

NEW ENGLANDER

Chess Club Update – June 2014

Chairman's Chatter

Politicians choose their words carefully. They describe their changes as "efficiency savings", "modernisation" or "reform". Seldom do they call them "improvements" because so rarely they are!

Each year, I try to introduce a new idea to the newsletter and in this issue, I disclose that I have been tracking what the chess press would call our TPR (tournament performance rating). This shows what our ECF grading would be for the games played in each event. It is sadly only an approximation due to the assumptions about ungraded opponents etc but it brought home to me how lamentable my play was becoming. Trying to halt the slide was my stimulus for improvement and I hope you will treat the revelations in the same light.

Amongst all the results and statistics, there are some successes to celebrate. We welcome Ivan Garrett and Paul Spencer to the club's honours board following their victories in the Club Ladder and Grand Prix competitions respectively. Congratulations!

Paul Hanks

Diary Dates

Masterclasses begin on 7th June and will continue according to demand through the summer. Interspersed however will be the new Summer Sprint event taking place on the third Wednesday of the month i.e. June 18th, July 16th, August 20th with a finale on September 10th.

Window on the Web

Now the league season has finished, although there will still be activities at the club, you may wish to seek out some chess puzzles to solve, to stay sharp.

One site worth a visit is www.chessgym.net. This offers access to several chess training tools with the aim of improving a player's tactical, strategic and analytical skills. The *Blitz* tactics database has over 50,000 rated puzzles. The computer makes a move and you have to reply with the best move within 15 seconds to gain the best rating. The rating reduces with time and if an inferior move is played.

The site is more than simply a tactics server. There is the facility to *Play chess* against the computer, having first set its playing strength. *Endgames* provides interactive endgame training, with a view to improving finishing skills and knowledge of middlegame strategies.

The *Positional* training database has positions taken from real games. Unlike tactical puzzles where you know you must find a winning shot, the positional trainer will offer positions that might be winning, losing

or equal. You must therefore assess each position, taking 2 or 3 minutes deciding on your move. There may be several good moves based on the computer's evaluation of the position and more than one correct answer, the goal being not to play a losing move.

Memory training requires you to find or remember the best move from a small pool of puzzles that are presented repeatedly. The *Openings* database allows you to explore openings without ever needing to open your copy of MCO again.

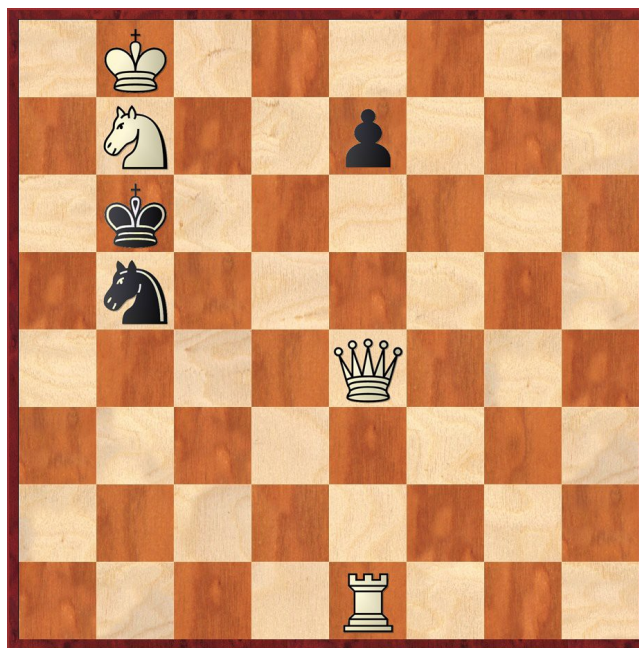
Finally, *Attackers* and *Defenders* puzzles ask you to find all the attacked or defended pieces in a position against the clock, to speed up your assessment of a position.

It is possible to play as a guest without your results being rated, but registration is quick, easy and free. There is a site *Guide* and a *How to Play* section explains the puzzles.

Ron Jones

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



Last Month's solution (Kohtz/Kockelkorn)

Position : 4R3/3k1Pp1/6K1/8/2Q5/8/8/8

1 f8=B Kxe8 2 Qc8#

Website to Watch

From 2nd to 13th June, Stavanger hosts Norway Chess 2014, a nine-round tournament boasting an impressive participant list including Carlsen, Aronian, Kramnik, Topalov, Grischuk, Svidler, Karjakin, Caruana and Giri with local qualifier Agdestein. This

certainly lives up to its marketing slogan "One of the world's strongest chess tournaments" and can be followed on <http://norwaychess.com>.

Result Round-up

Club Championship

Round 3			
R Jones	½	½	P Spencer

Round 5			
J Parker	½	½	C Russell

Round 6			
P Hanks (4½)	1d	0d	J Sadler (3)
M Dunkley (4)	1	0	M Tarabad (2½)
P Turp (3)	½	½	S Caraway (3½)
C Russell (2)	1	0	P Spencer (3½)
D Lane (1½)	0	1	R Jones (2)
S Walker (2½)	1d	0d	N Wedley (1)
J Parker (1)	1	0	I Garrett (1)

Player	Round						Pts	Grade	
	1	2	3	4	5	6		Opp	TPR
P Hanks	1	1	1	½	1	1d	5½	134	182
M Dunkley	1	1	1	½	½	1	5	132	174
S Caraway	1	1	0	1	½	½	4	140	160
P Turp	1	1	0	1	0	½	3½	133	153
P Spencer	1	0	½	1	1	0	3½	123	132
S Walker	½	0	1	0	1	1d	3½	128	124
R Jones	0	1	½	0	½	1	3	131	132
J Sadler	0	1	½	1	½	0d	3	125	132
C Russell	½	0	1	0	½	1	3	110	110
M Tarabad	1	0	½	1	0	0	2½	120	96
J Parker	0	0	½	0	½	1	2	108	90
D Lane	0	0	0	1	½	0	1½	113	88
I Garrett	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	110	69
N Wedley	0	0	½	0	½	0d	1	116	84

Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

Division 1	P	W	L	D	Points	
					Game	Match
Royston	10	9	1	0	35½	18
Peterborough A	10	6	3	1	34	13
Cambridge Scholars	10	5	4	1	28½	11
Warboys A	10	5	4	1	23½	11
New England A	10	2	7	1	17	5
St Neots	10	1	9	0	11½	2

Division 2	P	W	L	D	Points	
					Game	Match
Spalding	10	7	0	3	25½	17
Warboys B	10	4	2	4	23½	12
Warboys C	10	3	3	4	20	10
Peterborough B	10	3	5	2	21½	8
New England B	10	2	5	3	14½	7
Buckden	10	2	6	2	15	6

Team 550 Competition

North Division	P	W	L	D	Points	
					Game	Match
Warboys N	8	7	1	0	22½	14
New England 2	8	4	2	2	17½	10
New England 1	8	3	4	1	15½	7
St Neots	8	2	4	2	14½	6
Godmanchester	8	1	6	1	10	3

New England Club Ladder

White		Black	
D Lane	1	0	M Tarabad

Position	Change		Player	Record
	Month	Overall		
1	-	+5	I Garrett	1,0,1,0,1,0,0,1
2	-	+12	P Spencer	1,1,1,1,1
3	+1	+1	N Wedley	½,½,1,0,1,1,0,0
4	-1	-2	S Caraway	1,1,½,1,½
5	+5	-2	D Lane	½,0,1,1
6	-1	+4	M Tarabad	1,1,0,1,0,0,0
7	-1	+4	P Hanks	1,1,½
8	-1	8	M Dunkley	½
9	-1	-2	S Walker	1
10	-1	-9	J Parker	0,½,0,0,0
11	-	+1	S Wozniak	0,0
12	-	-4	H Currie	0,0
13	-	-4	P O'Gorman	0
14	+1	-1	J Sadler	0,0

Problem Night : 28th May 2014

Pos	Pair	Rd 1	Rd 2	Tot
1	S Caraway & M Tarabad	24	13	37
2	N Wedley & S Wozniak	18	12	30
3	D Lane & I Garrett	13	11	24

Club Rapidplay : 7th May 2014

Player		Rd	1	2	3	4	Total
1	S Caraway	Result	1	1	1	1	4
		Opponent	6	8	2	4	
2	D Lane	Result	1	1	0	1	3
		Opponent	7	4	1	8	
3	S Wozniak	Result	0	1	0	1	2
		Opponent	8	7	4	6	
4	P Spencer	Result	1	0	1	0	2
		Opponent	5	2	3	1	
5	N Wedley	Result	0	0	1	1	2
		Opponent	4	6	8	7	
6	J Parker	Result	0	1	0	0	1
		Opponent	1	5	7	3	
7	M Tarabad	Result	0	0	1	0	1
		Opponent	2	3	6	5	
8	I Garrett	Result	1	0	0	0	1
		Opponent	3	1	5	2	

New England Grand Prix

Player	Champ	Ladder	League	Cup	Team 550	Total
P Spencer	3½	5	6	0	3½	18
P Hanks	4½	2½	2	½	4½	14
S Caraway	4	4	3½	0	2	13½
M Dunkley	5	½	4	0	2	11½
D Lane	1½	2½	2½	½	3	10
N Wedley	1	4	-	-	3	8
M Tarabad	2½	3	2	0	0	7½
J Sadler	3	0	3		1½	7½
I Garrett	1	4		-	2	7
P Turp	3½		2½	½	½	7
R Jones	3		2	0	1½	6½
J Parker	2	½	½	0	2	5
S Walker	2½	1	1	-	0	4½
C Russell	3	-		-	1½	4½
F Bowers	-		1½	-		1½
S Wozniak	-	0		-	1	1
P O'Gorman	-	0		-		0
B Sadler	-			-	0	0
H Currie	-	0		-		0

Match of the Month

How badly can you play and still win? The following game contains a salutary example of inattention verging on carelessness in the early stages that should have given my opponent easy equality as Black and probably more. My excuse is that I took a wrong turn on the way to the venue and arrived late - much consternation of my team mates and to the detriment of my own peace of mind. I offer it as an

object lesson in making sure you are timely, relaxed and able to concentrate when you arrive at the chessboard.

P Hanks v J Dunn

New England A v St Neots, 10.03.2014

1 d4 Nf6
2 c4 e5
3 dxe5 Ng4

On board 5, I had not expected to be sitting opposite John and did not imagine he would play the Budapest Defence. This was pure silliness as he had chosen this opening when we met in 1999 and the game sprang to mind after his second move.

4 e4 Nxe5

On the previous occasion, John blundered with 4 ... Bc5 and the game was very easy for me.

5 Nc3 Bc5
6 Nf3

What a shocker! Black could have drummed up some great chances with 6 ... Ng4. Moving a piece twice in the opening is a classic chess sin as a general rule and I failed to recognise the exception. I should most probably have played 7 Nd4 Qh4 8 Qd2 (8 g3 Qf6) 8 ... Nc6 which is more than satisfactory for Black.

Purely for the record, there is a scary variation 7 Bg5 Bxf2+ 8 Ke2 f6 9 h3 fxg5 10 hxg4

- 10 ... Bb6 11 Qd5 h6 (11 ... Qf6 12 Rxf7 Rxf7 13 Qg8+) 12 c5 Ba5 13 Qe5+ Kf8 (13 ... Qe7 14 Qxe7+ Kxe7 15 b4 Bxb4 16 Nd5+)
- 10 ... Bh4 11 Qd4 0-0 12 g3 Bxg3 13 Qd5+ Kh8 14 Nxg5

which may give practical chances but needs preparation and settled nerves.

6 ... Qf6
7 Be2

I decided I needed to play more solidly and did not probe 7 Nd5 too deeply. At its most superficial level, it accepts doubled f pawns 7 ... Nxf3+ 8 Qxf3 Qxf3 9 gxf3 Na6 with an unclear ending and 8 gxf3 gives Black many tactical chances e.g. 8 ... Qh4 9 Qc2 Na6. White has no time for 9 Nxc7+ Kd8 and may have to resort to 10 Bg5+ Qxg5 11 Nxa8.

7 ... c6
8 0-0 d6
9 Nxe5

I wanted to play 9 Bg5 but was eventually calming down and starting to see simple combinations - in this case 9 ... Nxf3+ 10 Bxf3 Qxg5.

9 ... Qxe5
10 Kh1 Qd4

Black could have kept this move to be a response to f2-f4. It is bad on several levels but I wasn't alert enough to spot 11 Bf4 which emphasises the hidden weakness of the d6 square. Black can defend but has to sacrifice several tempi 11 ... Qf6 12 Qd2 Nd7 13 Rad1 Ne5 14 Na4.

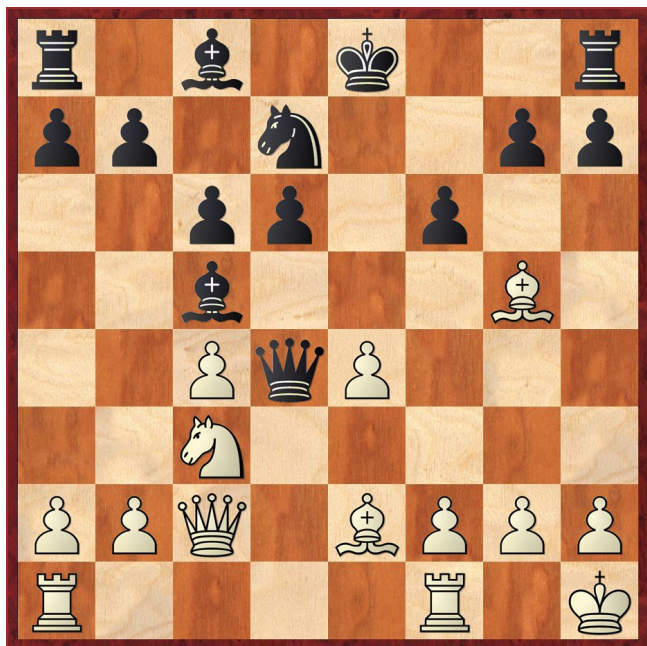
11 Qc2 Nd7

12 Bg5

I think this is my first decent move. White threatens vaguely to trap the Black queen with Ra1–d1. The e5 square is currently the only bolt-hole and this allows f2-f4 with gain of time.

12 ... f6

This outcome is a real bonus because it removes a flight square. I had expected 12 ... h6 13 Rad1 Qe5 14 f4 Qe6 15 f5 Qe5 16 Bf4 with superior development, good coordination but no immediate knock-out blow. 16 ... Qf6 17 Qd2 Ne5 18 Na4 0–0 19 b4 is a likely scenario.



13 Bf4

Now the black queen is in real trouble.

13 ... Bb4

Again, I concentrated on a different continuation 13 ... f5 14 Rad1 (14 exf5?? Qxf4) 14 ... Qf6 15 exf5.

14 Rad1 Qb6
15 Na4

White had an embarrassment of riches. 15 Bxd6 Bxd6 16 Rxd6 is possible but I preferred to try to keep a bishop on the outpost square.

15 ... Qd8

The more active variation 15 ... Qa5 is a tempting alternative but it keeps the black queen in hot water after 16 a3 b5 17 axb4 Qxa4 18 Qd2 when ironically, it is Rd1–a1 that traps her majesty. 18 ... Qa6 (18 ... a5 19 Ra1 Qb3 20 Ra3 Qxb4 21 Qxb4 axb4 22 Rxa8) 19 Qxd6 with great prospects.

16 a3 Ba5
17 Bxd6 Bc7

Black has to remove the bishop if his king is to flee the centre.

18 e5

The computer gives the option 18 Bb4 but I dismissed this as it looks as though the bishop cannot be maintained on the diagonal after 18 ... a5. However,

19 Nc5 shifts the focus to e6 i.e. 19 ... axb4 20 Ne6 Qe7 21 Nxc7+ and Black cannot cover the hole with 19 ... Qe7 20 Na6 or 19 ... Kf7 20 Rxd7+ Bxd7 21 Rd1. Of course, I saw none of this from move 19. Instead, I spent time analysing 18 c5 because 18 ... Bxd6 19 cxd6 when White can force f2-f4 and e4-e5 with massive passed pawns. Objectively, it is probably stronger.

18 ... Bxd6

Obviously, 18 ... fxe5 19 Bh5+ g6 20 Qxg6+ and 18 ... Nxe5 19 Bxe5 are unplayable.

19 exd6 0–0

White is clearly winning. I have an extra pawn and better development. I just have to avoid weakening and losing the advanced pawns and there are no guarantees of that!

20 f4

I could have continued 20 Bd3 but it seemed an empty blow. I thought the future action would occur on the queenside and I should deter b7-b6 which prevents support reaching the pawn on d6.

20 ... f5
21 Bf3 Nf6
22 Nc5 b6?

I think Black was suffering from a dearth of constructive moves. 22 ... Bd7 is quiet but feasible due to 23 Nxb7 Qb6.

23 Bxc6 Rb8
24 Nb3

On move 22, I had envisaged 24 Nd3 followed by Nd3-e5 with which I would have successfully redeployed the awkward, sidelined knight. Sadly, this allows 24 ... Qxd6. 24 Qb3 is recommended by Fritz but both sides are getting in a tangle!

24 ... Bb7
25 Bxb7 Rxb7
26 c5

An unintended consequence of Nc5-b3! Still not wanting not to block the d file, the knight rejoins the fray thanks to the fork on e6 - 26 ... bxc5 27 Nxc5 Rbf7 (27 ... Qc8 28 b4 Rbf7 29 Qb3 with a firm grip on the position) 28 Ne6.

26 Qxf5 gains further material because there is no worthwhile discovered attack e.g. 26 ... Nd7 is met by 27 Qd5+. It is often better to keep up the pressure than to cash in prematurely.

26 ... Rb8
27 c6 Rc8
28 Rd4

Fritz rates White's advantage as equivalent to 6 pawns but its best line starts 28 Qc1 which I do not understand and cannot explain. I was still worried about losing the pawns after Nf6-e4 and gave myself the chance to bolster their defence.

28 d7 did not appeal due to 28 ... Nxd7 29 Rxd7 Qxd7 30 cxd7 Rxc2 which gives away all my gains but the computer points out that there is no need to hurry because 29 Rfe1 has the additional point 29 ... Qc7

30 Rxd7 Qxd7 31 cxd7 Rxc2 32 Re8. That knight on b3 was a brainwave!

28	...	Ne4
29	Qc4+	Kh8
30	d7	Rc7
31	Rc1	

I looked at 31 Rxe4 fxe4 32 Qxe4 when White is still ahead but I was unsure how quickly I could play Nb3-d4-e6.

31	...	Rf6
32	Qd5	Rd6
33	Qe5	

Now, I can relax. It's over.

33	...	Rf6
34	Qe8+	

Francis pointed out that 34 Qxc7 forces speedier resignation.

34	...	Rf8
35	Qxf8+	Qxf8
36	d8Q	1-0

Eye Opener

There *is* hope for us yet! Father Time qualified both participants in the following game for the European Senior Team Championship but age does not preclude playing excellent chess. White represented Croatia at the tender age of 69; his Russian opponent won the Moscow championship six times and became a grandmaster in 1951.

In May's *Window on the Web*, Ron advocated the self-improvement advice of memorising 25 top-flight games. This would obviously have to sit alongside our mental stockpile of opening traps. Amongst them should be :-

1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Bc4	d6
4	Nc3	Bg4
5	d4	h6
6	dxe5	Nxe5
7	Nxe5	Bxd1

7 ... dxe5 simply allows 8 Qxg4.

8	Bxf7+	Ke7
9	Nd5#	

and

1	e4	g6
2	d4	Bg7
3	Nf3	d6
4	Bc4	Nd7??
5	Bxf7+	Kxf7
6	Ng5+	

when Ke8/f8 7 Ne6 and 6 ... Kf6 7 Qf3#

The former is sufficiently renowned to be given a name (Legal's mate) but in my time as a player and spectator has only occurred once whereas the latter has been played (and missed!) several times. Our featured game manages to combine something of both themes.

M Cebalo v E Vasiukov Sibenik 2014

1	d4	f5
2	Bg5	g6
3	e3	Nh6
4	h4	Nf7
5	Bf4	d6
6	Nf3	Nd7
7	Bc4	

Do you notice the pattern emerging?

7	...	Bg7
8	Bxf7+	Kxf7
9	Ng5+	Kf6

We already know the drawback of Ke8/f8 but 9 ... Kg8 10 Ne6 (what a pity Qd1-b3+ isn't legal!) 10 ... Qe8 11 Nxc7.

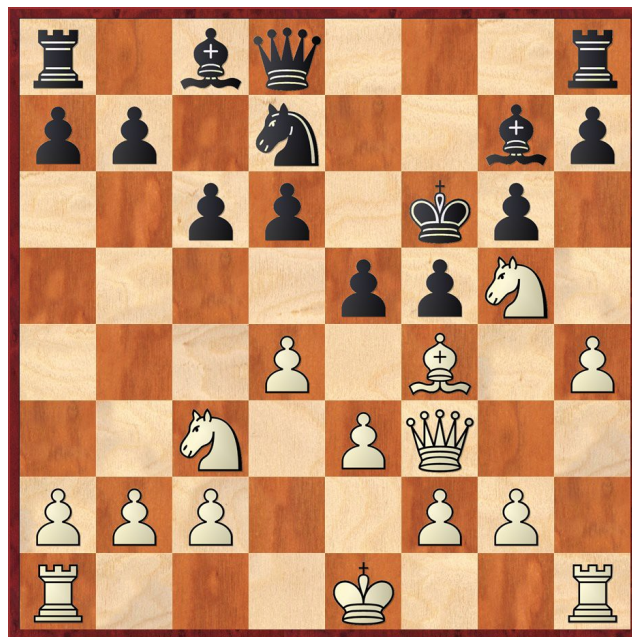
10	Nc3	c6
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To avoid Nd5#

11	Qf3	
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With the threat 12 Nce4+ fxe4 13 Be5#

11	...	e5
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12	Qd5!!	
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After 12 ... cxd5 13 Nxd5# is reminiscent of Legal's mate whilst now Qe6 and Qf7 must be met.

12	...	Qe7
13	Nxh7+	1-0

The end is fitting - 13 ... Rxh7 14 Bg5#.

Bravo! This is the sort of game I would like to have played – as White of course.

Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

A Team	Fenland Cup		Cambridgeshire League										Score	Appearances	Grading	
	Cambridge Eggheads 16 th Oct	St Neots 27 th Jan	Cambridge 18 th Sept	Royston 2 nd Oct	Warboys A 20 th Nov	Royston 2 nd Dec	Peterborough A 11 th Dec	Warboys A 22 nd Jan	Peterborough A 27 th Feb	St Neots 10 th Mar	Cambridge 2 nd Apr	St Neots 16 th Apr			Opponent Average	Performance
Phil Turp	0	½	0	0	1	0	0		0	1	0	½	3	11	183	161
F Bowers										½	0	1	1½	3	171	171
Mike Dunkley	0	0	0	0	1	0		½	½	½	½	1	4	10	169	156
Sam Caraway	0		0	0	½		0	½		1	½	1	3½	9	169	159
Paul Hanks	0	½	0	½	0	0	0	½	0	1		1d	2½+1d	11	164	139
Des Lane						0	½	0	0		½		1	5	159	126
Paul Spencer								0	0				0	2	157	107
Ron Jones			½	½	0	½	0						1½	5	155	135
Mahmoud Tarabad		0											0	1	110	60
Total	0	1	½	1	2½	½	½	1½	½	4	1½	4½	18	-	-	-
B Team	Cambridge Boffins 16 th Oct	Warboys 8 th Jan	Warboys C 23 rd Oct	Buckden 30 th Oct	Peterborough B 14 th Nov	Warboys B 1 st Dec	Spalding 7 th Jan	Peterborough B 15 th Jan	Warboys C 12 th Feb	Spalding 26 th Feb	Buckden A 3 rd Mar	Warboys B 16 th Apr	Score	Appearances	Grading	
	Opponent Average	Performance														
Ron Jones	0		0		½								½	3	159	126
Paul Hanks							0						0	1	156	106
Des Lane	½	0	0	0			1	½	0	0	0	0	2	10	153	123
Paul Spencer	0	0	1	½	0	0	0	1	1	1	½	1	6	12	139	139
Steve Walker				0		0		1	0	0			1	5	129	98
Jason Parker	0	0			0	0	0	0				½	½	7	117	70
Ivan Garrett											0		0	1	112	80
Jonathan Sadler		0		½		½			1	1			3	6	110	118
Mahmoud Tarabad			1		0						0	1	2	4	91	81
Total	½	0	2	1	½	½	1	2½	2	2	½	2½	15	-	-	-

Cambridgeshire Team 550 Competition

<i>Team 1</i>	New England 2 25 th Sept	Godmanchester 6 th Nov	Warboys N 4 th Dec	St Neots 29 th Jan	New England 2 19 th Feb	Warboys N 12 th Mar	Godmanchester 24 th Mar	St Neots 7 th Apr	Score	Appearances	Grading	
	Opponent Average		Performance									
Paul Hanks		1	1	1	½	1			4½	5	160	200
Paul Spencer	0	1	0	½	1	½	½	0	3½	8	141	134
Chris Russell			0				1	½	1½	3	120	120
Steve Walker					0	0			0	2	112	62
Steve Wozniak							½	½	1	2	108	108
Jason Parker	0	1	0	0	1	0			2	6	97	81
Norman Wedley	1								1	1	80	130
Ivan Garrett	1	0		0			1	0	2	5	77	73
Total	2	3	1	1½	2½	1½	3	1	15½		-	-
<i>Team 2</i>	New England 1 25 th Sept	St Neots 28 th Oct	Warboys N 6 th Nov	Godmanchester 25 th Nov	Warboys N 30 th Apr	New England 1 19 th Feb	St Neots 5 th Mar	Godmanchester 12 th Mar	Score	Appearances	Grading	
	Opponent Average		Performance									
Phil Turp						½	0		½	2	156	131
Mike Dunkley		1		1	0				2	3	149	165
Ron Jones		0	½	1	0				1½	4	146	133
Sam Caraway	1		0					1	2	3	136	155
Des Lane			1	1	0	0	0	1	3	6	117	117
Mahmoud Tarabad	0	1d		0	0	0	1d	1d	0+3d	7	108	58
Jonathan Sadler	1	½							1½	2	102	127
Norman Wedley			1			1	1d	1	3+1d	4	101	151
Barry Sadler	0								0	1	70	20
Total	2	2½	2½	3	0	1½	2	4	17½		-	-