

NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – May 2009

Chairman's Chatter

Congratulations again go to Chris Ross for winning the Club Championship with an unbeaten record. In the second division, Des Lane was similarly dominant and scored a deserved victory. The organisation of the event was tricky this year due to the more crowded club calendar and the awkward division of the squads but I hope you all enjoyed the competition.

To celebrate his success, this month Chris gives us his "Champion's Choice" of a recent grandmaster game which he hopes you enjoy as much as he did.

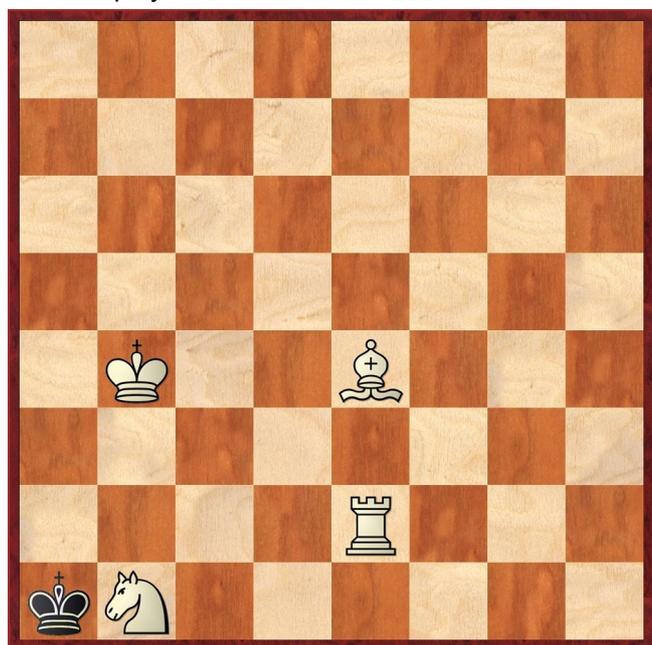
Paul Hanks

Diary Dates

Due to a postponed league match, the Quickplay Tournament will be pushed back from 6th May to 20th May. In between, we finish the season with the Jamboree at Warboys on 13th May.

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2.



Last Month's solution

In Forsyth notation : **7r/6pk/7N/3Q4/6K1/8/8/8**

1 Ng8 Rxc8 2 Qh5# [1 ... g6/5 2 Qf7#; 1 ... Kg6 2 Qf5#]

Website to Watch

May brings the Supertournament in Sarajevo from 7th to 18th. If you wish to acquire a smattering of Bosnian, try www.skbosna.ba and follow "Medunarodni turnir Bosna 2009". Good luck!

Result Round-up

New England A	3½	Peterborough B	1½
C Ross	1	R Ilett	0
F Bowers	½	G Ward	½
P Hanks	0	D Brown	1
S Caraway	1	G Evans	0
R Jones	1	Default	0

New England B	3½	Buckden B	½
R Jones	1	C Hamilton	0
D Lane	½	A Young	½
A Brookbanks	1	B Taylor	0
J Alster	1	A Ellyl	0

New England B	1	Cambridge B	3
R Jones	0	T Bramley	1
D Lane	½	D Jackson	½
H Currie	0	W Stimpson	1
J Alster	½	H Burgess	½

Spalding B	2½	New England B	1½
J Van Gemeren	0	R Jones	1
J Smith	½	D Lane	½
R Coats	1	A Brookbanks	0
J Pulford	1	H Currie	0

Club Championship

Division One	C R	F B	S C	P H	P T	K T	R J	Total
C Ross	X	1	1	½	1	1	P	4½ / 5
F Bowers	0	X	½	1	½	1	1	4 / 6
S Caraway	0	½	X	½	½	1	1	3½ / 6
P Hanks	½	0	½	X	1	1	P	3 / 5
P Turp	0	½	½	0	X	1	P	2 / 5
K Talnikar	0	0	0	0	0	X	P	0 / 5
R Jones	P	0	0	P	P	P	X	0 / 2

Division Two	D L	C C	C R	S W	A B	N W	H C	M T	Total
D Lane	X	1	1	0	½	1	1	1	5½
C Collins	0	X	0	1	1	1	1	1	5
C Russell	0	1	X	½	1	½	1	0	4
S Walker	1	0	½	X	0	0	1	1	3½
A Brookbanks	½	0	0	1	X	0	1	1	3½
N Wedley	0	0	½	1	1	X	0	1	3½
H Currie	0	0	0	0	0	1	X	1	2
M Tarabad	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	X	1

Match of the Month

Question : What is the best way to follow and enjoy chess games at the highest level?

There are obviously several ways according to your personal style but here is what I tend to do. As a general rule, I tend to view the latest versions of TWIC (<http://www.chesscenter.com>) and if I think the tournaments which are being highlighted are of particular interest, I will download the games in PGN format via the appropriate link. [Mark Crowther normally updates the games fairly quickly and you can obtain them either in PGN or CBH format or even view them on-line.] To keep up-to-date with current tournaments and events in the wider chess world, chessbase.com is another good website.

Personally, I collate all the TWIC downloads. Each Monday, TWIC produce one PGN file with all of that week's tournaments. Using Fritz, you can merge the PGN files together and once that collective file has been added to your own personal database - in my case, Megabase 2007 - you suddenly have a meaty database, in which you are able to find nearly every variation that has been played. This also keeps your variations up-to-date and you are able to see what has been played recently.

I decided to investigate the recent Russian Team Championship. I can flick through the games by opening the PGN file in WordPad and do a "find and replace" for the word "round". By doing this, I can quickly skim through the file and see who has been playing.

In this tournament, I saw that Svidler had played. I admire his style and his attacking games, so I tend to "find" him and the games he has won. Having gone through those, I saw who else is in his team and found Movsesian, whom I also like having spent a week with this guy in Pardubica in 2005 at the Czech Open. Having looked through round 1, I discovered that Shirov had also played. Now, Shirov is a great player, although often his games are lost after amazing attacks with unsound combinations, or won with incredible style and flair. So, looking through his victories, I came across the game below and downloaded it to look at with Fritz. Or better said, play it through having Fritz alongside me to assist with the analysis.

I would suggest people get into the habit of finding their favourite players, search for them in recent tournaments and seek out their victories. Draws tend not to be interesting, unless they are over 50 moves. OK, dangerous generalisations, but often they are true.

A Shirov (2745) v Wang Hao (2696)

16th Russian Team Championship, Dagomys 2009

1 e4 c5 2 Nf3 d6 3 d4 cxd4 4 Nxd4 Nf6 5 Nc3 a6

Shirov is a player with a tremendous amount of flair. You are assured that his victories are going to be full of stylish positional play or speculative sacrificial combinations. As for Black, Wang tends to be a fairly solid, if uninspiring, player. That said, he has

managed to get himself up to the 2700 mark which is extremely impressive. However, the Chinese have put a great deal of effort into their players in the past 7 years and some of them are coming on a treat. I presume this is due to industry and some considerable finance that has been put into the sport by the Chinese Government.

6	Bg5	e6
7	f4	Qb6
8	Qd2	Qxb2

I have a passing interest in the "poisoned pawn" variation of the Sicilian Najdorf. This is principally because one of my team mates, who plays for the B.C.A. in the 4NCL, insists that this pawn grab is worthy of consideration and he plays it on a regular basis. I am suspicious and am always trying to find ways in which I can disprove its quality!

No. I wouldn't play it for Black but as I don't pretend to fully understand White's compensation, I wouldn't risk it for White. The compensation is long-term and you have to be a very good tactician to take advantage of Black's poor development.

9	Rb1	Qa3
10	e5	dxe5
11	fxe5	Nfd7
12	Ne4	h6
13	Bh4	Qxa2
14	Rd1	Qd5
15	Qe3	Bc5



16 Nxe6

Personally, 16 Nxe6! would have given me a headache. If I had been forced to find this over-the-board, I would have to expend a tremendous amount of time on the clock (probably over 30 minutes). However, I have seen this type of trap in this variation before and since the position demands that tactics must be found for White, I would be on the look-out for such moves. Also, the rook on d1 has to be justified so Nf5 or Nxe6 tactics always have to be borne in mind.

16	...	Bb4+
17	c3	Qxe6
18	cxb4	0-0
19	Rd6	

Apparently, 19 Rd6! is the key move for White. This has been talked about in the last 6 months and commentators have said that this is meant to give Black serious concerns. Naturally, other moves throughout the main line have been tried before.

This 19 Rd6 is the latest try and obviously, Shirov had prepped up on it (probably up to move 21). I am certain that he had analysed 19 ... Qxe5 20 Bc4 and had thought about the natural 20 ... 0-0. Whereas he must have prepared 21 0-0 for himself, I think from there onwards, he was in his own game. I would be surprised if Shirov had gone past 10 minutes for his first 20 moves in this game. On the other hand, Wang doesn't seem to have foreseen this line at all and since he lost in another 4 moves, he has obviously been undone by sheer theory.

19	...	Qxe5
20	Bc4	Nc6
21	0-0	Qh5
22	Qf4	Nde5
23	Rxh6	1-0

The queen is trapped after 23 ... Qxh6 (23 ... gxh6 24 Nf6+) 24 Nf6+ Kh8 (24 ... Qxf6 25 Bxf6 gxf6 26 Qxf6 threatens 27 Qg5+ and 28 Rf6 since Black's Ng6 is ineffective) 25 Bg5 and the queen has no squares to run to because 25 ... Qg6 allows 26 Qh4+.

The alternative is no better : 23 ... Qg4 24 Nf6+ gxf6 25 Rh8+ Kxh8 26 Qh6+ Kg8 27 Bxf6 Nf3+ 28 Rxf3 Qd4+ 29 Bxd4 Nxd4 30 Rg3+ Bg4 31 Rxc4#

I think the basic lesson to be learned from this, especially from Black's point of view, is that if you are going to dabble in tricky openings involving sacrifices or accepting gambits, you must know your theory. Lines have to be learned and preparation at home is essential. Otherwise, you are in danger of being overrun by somebody who knows the latest theory and has seen the latest games and ideas in that particular variation.

Messy games are fine in themselves but, if you want to avoid been "out-theoried", you need to play an opening that is solid enough and gets you into a middlegame position that you can open up and make things unclear.

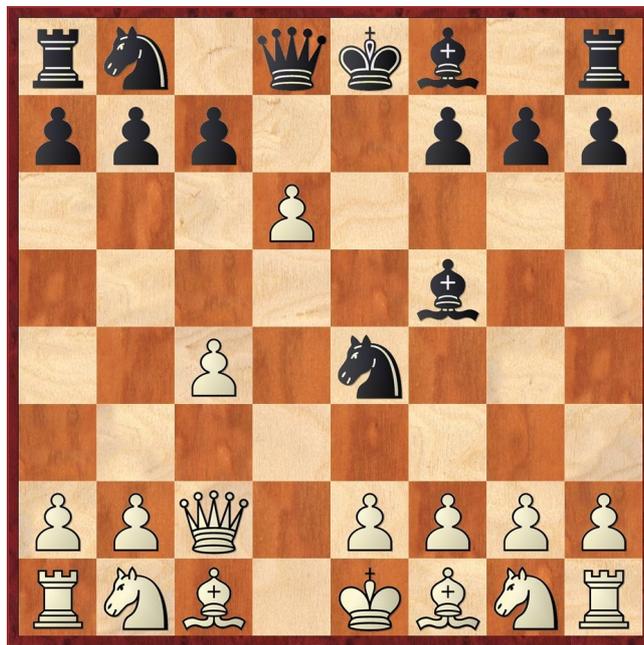
Miniatures are sometimes difficult to put in the category of "best" games but this is certainly up there. Although I am a positional player, I sit in awe at such marvelous attacking chess. This is Shirov at his ultimate best and for the sheer enjoyment and entertainment value, I like to play through his games. Incredible how you can just crush a 2700 player like this, in a mere 23 moves. Easy, isn't it?!

Chris Ross

Eye Opener

There are two ways to play against the Budapest. One is to fight fire with fire and try to come out on top in the tactical maze.

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e5 3 dxe5 Ne4 4 Qc2 d5 5 exd6 Bf5



6 Nc3 Ng3 7 Qa4+ Bd7 8 Nb5 Nxh1 9 Nxc7+ Qxc7 10 dxc7 Bxa4 11 c8Q+ 1-0

This, unfortunately, requires much time that would be better spent on more popular openings. The approach recommended by Greek grandmaster Efstratios Grivas is to aim for less tangible advantages but avoiding the potential pitfalls – much to your opponent's annoyance. His prescription is :

Fajarowicz variation

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e5 3 dxe5 Ne4 4 Nd2

a) **4 ... Bb4 5 a3 Bd2 (5 ... Qh4 6 g3 Bc5 7 Nh3) 6 Bd2 Nc6 7 Nf3 Qe7 8 Bf4 g5 9 Be3 g4 10 Qd5 gf3 11 Qe4**

b) **4 ... Nc5 5 a3 a5 (5 ... Nc6 6 b4) 6 Nb3 Ne6 7 Nf3 Nc6 8 e3 or 8 Bd2 and Black's intentions have been tamed**

c) **4 ... Ng5!? 5 Ngf3 Nc6 6 a3 d6 7 Ng5 Qg5 8 ed6 Bd6 9 Ne4**

d) **4 ... Nd2?! 5 Bd2 Nc6 6 Nf3 Qe7 7 Bc3 g6 8 Qd5 Bg7 9 0-0-0 0-0 10 h4**

Main line

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e5 3 dxe5 Ng4 4 Nf3

A) **4 ... Nc6 5 Bg5**

a) **5 ... Be7 6 Be7 Qe7 7 Nc3 Nge5 8 Ne5 (8 Nd5 is also possible) Ne5 9 e3 0-0**

b) **5 ... f3?! 6 ef6 Nf6 (6 ... gf6 7 Bf4 Bc5 8 e3 Qe7 9 Be2) 7 e3 Be7 8 Be2 0-0 9 Nc3**

B) **4 ... Bc5 5 e3 Nc6 6 Be2 0-0 7 0-0 Nce5 8 Ne5 Ne5 9 Nc3 a5 10 Bd2 Ra6 11 Ne4 Bb4 12 Bb4 ab4 13 c5 Rh6 14 Qd5**

These lines tend to blunt Black's attempted initiative. The Budapest Gambit need never worry you again!