

New Englander

Chess Club Update – July 2018

Chairman's Chatter

Congratulations to Paul Spencer who wins this season's Club Ladder competition. Playing through June, he satisfied the criterion for the minimum number of games and maintained his 100% form to record a fine victory.

Next month, the slate is wiped clean in the internal events and for the purposes of grading. A good opportunity then to get a flying start in next year's Grand Prix!

Paul Hanks

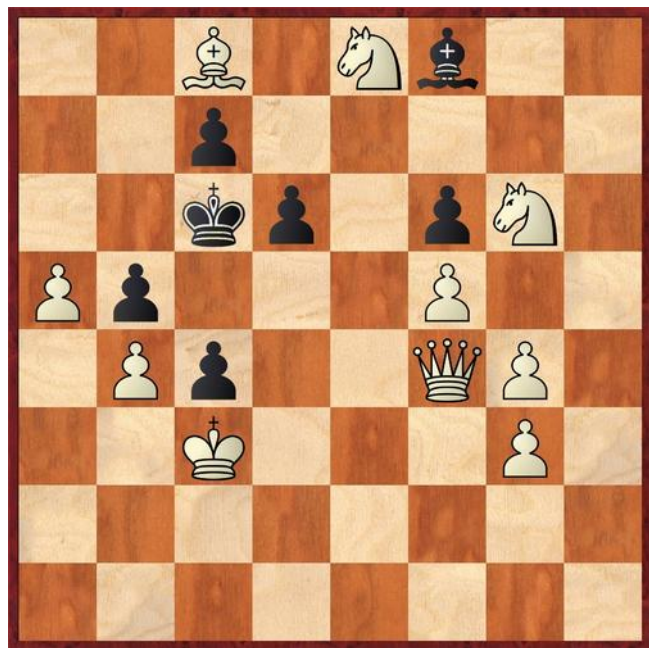
Diary Dates

23rd September The Cambridgeshire Rapidplay will be held at Whittlesford with four sections (Open, U160, U125 and U90). The five rounds start at 10am.

24-25th November The Cambridgeshire County Individual Championship is a Swiss tournament with Open, U140 and Junior sections and takes place at Peterborough Bridge Club, Lincoln Road.

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2. This is probably a harder one taken from The Problemist.



Last Month's solution (Loyd 1881)

Position : 8/8/7p/4K1kb/8/7R/7Q/8

1 Qa2 Kg4 or Bg6/f7/e8 2 Qg2# [1 ... Kg6 or Bd1/e2/f3/g4 2 Qg8#]

Website to Watch

The Sparkassen Chess Meeting runs from 15th to 22nd July. Better known by its host city Dortmund, live games feature on www.sparkassen-chess-meeting.de with Kramnik and Giri are front-runners.

The Biel International Chess Festival is immediately afterwards (see www.bielchessfestival.ch) until 1st August. Carlsen heads the field in the Accentus Grandmaster Tournament.

Result Round-up

New England Club Ladder

White		Black	
M Ingram	1	0	P O'Gorman
P Spencer	1	0	T Ingram
P O'Gorman	0	1	T Ingram
M Ingram	0	1	P Spencer
T Ingram	0	1	P Spencer
M Ingram	1	0	P O'Gorman

Position	Change		Player	Record @ 27/06/18
	Month	Overall		
1	-	+6	P Spencer	1,1,1,1,1,1
2	+1	+9	P Weinberger	0,1,0,0,1
3	-1	+16	J Sutherland	1
4	+1	+2	P Walker	0,½,1,1,1,1
5	-1	-1	P Hanks	1,1
6	-	+3	M Ingram	0,1,½,0,0,0,0,0,1,1,1,0,1
7	-	+5	M Tarabad	0,½,1,1,1,1,0,0,1,0,1
8	+1	-5	N Wedley	½,0,1,1,1,½,0,0,1,0,1,0,1
9	-1	-1	R Ilett	1,1,½,0,½,1
10	-	-8	J Parker	0,½,1,0,0,1,½,1,0
11	+1	+7	M Williams	0,1
12	-1	-7	S Walker	0,1,0
13	-	+1	T Ingram	1,0,1,0,0,0,0,0,1,0
14	-	-4	P O'Gorman	0,0,0,1,0,0,0,0,0,0,0
15	-	-	D Lane	0,0,1
16	-	-	I Garratt	0,0
17	-	-4	R Jones	1
18	-	-1	N Foreman	0,0

New England Grand Prix

Player	Champ	Ladder	League	Cup	550 Team	Total	TPR*
P Hanks	5½	2	8½	2	1	19	163
R Ilett	7½	4	3	2	2	18½	170
P Walker	6½	4½	5	1	1	18	172
P Spencer	5	6	3½		1½	16	137
P Weinberger	4½	2	1	2	3½	13	114
M Tarabad	4	5½	1	½	2	13	89
M Ingram	3	5½	1		2	11½	96
N Wedley	4	7				11	111
D Lane	3	1	4		1½	9½	96
R Jones	4½	1	2½		1½	9½	123
S Walker	3	1	½		4½	9	105
J Parker	2	4	0	0	2½	8½	92
E Serban	5		1½			6½	144
T Ingram	3½	3				6½	84
P O'Gorman	3½	1		½	1	6	68
C Russell	3			1	1½	5½	104
S Wozniak	4			½	½	5	108
J Sutherland	3	1				4	78
M Williams	2	1				3	67
P Turp			0		1½	1½	146
R Taylor			½			½	158
N Foreman	½	0				½	41
I Garratt	0	0			0	0	27

* Tournament Performance Rating is approximate and excludes Summer League

Match of the Month

I had enjoyed the Newmarket congress once before in 2015. It was very friendly but held in an old building. This year was better as the organisers had hired a better venue, right in the centre of town and with free tea and coffee! They did not get the numbers they deserved this time but I expect that will improve as word gets around what a well-run congress it is. Several titled players took part in the Open section which made that a pretty good watch, too.

I opted not to play in the Open but the Under-170 section. All of my encounters saw some interesting chess but when I came to think about it, it was obvious which game I should offer for the Newsletter.

I had played better than this earlier in the event, with fewer errors, but I think the errors and dramatic turns make this game the right choice for Match of the Month – it is lively and affected by the tension of the final round.

P Walton v R K Taylor

Newmarket U170 Rd 5, 03.06.2018

Before the final round my opponent was on 3/4, trailing me by half-a-point, so he was in need of the full point.

1 d4 Nf6
2 Nf3 e6
3 Bf4 b6

In response to his London System, I adopted a set-up similar to the Queen's Indian Defence.

4 e3 Bb7
5 Bd3 c5
6 c3 Nc6!?

I wasn't yet sure where I ought to place my d pawn.

7 Nbd2 cxd4
8 exd4 Be7
9 Nc4 d6

The computer sees no reason for me to delay castling here i.e. 9 ... 0-0! 10 Bd6 (10 Nd6? Qb8 wins because the white knight cannot escape after 11 Nxb7 Qxf4) 10 ... b5 11 Bxe7 Nxe7 is level.

10 0-0 Rc8
11 Re1 h6
12 h3 Nd5
13 Bh2 0-0

At the outset, I explained that a draw did not suit Mr Walton. In fact, it hardly suited me either because I had a co-leader, John Daugman, and I could see by now that his position was building up quite nicely.

14 Nfd2 b5

Twitchy!

15 Ne3 Nxe3
16 Rxe3

I have the opportunity here to press on with b5-b4 but my assessment was that I would easily hold up the kingside play.

**16 ... a6?!
17 Qg4 Na5?**

It's all about provocation and a bit cold blooded, I confess. I'm urging him forward. 17 ... b4 18 Rb1 Bg5 19 f4 Bf6 20 Ne4 g6 was better, if unclear.

18 Rg3?

Luckily for me, this is not the best line – 18 Bf4 g5 19 Rg3 Kg7 20 h4 with an initiative.

**18 ... Bf6
19 Qh5 Kh8**

It took my opponent ages to choose the mistake he now produces.

20 f4?

He should have chosen to keep the queenside quiet with 20 b4 Nc4 21 Nxc4 bxc4 22 Bc2.

**20 ... b4!
21 Ne4**

White is deep in trouble already. The c pawn is threatened and he still has weak pawns after 21 cxb4

Bxd4+ 22 Kh1 Nc6. A simple tactical trick shows the knight move he played doesn't solve the issues.

21	...	Bxe4
22	Bxe4	bxc3
23	bxc3	Rxc3!

If 24 Rxc3 Bxd4+ recovers the rook with interest.

24	Rd1	Rxg3
25	Bxg3	d5

The king is quite safe and my solid pawn advantage should be enough to win.

26	Bc2
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Getting to the time control at move 40 should have been routine. I had loads in reserve but I still messed it up as will soon become plain.

26	...	Qc7
27	Qe2	Nc6?

Seizing the open file with 27 ... Rb8! is a big improvement.

28	Qd3	Bxd4+
29	Kh2	

White has shed 2 pawns but the more I studied, the more I realised that I was no longer fully in control.

29	...	f5
30	Ba4	



Now I am telling myself, "Don't drop a whole piece". It's so easy to do with 31 Bxc6 Qxc6 32 Qxd4 and 31 Rc1 in the offing. I do have a couple of resources here, and I may possibly have picked (guessed?) the wrong one.

30	...	Bf2!?
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This looks flashy but the move cannot be refuted by White due to his bishop on a4 being loose after 31 Bxf2 Qxf4+. After 30 ... Bc5 (best) 31 Rc1 Nd8 32 Qxa6, White is struggling as he does not have enough for the lost pawn.

31	Rc1?
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31 Qc3 seems like a win but produces a real mess e.g. 31 ... Rc8 32 Rc1 Qb6

- 33 Bxc6 Be3 34 Rc2 d4 35 Qc4 Qb1 36 Bf2 d3 37 Qxe6. Great fun but hardly convincing
- 33 Bxf2 Qxf2 34 Bxc6 Qxf4+ 35 Kh1 Qd6 36 Kg1 e5

Bizarre! We had plenty to analyse.

31	...	Nb4!
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Am I again winning? Except, it turned out, Walton was moving quickly. Pressure! Time trouble for both sides had arisen, it seemed, out of nowhere ..

32	Qa3?	Bxg3+
33	Kxg3	Qa5

Fritz evaluates my position here as equivalent to a two pawn advantage.

34	Rb1
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Why, oh why, is my king in the corner, preventing me from shifting the knight?

34	...	Rb8
35	Rb3	Qc5?!

I should have chosen 35 ... d4 36 Bd7 Qb6.

36	Qb2	Qa5?
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White's fine after this blunder. 36 ... Qd6 keeps me in charge.

37	Bd7	Rd8
38	Bxe6	Nd3!

Necessary because 38 ... Nc6? 39 Bxf5 d4 40 Bd3 restores material equality and White even has a small positional edge.

39	Rxd3?	Qe1+
40	Kh2	Qxe6

The time-control. Phew!

41	Qd4
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Time to refocus for the allegro finish, with no interest from me (or from him!) in settling for a draw in this ending. On the next table, Daugman is still well on top.

41	...	Kg8?
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41 ... Qe4 challenges White's centralisation and prepares to get the passed pawn moving.

42	Re3	Qf7
43	Re5	Qf6
44	Qd3	d4
45	Rxf5	

Keep playing, and hope!

45	...	Qe6
46	Ra5	Qd6
47	Re5	Rf8
48	g3	

I was pleased to see him play this leaving two weak ranks. It would not have been my choice.

48	...	Qb4
49	Re2	a5
50	Rd2	

I can't force matters. My only plan is to plug away in an endgame. That explains my next move, inviting a pawn exchange.

50 ... Rb8

But, White bides his time...

51 Kg2 Qc3

Surely he'll take on d4 now? Surely...

52 a3??

Two decent queen moves, neither chosen, and instead White blunders badly, going down without a fight. 52 Qxd4 Qxd4 53 Rxd4 Rb2+ 54 Kf3 Rxa2 offers Black very few winning prospects (but I would've tried!) and 52 Qe2 also holds.

52 ... Rb2! 0-1

Forcing resignation because suddenly the advanced pawn is unstoppable (53 Qxc3 dxc3 54 Rf2 Rxf2+ 55 Kxf2 c2). I can breathe at last. I ended up sharing first prize, because my rival had brought home the full point as well.

Robert Taylor

Eye Opener

The London System with its trademark Bc1-f4 at move 2 or 3 is a flexible opening that can be used against many of Black's opening options. Whilst White's c pawn does not make the early c2-c4 thrust, the opportunity may arise later in the game and transposition into other main lines always remains a possibility. Here, for instance, is an example with a Dutch Defence.

V Topalov v T Paehtz Snr

Tradewise Chess Festival, Gibraltar 2017

1 d4 e6
2 Nf3 f5
3 Bf4

Neither the Dutch Defence nor the London System are front-line openings at top grandmaster level so it is hard to find the re-assurance of an annotated game. For instance, Volkov v Esipenko (Russia 2017) started 1 d4 f5 2 Bf4 Nf6 3 e3 e6 4 Bd3 Be4 5 c4 is about as close as I have found in the literature.

3 ... Nf6
4 e3 b6
5 Be2 Bb7
6 0-0 Be7
7 c4 Ne4

There are many similarities between the Dutch and the Queen's Indian Defences in that Black contests the e4 square, here preventing the eventual possibility of e3-e4 by occupying the square.

8 Nfd2

Here is a finesse that would have eluded me. I should have automatically played 8 Nbd2 thinking of speeding my development. Obviously, it makes no differences after knight exchanges; the game simply transposes. With the text move, however, White has gained options of Be2-f3 and f2-f3.

8 ... Nxd2

9 Nxd2 0-0
10 Bf3 d5

With this self-pin, Black invites pressure on his centre. With 10 ... Bxf3 11 Qxf3 Nc6, he would have a solid position although White can continue actively with 12 d5.

11 cxd5 exd5
12 Rc1 c6
13 Qa4 b5
14 Qb3 Nd7



It all looks fairly innocuous but try considering this position as a "White to play and win" puzzle rather than an actual game.

15 Bxd5+ cxd5
16 Rc7 1-0

The bishop on b7 is undefended and the extra piece cannot be saved :-

- 16 ... Ba6 17 Qxd5+ Kh8 18 Rxd7
- 16 ... Bc8 17 Qxd5+ Kh8 18 Qxa8
- 16 ... Rb8 17 Rxb7 Rxb7 18 Qxd5+
- 16 ... Qb8 17 Rxd7

leaving White with either a material advantage and/or a crushing position.

