

# New Englander

## Chess Club Update – June 2018

### Chairman's Chatter

Congratulations to Ray Ilett who has won the Club Championship for the second year running.

*Paul Hanks*

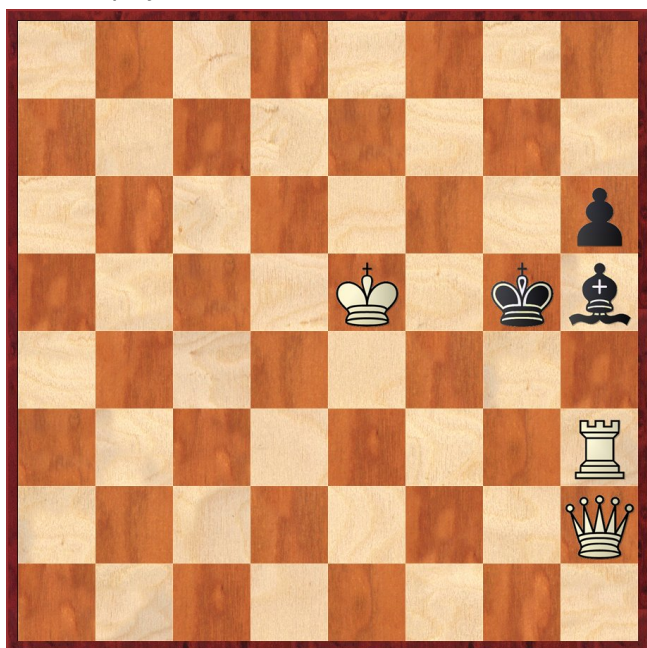
### AGM Summary

Nine members attended the Annual General Meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> May and transacted the following business :-

- club subscriptions remain at £28 (£23 for OAPs) + ECF membership
- the Club committee was re-elected except for Ray Ilett becoming A team captain and Mahmoud Tarabad taking over Cavaliers
- team entries to the Cambridgeshire leagues and club championship are unchanged.

### Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



Last Month's solution (Meinartz 1933)

Position : 3N4/8/6pQ/3n1k2/6N1/5K2/8/8

1 Qh4 g5 2 Qh7# [1 ... N any 2 Qf6#]

### Website to Watch

Over the period 12-24<sup>th</sup> June, the Grand Chess Tour holds two tournaments (Leuven and Paris) featuring rapid and blitz sections. Information about the events appears on the website [www.grandchesstour.com](http://www.grandchesstour.com) but possibly not live games. Both competitions feature ten top grandmasters.

### Diary Dates

6<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> June Continuation of Club Ladder  
13<sup>th</sup> June Summer Masterclasses begin

### Result Round-up

Cambridgeshire Jamboree : 15<sup>th</sup> May 2018

	Club	P	W	NE	G	Tot
1	Peterborough	X	2½	4	3½	10
2	Warboys	1½	X	2½	4	8
3	New England	0	1½	X	4	5½
4	Godmanchester	½	0	0	X	½

### New England Club Ladder

White		Black	
P O'Gorman	0	1	N Wedley
M Tarabad	0	1	M Ingram
M Tarabad	1	0	P O'Gorman

Position	Change		Player	Record @ 23/05/18
	Month	Overall		
1	-	+6	P Spencer	1,1,1
2	-	+17	J Sutherland	1
3	+2	+8	P Weinberger	0,1,0,0,1
4	-	-	P Hanks	1,1
5	+1	+1	P Walker	0,½,1,1,1,1
6	+2	+3	M Ingram	0,1,½,0,0,0,0,0,1,1
7	-	+5	M Tarabad	0,½,1,1,1,1,0,0,1,0,1
8	+2	-	R Ilett	1,1,½,0,½,1
9	-	-6	N Wedley	½,0,1,1,1,½,0,0,1,0,1,0,1
10	+1	-8	J Parker	0,½,1,0,0,1,½,1,0
11	+1	-6	S Walker	0,1,0
12	+1	+6	M Williams	0,1
13	+1	+1	T Ingram	1,0,1,0,0,0,0
14	+1	-4	P O'Gorman	0,0,0,1,0,0,0,0
15	+1	-	D Lane	0,0,1
16	+1	-	I Garratt	0,0
17	+1	-4	R Jones	1
18	+1	-1	N Foreman	0,0

### Club Championship

Round 5			
P Spencer (3)	0	1	E Serban (3)

Round 7			
P Hanks (4½)	½	½	R Ilett (6)
T Ingram (2½)	0	1	R Jones (3)
D Lane (2)	1	0	M Williams (2)
J Parker (2)	0	1	J Sutherland (2)

Round 8			
P Weinb'r (4½)	0	1	R Ilett (6)
P Walker (6)	½	½	P Hanks (4½)
P O'Gorman (3½)	0	1	P Spencer (4)
C Russell (3)	0	1	E Serban (4)
R Jones (4)	½	½	S Wozniak (3½)
S Walker (3)	0	1	M Tarabad (3)
N Wedley (3)	1	0	D Lane (3)
J Sutherland (3)	0	1	T Ingram (2½)
M Williams (2)	0	1	M Ingram (2)
J Parker (2)	1d	0d	N Foreman (½+3P)

Pos	Player	Round								Total
		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
1	R Ilett	1	1	1	1	1	1	½	1	7½
2	P Walker	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	½	6½
3	E Serban	1	1	0	1	1	0	1d	1	6
4	P Hanks	1	1	1	0	½	1	½	½	5½
5	P Spencer	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	1	5
6	P Weinberger	0	1	0	1	½	1	1	0	4½
	R Jones	1	1	0	0	½	½	1	½	4½
8	S Wozniak	0	½	0	1	1	0	1	½	4
	M Tarabad	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	1	4
	N Wedley	0	0	½	0	1	½	1	1	4
11	P O'Gorman	1	0	1	1	0	0	½	0	3½
	T Ingram	0	0	1	0	½	1	0	1	3½
13	S Walker	0	0	1	1	½	½	0	0	3
	M Ingram	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	3
	J Parker	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	1d	3
	J Sutherland	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	3
	C Russell	0	½	½	1	½	½	0	0	3
	D Lane	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	3
19	M Williams	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

### 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 Weinberger	4½	2	1	2	3½	13	114
P Spencer	5	3	3½		1½	13	137
M Tarabad	4	5½	1	½	2	13	89
N Wedley	4	7				11	111
J Parker	2	4	0	0	2½	8½	92
S Walker	3	1	½		4½	9	105
D Lane	3	1	4		1½	9½	96
R Jones	4½	1	2½		1½	9½	123
M Ingram	3	3½	1		2	9½	94
E Serban	5		1½			6½	144
P O'Gorman	3½	1		½	1	6	72
T Ingram	3½	2				5½	85
C Russell	3			1	1½	5½	104
S Wozniak	4			½	½	5	108
J Sutherland	3	1				4	80
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

### Club Rapidplay : 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2018

Pos	Player	Round				Total
		1	2	3	4	
1	Peter Walker	1	1	1	1	4
2	Paul Spencer	1	1	1	0	3
3	Ed Knox	1	1	0	0	2
	Chris Russell	1	0	0	1	2
	Des Lane	0	0	1	1	2
	Jamie Sutherland	0	1	0	1	2
7	Mahmoud Tarabad	0	0	1	0	1
8	Peter O'Gorman	0	0	0	0	0

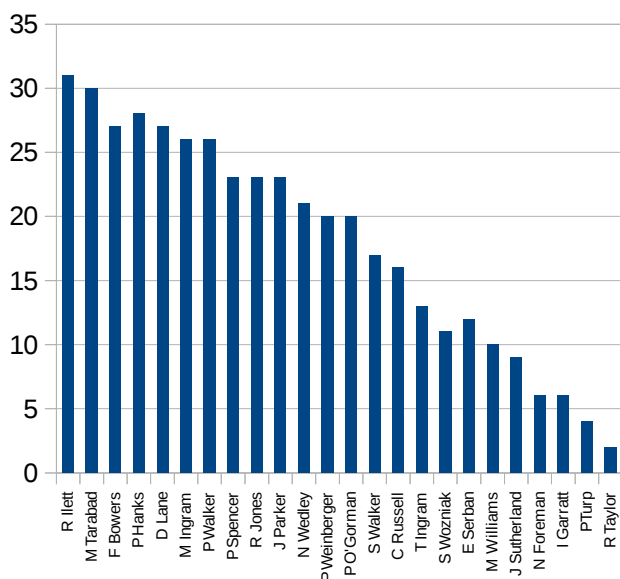
## Blunder of the Month

What is the difference between me and top grandmasters? Nothing, you may say, that over 1000 ELO points wouldn't cure. Concealed beneath your mockery, however, there is a serious point. Are there any simple measures we can take to start to bridge the gap?

This train of thought came to me when I saw some figures revealing how often the professionals play. For instance, in 2017, Carlsen played 63 games and Caruana 82 at a "classical" time limit. Typically, this would be 100 minutes for 40 moves and then 60 minutes for the remainder of the game with a 30 second increment throughout. They also play "rapid" games which have a variable format but 25 minutes with a 10 second increment is not uncommon. With their superior knowledge of openings, grandmasters are probably under no greater time pressure than we are in league matches. If we include the rapid games, the totals for the contestants in the forthcoming World Championship match rise to 108 and 111 respectively.

This is how we compare :-

Games/season



So, the stars can play roughly 5 times as many games as we do on average for the Club. Can we make time to play more regularly?

While on the subject, we now have a couple of year's experience with the Fischer time limits. Instead of 75 minutes for 36 moves and 15 minutes for the rest of the game, the digital era allows us to have 70 minutes + 15 seconds per move. A little arithmetic shows that we have less time for moves 1-20, more (by up to 4 minutes) until move 36 and again, less until move 80. In fact, we need to play move 37 no less than 11 minutes earlier than traditionally. I wondered whether this faster pace has affected my results.

Let's look at my success rate for games of different lengths.

Game length	Number of games	Success (%)
≤ 20	5	60
21-25	3	100
26-30	4	62
31-35	2	25
36-40	3	83
41-45	5	80
46-50	2	50
≥ 51	3	66

It would seem that I have nothing to fear from the cliff edge at move 36. Indeed, if I have a drop in form, it is around moves 26-35 just when I start to benefit from the Fischer limit.

The game length and eventual success, sadly, bear little relation to the point where bad moves are played. Consider the position at Black's 7<sup>th</sup> move below and you will see a definite difference between Magnus and me.

### M Symanski v P Hanks

Cambridge v New England A, 18.10.2017

1 d4 Nf6  
 2 c4 e6  
 3 Nf3 b6  
 4 g3 Ba6

I played this, I think, for the first time. The motivation was that the previous newsletter carried it as a recommendation against the kingside fianchetto and I felt honour bound to give it a try.

5 Qc2 Bb4+

5 ... Nc6 is Fritz's suggestion though, tellingly, it appears in very few grandmaster games with this popular variation. I considered it but thought my pieces were scattered and vulnerable if I followed up with the intended 6 ... Nb4.

6 Bd2 Be7  
 7 Bg2

This looks like a fairly harmless, routine position.



7 ... c5??

Whereas I have helpfully weakened the h1-a8 diagonal, Carlsen saw the danger and beat Nakamura from this position by continuing 7 ... c6. Ivanchuk tried 7 ... 0-0 and lost! Both must be far better than my move which should lose as my opponent is eager to show.

8 Ne5 d5  
9 Qa4+ Kf8

I thought 9 ... Nfd7 was the only alternative but rejected it rightly on the basis of 10 cxd5 exd5 11 Bxd5. It could have been worse if I had tried (or seen!) 10 ... b5 when Fritz highlights the possibility of 11 Nxf7 e.g.

- 11 ... Kxf7 12 dxe6+ Kxe6 13 Qb3+ c4 14 Qe3+ Kf7 15 Bxa8
- 11 ... bxa4 12 Nxd8 Kxd8 13 dxe6 Nb6 14 Ba5.

Typically, the computer points out 9 ... b5 10 cxd5 Bb7 trying to escape from the mess at the cost of a pawn.

10 0-0

This lets some of the advantage slip. The computer likes White's prospects after opening lines by pawn exchanges e.g. 10 dxc5 Bxc5 11 cxd5 exd5 12 Nc3.

10 ... Ne4

My position is so bad I decided to muddy the waters. 10 ... cxd4 11 cxd5 Nxd5 12 Qxd4 is objectively best but it makes it clear that White has a pleasant position (centralised queen, Black's uncastled king etc.)

11 f3

Phew! This gives me some respite by closing the long diagonal temporarily. 11 cxd5 exd5 12 Bxe4 dxe4 13 dxc5 is recommended by Fritz but superficially, it looks risky to give up the light-squared bishop for the threat of Qa4xe4. It is not easy, however, for Black to cover this vulnerability. 13 ... Qd5 14 Bf4 Bxc5 15 Nc3 Qb7 (15 ... b5 16 Qa5 Bb6 (16 ... Qb7 17 Qd8#) 17 Qb4+ Bc5 (17 ... Qc5 18 Qxe4) 18 Nxd5 Bxb4 19 Nxb4) 16 Rad1 Be7 17 Qb3 Bf6 18 Nxe4 with a massive attack.

11 ... Nxd2  
12 Nxd2 f6  
13 Nc6?

I must have brought my opponent down to my level. Having said that, there are problems for White e.g. 13 Nd3 dxc4 14 Nxc4 Qxd4+. Fritz gives me a small advantage after all moves except the surprising 13 f4 when 13 ... fxe5 14 fxe5+ Kg8 15 cxd5 is very awkward for Black and so declining with 13 ... g6 is better.

13 ... Qe8

13 ... Qd7 is supposed to be slightly better.

14 b3

A very strange and unexpected continuation. My good fortune must have severely depressed my opponent because I was quite fretful about 14 cxd5 exd5 15 f4 Qxc6 16 Qxc6 Nxc6 17 Bxd5 but the pressure on c6 is not grave 17 ... Bb7/Rc8.

14 ... Qxc6  
15 f4 Qxa4  
16 bxa4

An extra piece, better pawn structure. I can sit back and let the position win itself...

16 ... Bb7  
17 Rab1 Nd7  
18 e4

I like this as a practical try. There is no point in playing the "best" move if it merely ensures losing more slowly.

18 ... dxc4  
19 d5 exd5?!

I analysed 19 ... c3 poorly. I saw 20 Nc4 but it seemed to force the knight to a better position although I did not recognise the plight it is in after simply 20 ... Ba6. If 20 Nf3, 20 ... exd5 21 exd5 Bxd5 22 Rbd1 is not a threat due to 22 ... Bc4 (22 ... Bc6) 23 Rxd7 Bxf1 24 Kxf1 c2.

20 exd5 Rb8

I could still play 20 ... c3 but my move is second best.

21 Bh3

21 Nxc4 Ba6 22 Rbc1 is more solid but without complications, it causes Black fewer problems.

21 ... Bc8

Another opportunity for 21 ... c3 22 Nf3 (22 Nc4 Bxd5).

22 Nxc4 g6

22 ... Ne5 aiming for simplifications.

23 Rfe1

Again, White needs a slower approach than 23 d6 Bd8 24 Na5 bxa5 25 Rxb8 Nxb8 26 Bxc8.

23 ... f5  
24 Bg2 Bf6  
25 Ne5 Kg7  
26 Nc6 Ra8  
27 d6 Ba6

At last! I find the best move though 27 ... Bb7 which I thought unplayable is in fact OK for me.

28 Ne5 Rad8  
29 Bc6

I was relieved to see this. I was worried whether a draw by repetition (29 Nc6 Ra8 30 Ne5=) was preferable but I should have been confident in my increasing activity after 29 ... Rde8 30 Nxa7 Bd3 31 Rbc1 Bd4+ 32 Kh1 Bb2.

29 ... Nb8  
30 Rbd1 Nxc6??

A quick win was there with 30 ... Bxe5 31 fxe5 Nxc6 32 e6 though the final position is not easy to relish.

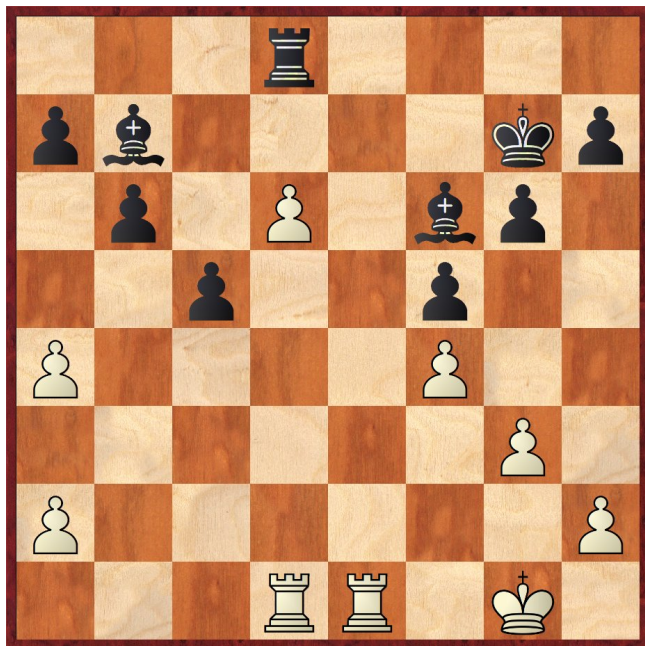
31 Nxc6 Rd7  
32 Ne5 Rdd8  
33 Nc6

Another repetition? Board 5 had lost at this stage so I decided to press for the win.

33 ... Bb7

33 ... Rc8 34 Nxa7 Ra8 35 Nc6 Bb7 36 Ne5 Rxa4 was also possible. Due to the unopposed dark-squared bishop, I have enough cover for the queening square.

34 Nxd8 Rxd8



35 Re6 Be4  
36 d7 Kf7?!

I was too tempted by luring my opponent's rooks to their doom when 36 ... Bd4+ 37 Kf1 Rxd7 is simple.

37 Rdd6 Bd4+?!

37 ... Be7 is more direct.

38 Kf1 Bd3+?!

38 ... Bd5 39 Re1 Be4 and 40 ... Ke7 – another oversight.

39 Ke1 Bc4  
40 Re8 Rxe8+  
41 dxe8Q+ Kxe8  
42 Rc6 Kd7 0-1

*Paul Hanks*

### Eye Opener

Memory is a strange thing. From the dark recesses, I can recall sitting alongside a game which featured the Cambridge Springs variation of the Queen's Gambit. I was concentrating on my own position when out of the corner of my eye, I noticed that the strong player with the white pieces had lost quickly and unexpectedly. Without seeing how, I knew that the opening had some venomous, hidden tactic and the ignorance instilled a fear that has stayed with me. That neighbouring game must have gone something like this :-

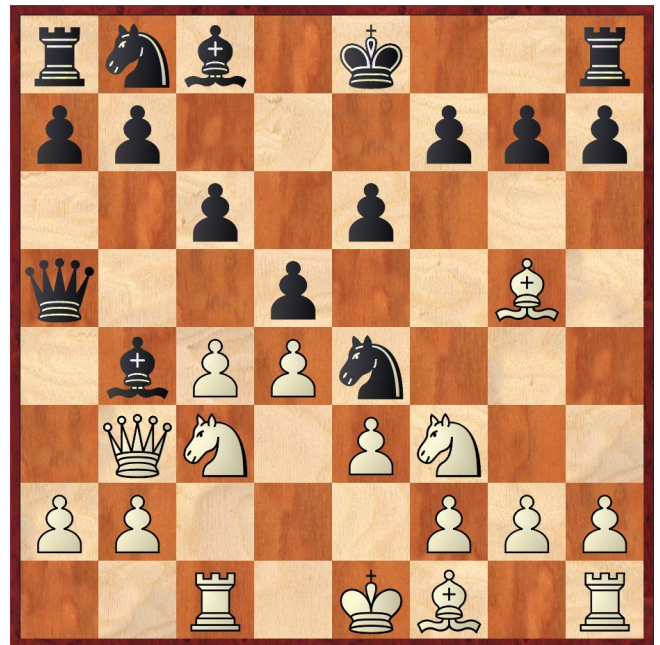
#### Betbeder v Guadin

1962 (from [www.chessgames.com](http://www.chessgames.com))

1 d4 Nf6  
2 Nf3 d5  
3 c4 e6  
4 Nc3 c6

Whenever I have encountered the opening in the years since, the move order has been slightly different e.g. 1 d4 d5 2 c4 e6 3 Nc3 Nf6 4 Bg5 c6 5 e3 Nbd7 6 Nf3 Qa5 when the danger caused by the threats to c3 after Nf6-e4 caused me to react with 7 Qa4 (Hanks v Wedley, 1987) or 7 Bxf6 (Hanks v Wedley, year unknown). So why did I panic some years later and play 7 Bh4 Bb4 8 Qc2 Ne4 9 Rc1 Qxa2 (Hanks v Marsh, 2005)?

5 Bg5 Qa5  
6 e3 Bb4  
7 Qb3 Ne4  
8 Rc1



It looks as though White has weathered the storm by defending c3 but a problem arises in an altogether different direction.

8 ... dxc4  
9 Bxc4 Bxc3+  
10 bxc3 Nxc3 0-1

The early sortie Qd8-a5 is obviously designed to cause White problems on c3 particularly after his dark-squared bishop on g5 has been isolated on the kingside after e2-e3. Black, however, needs to be cautious because there are several lines in which White willingly sacrifices a pawn for long-term activity. An example of this is Kramnik v Shirov, Tal Memorial 2010 which you can view at

<http://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1599652>

You just need to prepare your openings as thoroughly as Kramnik!