point, I felt something had gone wrong for White but found it difficult to know what to play instead and where to look for an improvement. To live up to my own standards, however, I had to try.

First of all, White is intent on a kingside attack based around advancing the e and/or f pawns but is struggling after Black's 14<sup>th</sup> move. Even Fritz agrees that at move 15, White can do no more than accept the loss of a pawn and hope exchanges will limit Black's chances (e.g. 15 Nef3 Nxe4 16 Nxe4 Qxe4 17

Qxe4 Bxe4). Nevertheless, the search must start earlier. Let's retract a few moves to White's 14<sup>th</sup>.



So, was f2-f4 too ambitious? Phil thought for a long time leading up to this thematic advance. It is the culmination of White's opening philosophy of the centre pawns creating the space for a kingside attack and the lesson from the featured game in the June issue was the mantra of sticking to your plan. White's biggest problem is the knight on e1 (an investment of more than 2½ minutes on move 13!). As a short-range piece, the knight needs to be close to the action but here, it has moved backwards. Furthermore, it stops the queen's rook supporting the pawns (move 12). We possibly need to track back further with 14 f4-f2 13 Qc7-d8 Ne1-f3 12 X-X (reverse castling) Rd1-a1. I never realised backward notation was such fun!

We can try to keep Black's moves similar to those in the game and try to improve for White with 12 Rae1 0-0 13 Nh4 Qc7 14 f4 Qc6 (14 ... Rad8 is better) 15 Bd4 when White's chances look more convincing. However, it seems Black has sufficient options to focus attention in the centre with 15 ... e5 16 fxe5 dx e5 17 Bxe5 Rad8 18 Bd4 Rfe8 19 e5 Ng4 20 Ndf3 Nxe5 when the attack melts away.

More backward steps :- 11 Nf6-g8 Qd3(=N)-c2 (tricky one!) 10 Nd3=B-c5 (got the idea now?) Nd2-b1 9 Nc5=P-d7 c5=P-d4. Phew! We are back at the position in which 9 dx c5 seemed unusual and 9 Nbd2 was recommended. Without much ado, I analysed 9 ... c4 but if we were truer to the game plan, 9 ... Ngf6 was likely. Here, suddenly, White can strike before Black has his forces ready to stir up complications in the centre viz. 10 e5 dx e5 11 dx e5 Nd5 12 e6

- 12 ... fxe6 13 Bxg6+ Kf8 (13 ... hxg6 14 Qxg6+ Kf8 15 Ng5 Qe8 16 Nxe6+) 14 Ng5 Qb6 15 Nxh7+ attacking and an extra pawn!
- 12 ... Ne5 13 exf7+ Kxf7 and with the enemy king exposed, it looks better for White e.g. 14 Nxe5+ Bxe5 15 Nf3.

Therefore, the presence of a pawn on d4 is needed to create the threat of an early thrust to e5 (and probably, later when more pieces have been developed). This is what causes Black's hypothetical change of strategy with 9 ... c4 which closes the centre and would have been Ed's favoured approach.

16 ... **Ng4** (111)  
 17 **Qe2** (91) **Nxe3** (76)  
 18 **Qxe3** (3)

White has a thankless defensive task against the bishop pair in an open position.

18 ... **Rad8** (35)  
 19 **Qf2** (120) **Bh6** (131)  
 20 **Nef3** (92) **e4** (49)  
 21 **Nd4** (53) **Qc5** (93)

Was there time to see 21 ... e3 22 Qf3 Rxd4 23 cxd4 exd2?

22 **N2b3** (32) **Qe5** (37)  
 23 **Qh4** (20) **Be3+** (42)  
 24 **Kh1** (4) **Bxd4** (17)  
 25 **Nxd4** (12) **e3** (5)  
 26 **fxg6** (53)

26 Rde1 and White may yet fight on.

26 ... **fxg6** (8)  
 27 **Nf3** (24) **e2** (11) **0-1**

## Eye Opener

Many of us are aware of the tactical trick which generally appears when White is attacking Black's kingside castled position. A knight on g5 hitting h7 is becoming annoying and so we chase it away with h7-h6. Our opponents replies h2-h4 and capturing on g5 would merely open the h file with even deadlier threats. Here, Black finds a variation on this theme.

### P Spencer v P Hanks

Chess.com (1), 08.04.2020

1 **d4** **Nf6**  
 2 **c4** **e5**

One of the joys of online chess is the chance to be exuberant without it affecting your grade for "serious" chess (i.e. over-the-board play). Maybe, the Budapest Defence, however, is taking liberties with the concept although Ivanchuk has recently experimented with it.

3 **d5**

This must be a dream come true for an ardent Budapest player (not me!). In most 1 d4 openings, Black has to work hard to gain access to the c5 square with his bishop and now, it comes even without a pawn sacrifice.

3 ... **Bc5**  
 4 **Nc3** **0-0**  
 5 **e3** **d6**  
 6 **Nf3** **Bg4**  
 7 **Be2** **Nbd7**

Fritz wants 7 ... e4 immediately but where is the fun in exchanging pieces for a ¼ pawn advantage?

8 **0-0** **Qe7**  
 9 **e4** **Nh5**  
 10 **h3**

Black has a healthy lead in development and in accordance with Steinitz's principles, I must attack.



10 ... **f5**

An unusual route to f2. Creative but sadly unsound.

11 **hxg4**

The refutation starts 11 Bg5 Qf7 12 hxg4 fxg4 13 Nh4 Bxf2+ 14 Kh2 (not 14 Kh1 Ng3+ 15 Kh2 Nxf1+ 16 Qxf1 Qh5) when Fritz says White can hold out against either 14 ... Ng3 or 14 ... g3+. This is a tough assessment to make three moves ahead.

11 ... **fxg4**  
 12 **Nh2**

It is not too late to transpose with 12 Bg5. Another option 12 Ng5 prevents the black queen reaching h4 when 12 ... Ng3 13 Bxg4 and 12 ... Nf4 13 Ne6 are inadequate. Now, Black unleashes his firepower.

12 ... **Qh4**  
 13 **Qe1**

The threats are real and overwhelming e.g. 13 Bxg4 Bxf2+ 14 Kh1 Ng3#. After 13 Be3, the computer calmly finds 13 ... g3 14 Ng4 Ndf6 mating.

13 ... **g3**  
 14 **Ng4**

If 14 Nf3, simply 14 ... Rxf3

14 ... **gxh2+**  
 15 **Rxf2** **Ng3**  
 16 **Nh2** **Rxf2**  
 17 **Qxf2** **Nxe2+** **0-1**

Black grabs the material 18 Nxe2 Qxf2 19 Kh1 Qe1+ etc before hunting down the white king. 17 ... Bxf2+ 18 Kxf2 Nxe4+ 19 Ke3 Ndc5 would be more efficient when White cannot escape mate on f2 or f4 e.g. 20 Ng4 Qg5+ 21 Kf3 Qf5+.