

# NEW ENGLANDER

## Chess Club Update – July 2015

### Chairman's Chatter

The club has had a poor year over the board but every season, a few things give me special delight - none more so than a new name on the club honours board. Congratulations to Jason for winning the Club Ladder competition.

*Paul Hanks*

### Diary Dates

In accordance with the summer schedule outlined in the last newsletter, 8<sup>th</sup> July has been set aside for the Summer Sprint competition. Sam Caraway will again give a Masterclass session on 15<sup>th</sup> and on that night, members can decide whether to have competitive chess or tuition on the 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The Special General Meeting to determine the club's team entries to the County leagues next season will take place on 29<sup>th</sup> July.

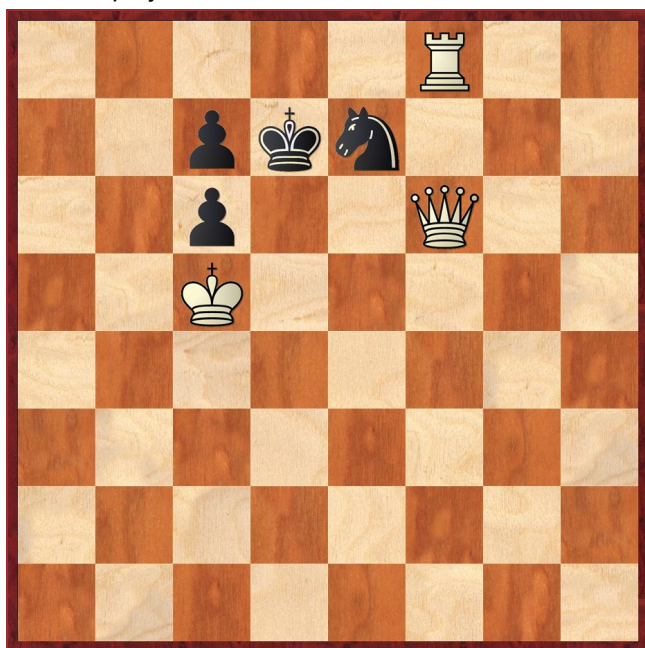
Here is some advance notice of forthcoming local tournaments.

- The next Cambridgeshire Rapidplay event is on 11<sup>th</sup> October at its regular venue in Whittlesford Memorial Hall.
- The County Individual Championship will take place at Peterborough Bridge Club, Lincoln Road on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November.

Entry forms are available at [www.cambschess.co.uk](http://www.cambschess.co.uk).

### Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



Last Month's solution (Marble/Bettmann 1933)

Position : 7Q/2p5/1P1N3R/3k4/8/2K5/8/8

1 Qe8 cxd6 2 Rh5# [1 ... cxb6/Kc5 2 Qb5#; 1 ... c6 2 Qh5#; 1 ... c5 2 Qe4#]

### Website to Watch

July is a quiet month for elite chess and even the strong Biel International Chess Festival from July 20<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> will be missing some names familiar as recent world championship contenders. Nevertheless, it still boasts Vachier-Lagrave, Adams and rising star Rapport in a field of six grandmasters. The website is [www.bielchessfestival.ch/en/home/](http://www.bielchessfestival.ch/en/home/) but it is not yet clear whether it will carry live games.

### Window on the Web

The Chess Website describes itself as "your one stop shop for all things chess". It is financed by membership subscriptions which are \$7 per month or \$50 per year. If you don't fancy becoming a member, there is plenty of interesting and instructive free content on the site.

At <http://www.thechesswebsite.com/>, on the home page, you will see 12 chessboards which represent links to different areas of the site. *Learn to Play* covers the basics. *Openings* shows a brief description of each opening with a short explanatory video and some famous games to play through via links to chessgames.com. Access is free to the Albin, Benko, Benoni, Bird's, Budapest, Dutch, English, Reti, Scandinavian and many more.

*Strategy and Tactics* has notes and videos on such themes as open v closed positions, good v bad bishops, outposts, decoy, development, deflection, bishop sacrifice and the windmill.

There are 3 grades of *Puzzles*: easy, medium and hard. *Practice* leads to 20 free "find the best move" positions. *End Game* has 10 free basic short lessons on such themes as king & pawn, knight v rook and triangulation. *Famous Games* includes games to play through by such luminaries as Fischer and Kasparov (v *Deep Blue*), plus some more recent (not very famous) games. *Traps* contains 16 free descriptions of various traps including the Fishing Pole and Queen Amidala traps – both new to me and well worth a look!

*Ron Jones*

### Result Round-up

New England Club Ladder

White		Black	
S Caraway	1	0	N Wedley

Position	Change		Player	Record
	Month	Overall		
1	+2	+4	J Parker	0,1,1,1,1
2	-1	+7	P Hanks	1,1,½
3	-1	-1	D Lane	1,1,1
4	+6	+8	S Caraway	½,1
5	-1	-4	M Tarabad	0,1,1,1,1
6	-1	+4	S Wozniak	1
7	-1	-1	P O'Gorman	1,1,1,0,½,1
8	-	-4	I Garratt	0,1,0,0,0,1,0,0,0,0,0
9	-2	-6	N Wedley	0,0,0,1,0,1,1,0
10	+2	-2	P Stevens	0,0,0,0
11	-2	-4	N Foreman	0,0,0
12	-1	-1	S Walker	½

#### Club Championship

Final Round 6			
P Hanks (4½)	1d	0d	J Sadler (3½)
S Caraway (4)	1	0	D Lane (3)
S Walker (3)	1	0	P Turp (3)
J Parker (2½)	0	1	M Dunkley (2+P)
P O'Gorman(1)	0d	0d	N Wedley (2½)
C Russell (2+P)	½	½	S Wozniak (2)
I Garratt (1)	1d	0d	B Sadler (1)

Player	Round						Pts	Grade	
	1	2	3	4	5	6		Opp	TPR
P Hanks	1	1	1	½	1	1d	5½	117	172
S Caraway	1	1	1	½	½	1	5	133	170
M Dunkley	0	1	½	1	½	1	4	115	140
S Walker	0	1	1d	1	0	1	4	108	118
J Sadler	1	½	1d	0	1	0d	3½	125	132
P Turp	1	1	0	1	0	0	3	125	128
D Lane	1	½	½	½	½	0	3	121	121
M Tarabad	0	0	1	0	1	1	3	97	90
N Wedley	0	0	1	1	½	0d	2½	121	117
C Russell	0	0	1	0	1	½	2½	125	114
S Wozniak	0	0	1	0	1	½	2½	112	102
J Parker	1	1	0	½	0	0	2½	113	94
I Garratt	0	0	0	1	0	1d	2	100	66
P O'Gorman	0	1	0	0	0	0d	1	80	53
B Sadler	0	0	0	1d	0	0d	1	91	30

#### New England Grand Prix

Player	Champ	Ladder	League	Cup	Team 550	Total	TPR*
P Hanks	4½	2½	4	0	3	14	162
D Lane	3	3	3½	0	3	12½	109
M Dunkley	4		4	½	4	12½	160
M Tarabad	3	4	2		3	12	100
S Caraway	5	1½	3	0	2	11½	161
J Parker	2½	4	3		1½	11	95
P O'Gorman	1	4½	0		3½	9	83
J Sadler	2½		2		3	7½	124
P Turp	3		2	0	2	7	144
N Wedley	2½	3			½	6	101
S Walker	3	½	1½	0	1	6	95
S Wozniak	2½	1	½		2	6	114
P Spencer	2		1		1	4	133
R Jones	1		1	0	1½	3½	126
I Garratt	1	2				3	55
C Russell	2½		0		0	2½	100
N Foreman	0	0				0	46
B Sadler	0					0	30
P Stevens		0				0	29

\* Tournament Performance Rating is approximate & includes Summer Sprint

#### Match of the month

Some time ago, I complained that our league teams were having no luck. Here is a game after which I would decry my misfortune to anyone who would listen but in reality, I was plainly not equal to the challenges of the position.

##### P Hanks v R McCorry

New England A v Cambridge, 25.03.2015

1 d4 Nf6  
 2 c4 e6  
 3 Nc3 Bb4  
 4 a3

The Saemisch Variation of the Nimzo-Indian Defence has disappeared from the grandmaster game. White invites pawn structure damage in return for the bishop pair.

4 ... Bxc3+  
 5 bxc3 0-0  
 6 Qc2 d5

I was quite pleased to see this move. In this opening, White often struggles to defend the pawn on c4 which Black can attack with b7-b6, Bc8-a6 and Nb8-c6-a5. Now, I can rid myself of the weakness at any time.

7 e3 c5

**8 Bd3**

A second plan for Black is to occupy e4 with a knight supported by the queenside fianchetto and eventually f7-f5. My play since move 6 has aimed to deter this manoeuvre, to prepare f2-f3 and claim the square for myself with e3-e4.

8	...	<b>dx4</b>
9	<b>Bxc4</b>	<b>b6</b>
10	<b>Ne2</b>	<b>Bb7</b>
11	<b>0-0</b>	<b>Nbd7</b>

Obviously, 11 ... Ne4 12 f3 would have fallen in with my plan. I was feeling that the game was proceeding smoothly in the intended direction when I realised there is another way for Black to be awkward.

After the pawn exchange 8 ... dx4, White is never going to play d4xc5 which merely leaves the queenside pawns as targets. By being able to dictate when c5xd4 is played, Black has the strategic initiative in the centre and 12 ... Ra8-c8 will create nasty threats. Left uncontested, the opening of the c file leads to disaster e.g. 12 f3 Rc8 13 e4 cxd4 14 cxd4 Ba6. Initially, I thought 12 Ba2 would suffice with a later option to play Ba2-b1 but 12 ... Rc8 13 Bb2 (say) cxd4 14 exd4 leads to the notorious hanging pawn formation (see the August 2014 issue of **NEW ENGLANDER**).

12	<b>Qa2</b>	<b>Rc8</b>
13	<b>Bb2</b>	<b>Ne4</b>

My strategy is in tatters. I avoided 13 Bd2 otherwise Black's last move would have negated the cherished bishop pair. Instead, my pieces are spectators on the queenside, Black has indeed occupied e4 and 14 f3 Ne2 fails to repel the invader.

14	<b>Bd3</b>	<b>Qg5</b>
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By a combination of ideas (white knight on e2, attack on g2, lack of protection for e3 after f2-f3), Black has this tasty move. I had taken it into account in my previous calculation but had spent a lot of time worrying about an alternative 14 ... Ne2 15 Rfd1 Nf3+. It looks very dangerous for White but I felt there should be a defence particularly after seeing 16 gxf3 Qg5+ 17 Ng3 h5 18 f4 Qg4 19 Be2 Qh3 20 Bf1 with a draw by repetition at worst and 17 ... Bxf3 18 Rd2 Qh4 (18 ... h5!?) 19 Bf1 Nf6 20 Bg2 Ng4 21 h3. The computer finds stronger defences (naturally!) but generally confirms that Black cannot break through.

15	<b>Bxe4</b>	<b>Bxe4</b>
16	<b>Ng3</b>	<b>Bb7</b>
17	<b>f4</b>	<b>Qg4</b>
18	<b>f5</b>	

Fritz recommends bringing the offside pieces back into play by 18 Qb1 or Qb3. I remembered a chapter from the book *Counterattack!* by Zenon Franco in which he gives examples of a rebuffed early assault being followed by a counterstroke. White's position does have the desired latent energy and the practical chances of the text move in my mind outweigh the objective solidity of the prosaic options.

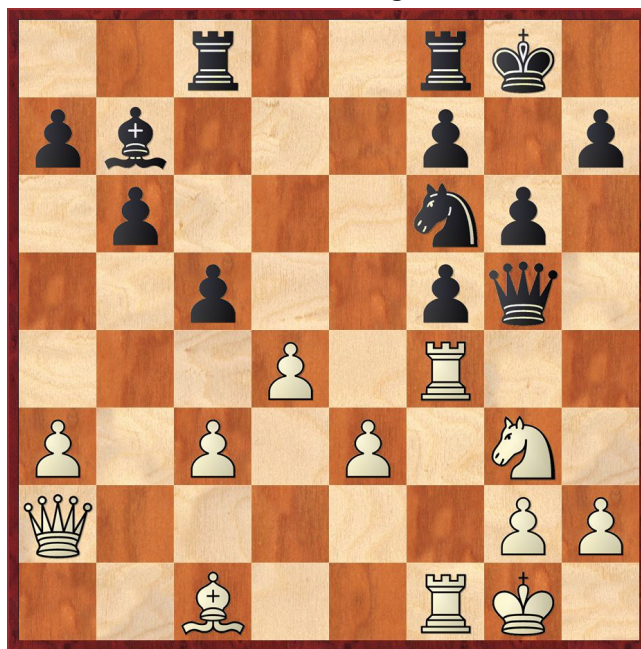
18	...	<b>exf5</b>
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Black plays along with only the computer's fourth alternative. Top of the list is 18 ... cxd5 19 exd5 h5. Maybe, Black's attack still had some life in it.

**19 Rf4**

And I reciprocate! I temporarily forgot that 19 ... Qg5 20 Nxf5 is not possible. This mental blunder suggested I needed to defend g2 and led me to visualise the continuation that actually occurred.

19	...	<b>Qg5</b>
20	<b>Raf1</b>	<b>Nf6</b>
21	<b>Bc1</b>	<b>g6</b>



22	<b>Nxf5</b>	<b>Nd5</b>
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Accepting the offer by 22 ... gxf5 is best but cheerless after 23 Rxf5 Qxg2+ 24 Qxg2+ Bxg2 25 Kxg2 Ne4 26 d5 Nd6 when White's chances are preferable because 26 ... Nxc3 was impossible due to 27 Rg5+ Kh8 28 Bb2.

22 ... Nh5 runs into problems that are typical of later variations. I am ashamed to admit that I did not consider it but sensed there were many attacking options such as 23 Rg4 Qd8 (23 ... Qxg4 24 Nh6+) 24 Nh6+ Kh8 25 Nxf7+. The more resilient 24 ... Kg7 allows you to practice finding checkmates 25 Rxf7+ Rxf7 26 Qxf7+ Kxh6 (26 ... Kh8 27 Qxb7) 27 e4+ Nf4 (27 ... g5 28 Rh4) 28 Bxf4+ Kh5 and either

- 29 Qxh7+ Kxg4 30 Qxg6+ Kxf4 31 Qg3+ Kxe4 32 Qf3# or
- 29 Rg5+ Qxg5 (29 ... Kh6 30 Rxg6+ Kh5 31 Qxh7#; 29 ... Kh4 30 Qxh7#) 30 Qxh7+ Kg4 31 Qh3+ Kxf4 32 Qf3#.

23	<b>h4</b>	<b>Qxf4</b>
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The point is that the queen is lost after 23 ... Qh5 24 g4 and 23 ... Qf6 24 Nh6+.

The only realistic retreat is 23 ... Qd8 but White can continue vigorously and I saw 24 Nh6+ Kh8 25 Nxf7+ Rxf7 26 Rxf7 Ba6 (26 ... Kg8 27 Rxb7) 27 Rf8+ Qxf8 28 Rxf8+ Rxf8 29 Qxd5. I could fathom a few of the



more complex lines but for many, I had to trust my instincts after 24 Nh6+ Kg7 25 Rxf7+

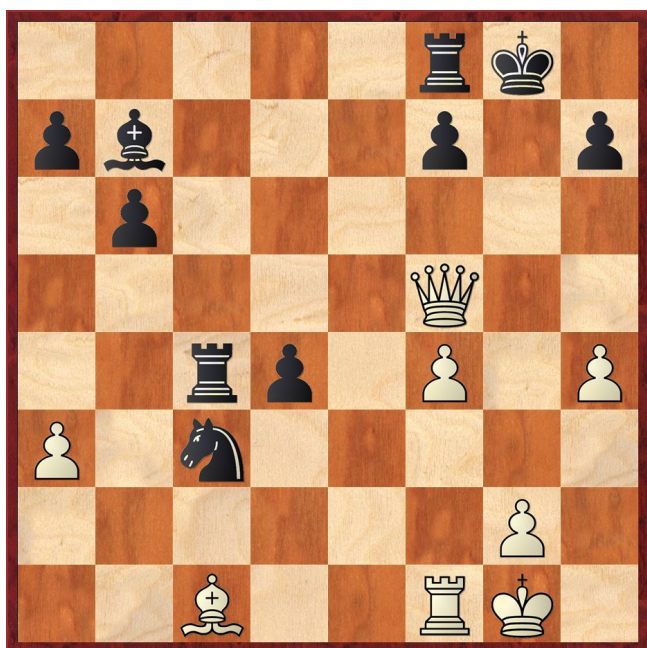
- 25 ... Kh8 26 Rxf8+
- Black cannot escape with 25 ... Kxh6 26 e4+ g5 (26 ... Kh5 27 Qe2+ Kxh4 28 Rxh7+ Kg3 29 Rh3#) 27 Bxg5+ does not need deeper analysis but the computer can finish the job with 27 ... Kg6 28 h5+ Kxg5 29 R1f5+
  - 29 ... Kh6 30 Qd2+
  - 29 ... Kg4 30 Qe2+ (or 30 Rg7+ Kh4 31 Qf2#) Kg3 31 Qf3+ Kh4 32 Qh3#
  - 29 ... Kh4 30 Qf2+ Kg4 transposes.
- 25 ... Rxf7 26 Rxf7+
  - 26 ... Kxh6 27 e4+ g5 (27 ... Kh5 28 Rxh7+ Kg4 29 Qe2+ Kg3 30 Qf3#) 28 Bxg5+ etc.
  - 26 ... Kh8 27 Qf2 White has an extra pawn and a winning attack e.g. 27 ... Bc6 28 e4 Nxc3 29 Bg5 or 27 ... Nxc3 28 d5 Bxd5 29 Bb2 Bxf7 30 Bxc3+ Qd4 31 Qf6+ Qxf6 32 Bxf6#. Very pretty!

After the superior 23 ... Nxc3, my intention was 24 Qc2 when Black cannot hold his threatened pieces but might simplify the position with 24 ... Qxg2+ 25 Qxg2 Bxg2 26 Ne7+ Kg7 27 Kxg2. Would I have found the preferable 24 hxg5 Nxa2 25 Ne7+ Kg7 26 Bb2 Rc7 27 d5+ with a passed pawn and a trapped black knight?

**24 exf4**

I dismissed 24 Rxf4 quickly as it is not obviously better but 24 ... Nxf4 25 Ne7+ Kg7 26 Nxc8 Rxc8 (26 ... Nd3 27 Nd6 Nxc1 28 Qc2 Bc6 29 e4) 27 exf4 cxd4 28 c4 will leave Black with less compensation for the queen.

<b>24</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>gxf5</b>
<b>25</b>	<b>c4</b>	<b>Nc3</b>
<b>26</b>	<b>Qc2</b>	<b>cxd4</b>
<b>27</b>	<b>Qxf5</b>	<b>Rxc4</b>



Here is the “man or mouse” test. White has an obvious draw by perpetual check. Do you take it or play on and hope for more?

There are several factors to consider to put yourself in my position :-

- 1 You have nine moves to make in as many minutes.
- 2 In your last game against Peterborough, you emerged with an advantage but lost as fatigue set in. Tonight, you have also driven all the way to Cambridge.
- 3 Your opponent's grade exceeds your own by about 20 points.
- 4 It is a match situation and your team has the stronger player on most of the other boards.
- 5 Material is approximately level but you hold the initiative through having a rampaging queen. It is difficult, however, to bring up support because the route for the bishop to h6 or rook to g3 are not available and you might lose the bishop to Nc3-e2+.
- 6 The opportunity may not present itself again. You might hope for 28 h5 Ne2+ 29 Kh2 Rxc1 30 Qg5+ Kh8 31 h6 Rg8 32 Qf6+ but Black defends instead with 28 ... Rc5 or 28 ... h6.

Man or mouse?...

**28 Qg5+**  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

Squeak, squeak, squeak... OK, I failed!

I simply did not see the possibilities after 28 ... Kh8 29 Qe7 when

- 29 ... Ne2+ 30 Qxe2
- 29 ... Rfc8 30 Qxb7 Ne2+ 31 Kh2
  - 31 ... R8c7 32 Qb8+ Kg7 (32 ... Rc8 33 Qe5+ and Qxe2) 33 Bb2 or even 33 f5 Nxc1 34 f6+ Kh6 36 Qg8
  - 31 ... Rxc1 32 Rxc1 Rxc1 33 Qxf7
  - 31 ... Nxc1 32 Qxf7 R4c7 33 Qf6+ Kg8 34 Rf3 winning e.g. 34 ... Rc3 (34 ... Rg7 35 Qe6+; 34 ... Ne2 35 Qe6+) 35 Rxc3 Rxc3 36 Qd8+ Kf7 37 Qd7+ Kg6 (37 ... Kf6 38 Qxd4+) 38 f5+ Kh5 39 Qg7 Kxh4 40 g3+ Kh5 41 Kh3 Rxa3 42 Qxh7+ Kg5 43 Qg6#.

There are many alternatives to these thematic continuations but even the lines given above are too long for exhaustive analysis. Positions are reached in which the action is unfinished at move 33 and require confident assessment – many are clearly advantageous only with the benefit of hindsight.

Was I really such a mouse?

*Paul Hanks*

## Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

A Team	Fenland Cup		Cambridgeshire League										Score	Appearances	Grading	
	Peterborough 6 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Cambridge 8 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Royston 12 <sup>th</sup> Oct	St Neots 8 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Warboys A 3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	Peterborough A 10 <sup>th</sup> Dec	Cambridge 7 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Royston 23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	St Neots 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	Warboys A 25 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Peterborough A 12 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Cambridge 25 <sup>th</sup> Mar			Opponent Average	Performance
Mike Dunkley	½	0	½	1	1	½	0		½		0	½	4½	10	173	168
Phil Turp	0		0	0		0	0	½	½	1	0	0	2	10	173	142
Sam Caraway		0	0	½	0	½	1			0		1	3	8	174	161
Paul Hanks		0	0	1	½	1	0	0	½	½	0	½	4	11	172	158
Ron Jones	0		0	0									0	3	159	107
Des Lane		0			0		0		1	0	1	0	2	7	133	112
Paul Spencer					½	½							1	2	156	156
Steve Walker	0										½		½	2	101	76
Chris Russell								0					0	1	192	102
Jason Parker								0					0	1	186	72
Jonathan Sadler								0	0				0	2	160	90
Norman Wedley										1d			1d	1	-	-
<b>Total</b>	½	0	½	2½	2	2½	1	½	2½	2½	1½	2	17 + 1d			
B Team	Fenland Cup		Cambridgeshire League										Score	Appearances	Grading	
	Cambridge 15 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Royston 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Peterborough B 2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Spalding 29 <sup>th</sup> Oct	Warboys B 12 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Buckden 21 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Warboys C 18 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Spalding 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Peterborough B 25 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Warboys B 1 <sup>st</sup> Apr	Buckden A 13 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Warboys C 29 <sup>th</sup> Apr			Opponent Average	Performance
Ron Jones			½		½								1	2	154	154
Paul Hanks				0									0	1	197	146
Des Lane			0		0	0	1	0		0	½		1½	7	140	109
Paul Spencer			0	0	0								0	3	149	99
Steve Wozniak								0	½				½	2	143	109
Steve Walker							½		½	0			1	3	117	100
Jason Parker				0	1					1	0	1	3	5	85	95
Peter O'Gorman						0		0					0	2	111	61
Jonathan Sadler			0	1		0	0			1	1d		2 + 1d	6	119	109
Mahmoud Tarabad						0	1	0	1				2	4	99	99
Ivan Garratt											0		0	1	74	24
<b>Total</b>	4d	0d	½	1	1½	0	2½	0	3	1	2½	0d	11 + 1d			

## Cambridgeshire Team 550 Competition

<i><b>NE Patriots</b></i>	New England 2 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Spalding 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Godmanchester 6 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Warboys N 30 <sup>th</sup> Apr	New England 2 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Warboys N 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Godmanchester 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Spalding 17 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Score	Appearances	Grading	
	Opponent Average		Performance									
Paul Hanks				½	1	½		1	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>164</b>
Paul Spencer	½				½				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>124</b>
Chris Russell			0	0				0	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>69</b>
Sam Caraway	½	0		½		0	1		<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>154</b>
Steve Wozniak		½	1				½		<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>121</b>
Jason Parker		½			½		0	½	<b>1½</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>86</b>
Jonathan Sadler	1		0			1		1	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>136</b>
Peter O'Gorman	1	½	1		1	0	0		<b>3½</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>97</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1½</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1½</b>	<b>1½</b>	<b>2½</b>	<b>16</b>			
<i><b>NE Cavaliers</b></i>	Spalding 7 <sup>th</sup> Oct	New England 1 22 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Warboys N 19 <sup>th</sup> Nov	New England 1 14 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Godmanchester 28 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Spalding 11 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Godmanchester 9 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Warboys N 18 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Score	Appearances	Grading	
	Opponent Average		Performance									
Phil Turp	½						1	½	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>155</b>	<b>174</b>
Mike Dunkley		½	1		½	½	1	½	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>167</b>
Ron Jones	1	½	0						<b>1½</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>134</b>	<b>134</b>
Ivan Garratt						0			<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>29</b>
Des Lane	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>88</b>
Mahmoud Tarabad	1		0	0	0		1	1	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>91</b>
Steve Walker		0		½	½	0			<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>72</b>
Norman Wedley				½					<b>½</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>133</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>3½</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>½</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>			