

# New Englander

## Chess Club Update – March 2024

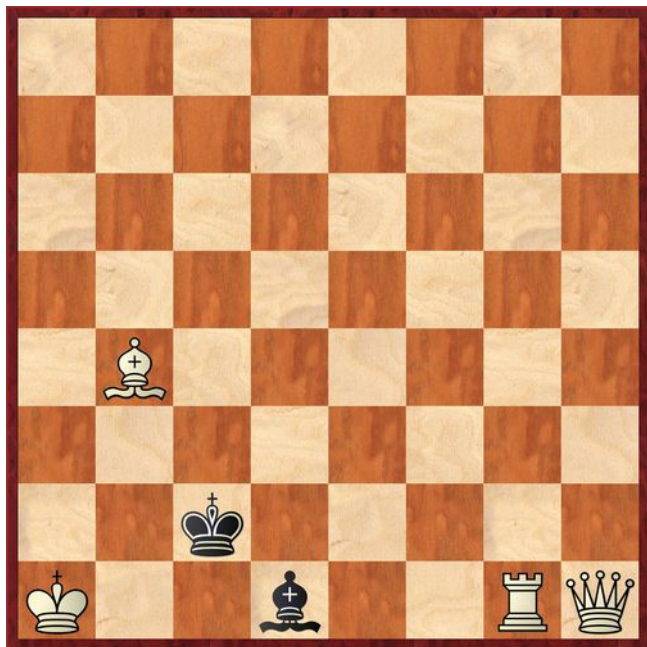
### Chairman's Chatter

Club members of several years standing will remember Mike Ingram and be saddened to learn of his death in January. A forthright and entertaining character, he made a lasting impression such that it is surprising he only played for four seasons 2016-20, often achieving a creditable 50% record. His son Tom was also a member and he plans to revive a chess club in Bourne as a memorial. We wish him well after his loss and in his new venture.

*Paul Hanks*

### Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2.



Last Month's solution (Hermansson 1930)

Position : kr6/1R6/4K1Q1/8/8/p7/8/7B

1 Qb1 a2 2 Qxa2# [1 ... Rxb7 2 Qxb7#; 1 ... Rz8 2 Rz7# where z=any file c to h]

### Diary Dates

2-3<sup>rd</sup> March [British Rapidplay Championship](#) at the Holiday Inn, Thorpe Wood, Peterborough with a prize fund of £3000. Click [here](#) for the entry form

23<sup>rd</sup> March Junior Tournament at Henry Morris Hall, Sawston Village College CB22 3BP. Entries are free but restricted to ECF members. Forms are available which list the information to be provided to [paulkemp64@gmail.com](mailto:paulkemp64@gmail.com).

### Website to Watch

Billed as Europe's largest open tournament, the GRENKE Chess Open resumes after Covid in Karlsruhe, Germany on 28<sup>th</sup> March. It takes place alongside the Classic rapidplay tournament (26<sup>th</sup> March to 1<sup>st</sup> April) which has attracted both Magnus Carlsen, Ding Liren and four other top grandmasters. Please see <https://grenkechessopen.de/en/> for details.

### Result Round-up

#### Cambridgeshire League

| New England A                          | P | St Neots A | P |
|--|---|------------|---|
| Re-scheduled for 3 <sup>rd</sup> April |   |            |   |

| Peterborough A | 2½ | New England A | 2½ |
|----------------|----|---------------|----|
| C Tandy        | 1  | P Walker      | 0  |
| H Neumaier     | ½  | R Ilett       | ½  |
| A Kaszuba      | 1  | P Hanks       | 0  |
| S Caraway      | 0  | E Knox        | 1  |
| G Hristov      | 0  | N Chedd       | 1  |

| New England B | 1½ | Peterborough B | 2½ |
|---------------|----|----------------|----|
| P Walker      | 1  | G Hristov      | 0  |
| B Stephens    | ½  | M Dunkley      | ½  |
| N Chedd       | 0  | A Kaszuba      | 1  |
| P Spencer     | 0  | G Carver       | 1  |

| St Ives     | 2½ | New England B | 1½ |
|-------------|----|---------------|----|
| D Rice      | 1  | P Walker      | 0  |
| R Coleman   | 1  | B Stephens    | 0  |
| R Mann      | 0  | N Chedd       | 1  |
| J Canamares | ½  | C Russell     | ½  |

#### Team 7000 competition

| NE Patriots | 1½ | St Ives WC | 2½ |
|-------------|----|------------|----|
| P Walker    | 1  | J Beck     | 0  |
| B Stephens  | 0  | R Mann     | 1  |
| N Chedd     | ½  | P Baddeley | ½  |
| D Dhokia    | 0  | J Beck     | 1  |

#### Team 4000 competition

| NE Patriots                             | P | P'boro Knights | P |
|---|---|----------------|---|
| Re-scheduled for 28 <sup>th</sup> April |   |                |   |

| Spalding | P | NE Cavaliers | P |
|----------|---|--------------|---|
|----------|---|--------------|---|

## New England Club Ladder

| White   |   | Black |          |
|---------|---|-------|----------|
| R Ilett | 1 | 0     | P Walker |

| Position | Change |         | Player     | Record @ 28/02/24 |
|----------|--------|---------|------------|-------------------|
|          | Month  | Overall |            |                   |
| 1        | +8     | +7      | R Ilett    | 0,1               |
| 2        | -1     | -1      | P Walker   | 1,1,1,1,1,0       |
| 3        | -1     | +4      | C Russell  | 1,1               |
| 4        | +2     | -       | I Goodwin  | 0,0,1             |
| 5        | -2     | -3      | P Hanks    | 0                 |
| 6        | -2     | -3      | P Spencer  | 1                 |
| 7        | -2     | +2      | E Knox     | 1                 |
| 8        | +3     | +3      | N Wedley   | 0                 |
| 9        | -2     | -3      | A Neville  | 0,0,0,0           |
| 10       | -2     | -5      | J Jennings | 1,0               |
| 11       | -1     | -1      | N Chedd    | 0                 |
| 12       | -      | -       | D Dhokia   | 1,0               |

## Club Championship

| White     | Postponed |   | Black      |
|-----------|-----------|---|------------|
| C Russell | P         | P | J Jennings |

| White      | Round 9 |   | Black      |
|------------|---------|---|------------|
| R Ilett    | 1       | 0 | N Chedd    |
| E Knox     | P       | P | P Spencer  |
| P Hanks    | 1       | 0 | B Stephens |
| A Neville  | 1       | 0 | I Goodwin  |
| N Wedley   | ½       | ½ | D Dhokia   |
| J Jennings | P       | P | S Reid     |

| Champions League | N<br>C | R<br>I | P<br>H | B<br>S | P<br>S | P<br>W | E<br>K | Pts |
|------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----|
| N Chedd          | X      | 0      |        | 1      | 1      | 1      |        | 3   |
| R Ilett          | 1      | X      | ½      |        | 1      |        | ½      | 3   |
| P Hanks          |        | ½      | X      | 1      |        | 0      | 1      | 2½  |
| B Stephens       | 0      |        | 0      | X      | 0      | 1      | ½      | 1½  |
| P Spencer        | 0      | 0      |        | 1      | X      | ½      | P      | 1½  |
| P Walker         | 0      |        | 1      | 0      | ½      | X      |        | 1½  |
| E Knox           |        | ½      | 0      | ½      | P      |        | X      | 1   |

| Challengers | D<br>D | A<br>N | N<br>W | J<br>J | I<br>G | S<br>R | C<br>R | Pts |
|-------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|-----|
| D Dhokia    | X      | 0      | ½      |        | 1      | 1      | 1      | 3½  |
| A Neville   | 1      | X      | 1      | 0      | 1      |        |        | 3   |
| N Wedley    | ½      | 0      | X      | ½      |        | 1      |        | 2   |
| J Jennings  |        | 1      | ½      | X      |        | P      | P      | 1½  |
| I Goodwin   | 0      | 0      |        |        | X      | 1      | ½      | 1½  |
| S Reid      | 0      |        | 0      | P      | 0      | X      | 1      | 1   |
| C Russell   | 0      |        |        | P      | ½      | 0      | X      | ½   |

## New England Grand Prix

| Player       | Champ | Ladder | League |    | Cup | Team 7000 | Team 4000 | Total | TPR* |
|--------------|-------|--------|--------|----|-----|-----------|-----------|-------|------|
|              |       |        | A      | B  |     |           |           |       |      |
| P Walker     | 5½    | 5      | 2½     | 1½ | 1½  | 2         |           | 18    | 1975 |
| N Chedd      | 7     | 0      | 3      | 5  | 0   | 1½        |           | 16½   | 1845 |
| B Stephens   | 4½    |        | 2½     | 4  | ½   | 2         |           | 13½   | 1759 |
| P Spencer    | 5     | 1      | 0      | 1½ |     | 2         |           | 9½    | 1681 |
| C Russell    | ½     | 2      |        | 4  | ½   | 2         |           | 9     | 1483 |
| R Ilett      | 4     | 1      | 2      | ½  | 1   |           |           | 8½    | 1893 |
| E Knox       | 4     | 1      | 1      |    | 1   | 1½        |           | 8½    | 1797 |
| N Wedley     | 3     | 1      |        | 1  |     |           | 1½        | 6½    | 1562 |
| P Hanks      | 5½    | 0      | ½      |    | ½   |           |           | 6½    | 1871 |
| I Goodwin    | 2     | 1      |        | ½  |     |           | 1         | 4½    | 1330 |
| J Sutherland |       |        |        | 2½ | 0   | 1         | 1         | 4½    | 1588 |
| D Dhokia     | 2½    | 0      |        | 0  |     |           | 1½        | 4     | 1142 |
| J Jennings   | 1½    | 1      |        | 0  |     |           | 1         | 3½    | 1435 |
| S Reid       | 2     |        |        |    |     |           |           | 2     | 1157 |
| A Neville    | 3     | 0      |        |    |     |           |           | 3     | 1433 |

\* Tournament Performance Rating is approximate

## Match of the Month

Over time, players specialise with a particular opening and develop a certain style – often with one dictating the other. My opponent here has a preference as White for grabbing space with b2-b4 (sometimes as early as move one!), manoeuvring to stifle any counter-attacking activity and advancing on the queenside. Indeed, this strategy formed an undercurrent to the play when we met before he transferred clubs to Peterborough.

### S Caraway v P Walker

St Ives A v New England A; Board 1, 29.11.2023

1 d4 Nf6  
2 e3 d6  
3 f4

This is the Stonewall Attack which in its heyday was used by such greats as Capablanca, Marshall and Pillsbury but no strong master has used it consistently

since the 1920's. Similar in concept to the resurgent London System 1 d4 Nf6 Bf4, it aims to make e7-e5 difficult for Black but as my choice of the King's Indian Defence shows, the thematic advance is practically inevitable.

|   |     |      |
|---|-----|------|
| 3 | ... | Nbd7 |
| 4 | Nf3 | g6   |
| 5 | Bd3 | Bg7  |
| 6 | c3  | O-O  |
| 7 | O-O | e5   |

Although the pawn looks flimsily defended, I can still make the central push. It can be justified by 8 fxe5 dxe5 9 dxe5 Ng4 which recovers the material leaving White with an isolated pawn though 10 e6 reciprocates the weakness. Instead, 9 e4 is needed to relieve White's cramped position.

|   |     |  |
|---|-----|--|
| 8 | Bc2 |  |
|---|-----|--|

White avoids the fork but lets his position become ever more congested by restricting the scope of his bishop pair.

|    |     |    |
|----|-----|----|
| 8  | ... | e4 |
| 9  | Ng5 | d5 |
| 10 | b3  |    |

The move to counteract my space advantage and the obvious freeing move is c2-c4 to undermine the pawn on e4. White starts to prepare this but could use his existing pressure to play 10 c4 immediately. Black cannot maintain a plus with 10 ... h6 11 Nh3 dxc4 because 12 Nc6 Re8 13 Nf2. The computer favours the complications starting 11 ... c5 or even the solid 10 ... c6.

|    |     |     |
|----|-----|-----|
| 10 | ... | Nb6 |
| 11 | Nd2 | Bf5 |



Black is threatening to play 12 ... Qd7 followed by 13 ... h6 after which the knight on g5 can no longer retreat to h3 without the loss of a pawn.

After showing intent for two tempi, White could play 12 c4 but opening my long dark-squared diagonal gives rise to unpleasant tactics after 12 ... h6

- 13 Nh3 Ng4
    - 14 Re1 Nxe3 15 Rxe3 Bxd4
    - 14 Qe2 Nxe3 15 Qxe3 dxc4 16 Bb2 (otherwise 16 ... Bxd4) 16 ... Nd5 17 Qg3 c3 18 Bxc3 Nxc3 19 Qxc3 Bxd4+
  - 13 c5 hxg5 14 cxb6 gxf4 15 Rxf4 axb6 when I have an extra pawn and much freer position.
- |    |      |      |
|----|------|------|
| 12 | Nh3  | Bxh3 |
| 13 | gxh3 | Qd7  |
| 14 | Kg2  | Nc8  |
| 15 | Qe1  |      |

Ironically, the minor piece exchange has taken the heat out of the previous comment and 15 c4 would apply some tension. Post-mortem computer analysis suggests Black can offer a small positional sacrifice with 15 ... Nd6 16 cxd5 Nxd5 and if 17 Nxe4, 17 ... Qc6 with continuations 18 Nxf6 Nxe3+, 18 Rf3 Nb4 and 18 Kg1 Nf5.

I am enjoying an initiative being able to occupy f5 with a knight or break apart the centre with c7-c5. White's subsequent play is a reaction to these options.

|    |      |      |
|----|------|------|
| 15 | ...  | Ne7  |
| 16 | Ba3  | Rfe8 |
| 17 | Bxe7 | Rxe7 |
| 18 | Bd1  | Ne8  |
| 19 | Bg4  | f5   |

I have blocked my potential outpost but could have retained the possibility with 19 ... Qc6 20 c4/Rc1 h5 21 Bd1 Nd6.

|    |     |     |
|----|-----|-----|
| 20 | Be2 | Nf6 |
| 21 | Qh4 | Rc8 |
| 22 | b4  |     |

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|    |      |      |
|----|------|------|
| 22 | ...  | c6   |
| 23 | Nb3  | Qc7  |
| 24 | a4   | Ne8  |
| 25 | Qe1  | b6   |
| 26 | Qd2  | Rd8  |
| 27 | a5   | Nf6  |
| 28 | Qe1  | Nd7  |
| 29 | axb6 | axb6 |
| 30 | Ra6  | Ree8 |
| 31 | Qa1  | Rb8  |
| 32 | Qa2  |      |

Sam offered a draw three times during the game and Fritz is of a similar opinion at this point even after evaluating the complexities of 32 b5 c5 33 c4.

|    |     |      |
|----|-----|------|
| 32 | ... | Qd6  |
| 33 | Qd2 | Bf6  |
| 34 | Kf2 | Bh4+ |
| 35 | Kg1 | Kh8  |
| 36 | Kh1 | Ra8  |

I have a target on f4 which cannot be defended by the white bishop. I just need to neutralise any activity on the a file and distract White's pieces to the queenside.

37 Raa1

White does not play ball with the tempting 37 Rfa1 Rxa6 38 Rxa6 when 38 ... g5 raises the typical threat 39 ... gxf4 40 exf4 e3.

37 ... Rg8  
38 Rxa8 Rxa8  
39 Rg1 Qb8  
40 Qb2 Ra7

Missing 40 ... Bf2 when White's pawns drop off. The curse of opposite-coloured bishops!

41 Ra1 Rxa1+  
42 Qxa1 g5  
43 Qf1

My passed pawns after the text move will be decisive. White would fight on after 43 fxg5 Bxg5 44 Qg1 Bh6 45 Qf2 Qf8 46 b5.

43 ... gxf4  
44 exf4 Nf8  
45 Bh5 Ne6  
46 Nc1 Qxf4  
47 Qxf4 Nxf4  
48 Be8 Be1  
49 Na2 e3  
50 Kg1 Bd2 0-1

*Peter Walker*

## Eye Opener

**G Madanasri (1967) v S Shahin**  
3rd Dubai Open U14 Rd 4; 15.07.2004

1 d4 d6  
2 e3 Nf6  
3 f4

The same opening as the main article but as you will see, an altogether different approach. With White's pawns on dark squares, Black expects the bishop fianchetto on the light-squared diagonal to have plenty of scope. Instead, it leaves Black with insufficient support to make a challenging pawn thrust in the centre.

3 ... b6  
4 Bd3 Bb7  
5 Nf3 e6  
6 0-0 Be7  
7 c3 Nbd7  
8 Qe2 0-0  
9 e4 c5

Here is Black's counterplay but White has made pawn advances such that a kingside attack starting with either e4-e5 or f4-f5 is on the cards.

10 Ng5 cxd4

Perhaps alarm bells should be ringing for Black and expelling the forward knight should be a priority before the initiative breaks loose. With 10 ... h6, play might continue 11 e5 hxg5 12 exf6 Nxf6 13 fxg5 Nd5 14 g6 Qd7 15 c4 which looks dangerous but Fritz is happy that Black can defend. There are several variations with different pawn exchanges but essentially, they are almost transpositions in practice.

11 e5 dxe5  
12 fxe5 Nxe5



13 Rxf6

This enterprising sacrifice is questionable under clinical examination but 13 Qxe5 dxc3 14 Qxc3 (14 Qe2 allowing material equality with 14 ... cxb2 15 Bxb2 is probably safer) 14 ... Rc8 15 Qd2 Qd4+ 16 Kh1 Rxc1 17 Rxc1 Rd8 is not an unlikely analysis line over the board. White would need to be careful because 18 Rd1 Qg4 leads to threats of 19 ... Rxd3 20 Qxd3 Qxg2# and 19 ... Bxg2 20 Qxg2 Qxd1+.

13 ... h6

Acceptance with 13 ... Bxf6 leads to a modest advantage for White after 14 Bxh7+ Kh8 15 Qh5 Re8 (15 ... Bxg5 16 Bxg5 when Black cannot save his queen and avoid a devastating discovered check) 16 Be4+ Kg8 17 Bxb7.

14 Nxe6 fxe6

Black understandably wants to simplify the position rather than enter murky waters with 14 ... Qd6 15 Rxh6.

15 Rxf8+ Kxf8  
16 Qxe5 dxc3  
17 Nxc3

Sadly 17 Qxc3 again will not do due to 17 ... Rc8 18 Qd2 when Black's activity is winning e.g. 18 ... Rxc1+ 19 Qxc1 Bc5+

- 20 Kf1 Qxd3+ 21 Ke1 Bxg2 22 Qf4+ Kg8 23 any Be3
- 20 Kh1 Bxg2+ 21 Kxg2 Qd5+ 22 Kf1 (other king moves lead to checkmate) 22 ... Qh1+.

17 ... Qxd3  
18 Be3 Bf6  
19 Qg3 e5

After the hard work, Black blunders when 19 ... Kg8 was one of several playable moves.

20 Bc5+ 1-0