

New Englander

Chess Club Update – July 2019

Chairman's Chatter

It has seemed like a long season but it came to a close with the match on 12th June. Thank you all for your contributions and help over the last 10 months.

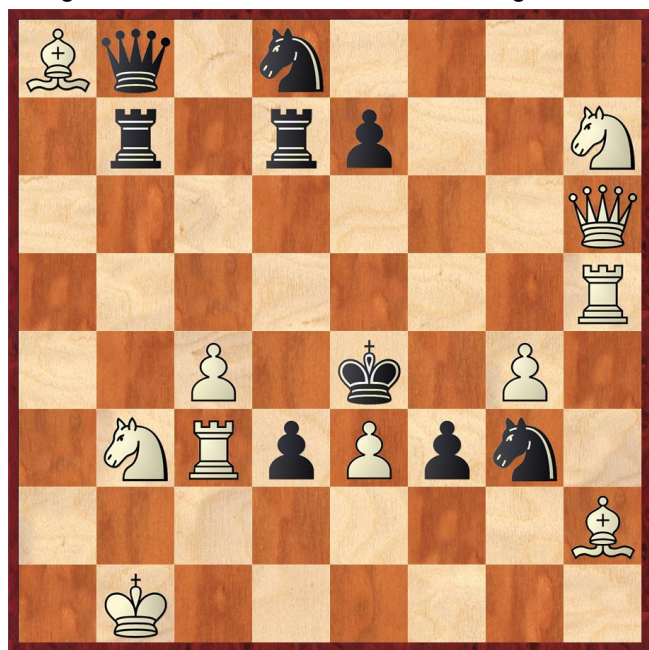
Paul Hanks

Diary Dates

30th June Final day for graded games in the 2018-19 season. Please submit any last minute results to Chris Russell.

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2. This is the first problem included in the ECF newsletter by the British Chess Problem Society (see www.theproblemist.org). It came with a hint that was of no help – particularly, as I thought it was mate in one! Now there is a good clue!



Last Month's solution (Gazimon 1969)

Position : 8/8/8/8/1R1P1R2/3k4/B7/3K4

1 Bd5 Ke3 2 Rf3# [1 ... Kc3 2 Rb3#]

Result Round-up

Team 550 Competition - Play-Off

NE Cavaliers	½	Cambridge	3½
R Ilett	½	M Symanski	½
P Hanks	0	S Pride	1
E Knox	0	D Cattermole	1
M Tarabad	0	A Norman	1

New England Grand Prix

Player	Champ	Ladder	League	Cup	550 Team	Total	TPR*
R Ilett	5½	3	2½	2½	5	18½	164
P Spencer	5½	3	4		3½	16	140
J Sadler	5½	4	2	0	4	15½	126
M Tarabad	3½	6		0	5½	15	108
C Russell	4½		6	1	2	13½	123
P Hanks	6½	0	2	3½	1	13	156
P Turp	5½		2	0	3	10½	137
P Walker	4	5	1			10	169
P Weinberger	3	1	2		3	9	99
E Knox	4½		1		2½	8	106
S Walker	3½		2		2	7½	94
R Jones	4		2		1	7	112
S Wozniak	4½				2½	7	124
J Dilley			5			5	202
N Wedley	2½	1		½	1	5	94
D Lane	1	1½	½		2	5	89
J Parker	1	2			1	4	70
J Sutherland	2½				1	3½	100
T Ingram	2½	1				3½	93
M Ingram	1			½	1½	3	94
E Smith	2	½			0	2½	60
P O'Gorman	1	0				1	74
N Foreman		½				½	80

* Tournament Performance Rating is approximate

Website to Watch

It may be the closed season for us but the elite grandmasters are busy in July.

The Grand Chess Tour has an 11 round-robin tournament from 26th June to 7th July with Carlsen and Caruana heading an impressive field of 12 (see <https://grandchesstour.org/2019-grand-chess-tour/2019-croatia-grand-chess-tour>).

From 11th to 25th July, the second leg of the FIDE Grand Prix series takes place in Latvia. The website has yet to be announced.

The Dortmund Sparkassen Chess-Meeting is a small event with 6 competitors from 13th to 21st July (see <https://www.sparkassen-chess-meeting.de/>). Grand Prix win Nepomniachtchi is scheduled to play (and in the simultaneous event in Latvia!).

From 21st to 30th July, the Biel Chess Festival (see <https://www.bielchessfestival.ch/Tournaments/Closed-Tournament/Grandmaster-Tournament.html>) has a grandmaster tournament covering classical, rapid and blitz disciplines. Who will be left standing to play?

Match of the Month

When is the "Silly Season"? If you believe online sources, the term dates from 1861 and refers to the part of the year when Parliament and the Law Courts are not sitting. Generally, the period over the summer months is typified by the emergence of frivolous news stories in the media and is known in many languages as cucumber time (<https://en.wikipedia.org/>).

From my point of view, it can also occur in February...

C J Russell v P Hanks

New England Club Championship Rd 7, 20.02.2019

1 e4 d6

Chris and I have played many times over the past four decades and know each other's opening repertoire. I decided to try something different to negate his preparation.

2 f4

He knows what I play, I know that he knows and he knows that I know... Chris also avoids my preparation. First blood to me then since I had not done any!

2 ... c5
3 Nf3 Nc6
4 Nc3 g6

Without an early d2-d4 to open lines for both sides, my Sicilian Defence is almost forced down the route of a kingside fianchetto (the Dragon Variation).

5 d4 cxd4
6 Nxd4

In *New in Chess* magazine, Nigel Short annotated a game that reached this position and commented "A clever little move order against inveterate Najdorf devotees, tricking the opponent into the Dragon. The only problem, from White's perspective, is that he ends up playing the stupid Levenfish Variation." Is this a compliment and if so, for White or Black?

Had I known, I should have realised

- I had inadvertently avoided the more dangerous Yugoslav Attack (f2-f3 facilitating the later kingside assault g2-g4 etc.)
- I need not waste time with a7-a6.

6 ... Bg7
7 Be3 a6

On autopilot, I still played the Najdorf trademark. After the game, I was mollified by finding grandmasters had reached this position and continued 7 ... Nf6

- 8 Nb3 0-0 (Fritz prefers grasping the opportunity with 8 ... Ng4) 9 Be2 Be6 10 0-0 Anand (2670) v Gelfand (2665), Linares 1992 - an expert endorsement of our play so far, well maybe!
- Subsequently 8 Be2 Bd7 9 Nb3 Rc8 10 0-0 0-0 11 Qe1 (Short v Nepomniachtchi, Havana 2010) at which point Nigel comments "I am not quite sure why I did this, to be honest. Nepomniachtchi was apparently not the only one to be slightly confused."

8 Qd2 Nf6

By now, I had identified that the feature distinguishing the move order in our game was that White's pawn on e4 was lightly defended. It was a long shot but perhaps, Chris would share my lack of vigilance.

9 Be2 Qa5
10 0-0



10 ... Nxe4

Here goes! Nimzovich did not approve grabbing a pawn in the opening unless it was in the centre, as here. Not only does the loss of this pawn free Black's pieces but it also devalues the tempi White has invested in maintaining the e4 and f4 front.

The simple justification for my move is 11 Nxe4 Qxd2 12 Nxd2 Nxd4 but then White's bishop pair are embarrassed into dropping another pawn viz.

- 13 Bd1 Nf5 14 Bf2 Bxb2
- 13 Bxd4 Bxd4+ 14 Kh1 Bxb2
- though 13 Bd3 Bf5 14 Ne4 Rc8 15 c3 d5 16 Bxd4 Bxd4+ 17 cxd4 dxe4 18 Bb1 Rc4 would have been too deep for me.

In the interests of full disclosure, my muddled analysis did not even go as far as these variations until I was sitting waiting for Chris's reply. Only then did I realise he had a viable alternative.

11 Nxc6

A moment of frantic improvisation revealed :-

11 ... **Qxc3**

11 ... Bxc3 is almost an alternative but 12 Nxa5 Bxd2 13 Bxd2 Nxd2 14 Rfd1 Ne4 when White has a distinct development advantage for the pawn e.g. 15 Bf3 f5 16 Rd4 with counterplay.

12 **bx c3**

Black is getting away with an extra pawn but the variations all revolve around whether White has sufficient activity to compensate e.g. 12 Qxc3 Nxc3 13 Bf3 (not 13 bxc3 bxc6 though 13 ... Bxc3? 14 Bf3 Bxa1 15 Rxa1 when all Black's pieces are on their home squares) 13 ... Na4.

12 ... **Nxd2**
13 **Bxd2** **bx c6**
14 **Bf3** **d5**
15 **Rab1** **a5**

15 ... Bf5 was tempting (or tempting fate). Fritz is unimpressed by White's prospects on the seventh rank continuing 16 Rfc1 (16 Rb2 0-0) 16 ... 0-0-0. This looks risky but Black has time to counter threats down the open b file with 17 Rb2 Kc7 18 Rcb1 Rb8.

16 **c4**

Fritz recommends 16 Be2 but such a retreat is hard psychologically.

16 ... **Ba6**
17 **cx d5**

Fritz still sees value in 17 Be2 but deems it barely any different. Chris joins in the madness with a choice that is far more feisty and gives practical chances.

17 ... **Bxf1**

17 ... Bd4+ may not seem to change much but shifting the rook on b1 to f1 after 18 Kh1 Bxf1 19 Rxf1 takes the wind out of the sails of the queenside pawn advance. I had visualised White's sacrifice earlier and felt I could defend but it was not too late to bail out with 17 ... cxd5 because 18 Bxd5 runs into 18 ... 0-0-0 19 c4 e6 winning a piece.

18 **dxc6** **Ba6**
19 **c7** **Rc8**

Again, it should be enter the dragon with 19 ... Bd4+ 20 Kh1 Ra7

- 21 Bxa5 0-0
- 21 Bc6+ Kf8 22 Bxa5 (22 Bb7 Bxb7 23 Rxb7 Kg7) 22 ... Kg7
- 21 Rb8+ Kd7 22 Bxa5 Rc8.

20 **Bc6+** **Kf8**
21 **Bxa5**

I worried about 21 Bd7 Rxc7 22 Rb8+ Rc8 23 Bxc8 which looked deadly but the check saves everything 23 ... Bd4+ 24 Kh1 Kg7. However, it should never get this critical because 21 ... Bd4+ 22 Kh1 Rxc7 23 Rb8+ Kg7 is simply winning and 21 Rb8 Bd4+ 22 Kh1 Kg7.

21 ... **Bd4+**
22 **Kh1** **Kg7**
23 **Rd1** **Bc5**

24 **Rd8** **Bd6**
25 **Bd7**

A last gasp might be 25 Rd7 Bc4 26 Bb7 Rce8 27 Rd8 Bxc7 28 Rxe8 Bxa5.

25 ... **Rxc7**
26 **Bxc7** **Bxc7**
27 **Rxh8** **Kxh8** 0-1

The weakness of the isolated queenside pawns is soon fatal. 28 g3 Bb7+ 29 Kg1 Bd5 30 a3 Be4 31 c3 (31 Ba4 Bd6) 31 ... Ba5 32 c4 Bb6+ 33 Kf1 Bd3+.

All rise!

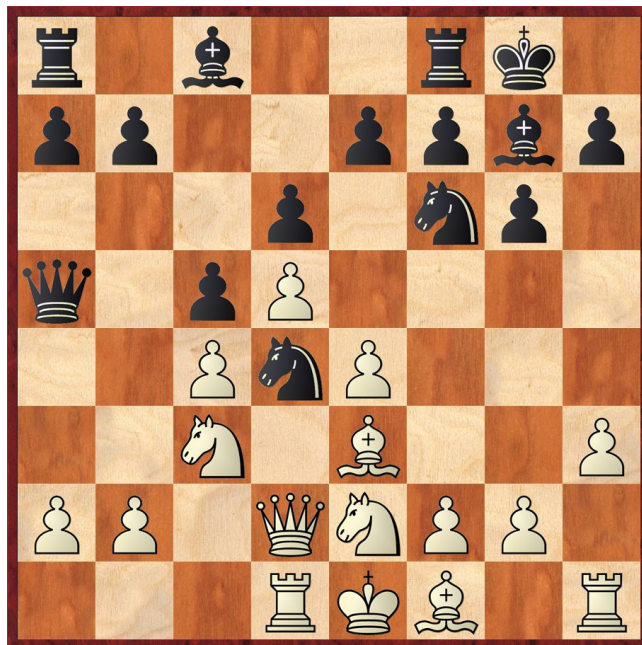
Paul Hanks

Eye Opener

Finding an unexpected combination to win a central pawn can be very destructive. Here, White chose to resign rather than fight on.

W Thormann v K Bischoff Germany 1982

1	d4	g6
2	c4	Bg7
3	Nc3	d6
4	e4	Nc6
5	d5	Nd4
6	Be3	c5
7	Nge2	Qb6
8	Qd2	Nf6
9	h3	0-0
10	Rb1	Qa5
11	Rd1	



Apart from White's profligacy with a few tempi, it all looks fairly normal. If I were a bystander, I should pass on to the next game and miss...

11 ... **Nxe4** 0-1

Unfortunately, recapture falls into 12 Nxe4 Nc2#. Trying to fiddle with 12 b4 also loses to 12 ... Nxd2 13 bxa5 Nf3+ (either!) with another smothered mate.

Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

A Team	Fen-land	Cambridgeshire League										Score	Appearances	Grading	
	St Neots 15 th Apr	St Neots A 26 th Sept	Peterboro A 17 th Oct	Royston 7 th Nov	Warboys A 21 st Nov	Cambridge 12 th Dec	St Neots 7 th Jan	Peterboro A 31 st Jan	Royston 18 th Feb	Warboys A 13 th Mar	Cambridge 3 rd Apr			Opponent Average	Performance
Jason Dilley			½	½		½	1	½	1	½	½	5	8	190	202
Ray Ilett	½	0	½	½	0	0	0	0	0	½	½	2½	11	174	157
Paul Hanks	1		½	0	0	0	1		0	½		3	8	170	157
Peter Walker		1d					0					0+1d	2	164	114
Phil Turp				½	0			0	0			½	4	160	120
Paul Spencer		0	½	1	0			½		½		2½	6	148	139
Ed Knox											0	0	1	166	70
Ron Jones		0										0	1	144	94
Jonathan Sadler	0								0		½	½	3	141	107
Peter Weinberger	0d					0		0			0	0	3	136	86
Chris Russell		½	0		1	0	½			1		3	6	133	130
Total	1½	1½	2	2½	1	½	2½	1	1	3	1½	17+1d		-	-
Sum of opponents' grades	465	595	827	844	755	883	764	891	848	731	818	based on grades at start of the season			
Sum of New England grades	451	547	773	792	720	746	809	741	774	773	669				
B Team											Score	Appearances	Grading		
	Peterborough B 3 rd Oct	Spalding 19 th Mar	St Neots B 17 th Apr	Peterborough B 20 th Dec	Warboys B 16 th Jan	Spalding 6 th Feb	St Neots B 25 th Feb	Warboys B 10 th Apr	Opponent Average	Performance					
Peter Walker	1											1	1	155	205
Ray Ilett		½										½	1	137	137
Phil Turp			1			0					½	1½	3	131	131
Paul Spencer			1	0	0	0	½					1½	5	132	112
Ron Jones			½			½	0	½	1			2½	5	114	114
Chris Russell			1	½	0	1	½					3	5	103	113
Des Lane			½									½	1	117	117
Steve Walker				1	1							2	2	55	113
Peter Weinberger				1	1							2	2	74	126
Jonathan Sadler				1				½	0	0		1½	4	125	113
Ed Knox									1	1		2	2	86	136
Mike Ingram									1			1	1	68	118
Total	3½	3	2½	2	1½	1½	2½	2½	2½	2½	2½	19		-	-
Sum of opponents' grades	472	499	337	446	484	487	407	416	based on grades at start of the season						
Sum of New England grades	597	475	468	468	513	498	459	459							

Cambridgeshire Team 550 Competition

NE Patriots	Plate			Team 550								Score	Appearances	Grading	
	Royston 19 th Nov	Cambridge 27 th Feb	St Neots 20 th May	NE Cavaliers 19 th Sept	Godmanch'r 10 th Oct	Godmanch'r 29 th Oct	Spalding 14 th Nov	NE Cavaliers 13 th Feb	Warboys N 6 th Mar	Warboys N 27 th Mar	Spalding 30 th Apr			Opponent Average	Performance
Ray Ilett	1	1	0						1	1	1	5	6	153	187
Paul Hanks	1	1	½									2½	3	139	172
Paul Spencer				0	1		1		½			2½	4	137	150
Chris Russell	0	½	1			½	½		0	0	½	3	8	133	120
Steve Wozniak						1				½	1	2½	3	108	141
Peter Weinberger				0	1	1	½	0	0			2½	6	106	97
Steve Walker				0	½		1	½				2	4	93	93
Jason Parker						1				0		1	2	69	52
Ed Smith				0	0			0				0	3	94	44
Mike Ingram	½	0	0					½			1	2	5	99	89
Total	2½	2½	1½	0	2½	3½	3	1	1½	1½	3½	21½	-	-	-
Sum of opponents' grades	422	529	544	405	361	418	473	396	538	512	473	based on grades at start of the season without 100 as fixed minimum			
Sum of Patriots grades	548	548	548	432	450	428	468	395	534	486	489				

NE Cavaliers	Team 550										Score	Appearances	Grading	
	Plate	St Neots 25 th Jan	NE Patriots 19 th Sept	Godmanch'r 30 th Jan	Warboys N 5 th Dec	Spalding 23 rd Jan	NE Patriots 13 th Feb	Spalding 5 th Mar	Godmanch'r Mar	Warboys N 17 th Apr			Final Cambridge 12 th Jun	Opponent Average
Ray Ilett		1		1						½	2½	3	160	185
Paul Hanks				1						0	1	3	151	135
Phil Turp		0	1			1		½		½	3	5	138	148
Paul Spencer				1							1	1	127	177
Jonathan Sadler				1		1	0	1	1		4	5	118	148
Ron Jones						0	½	0			½	3	118	84
Ed Knox				1	0	0	½			0	1½	5	105	84
Des Lane			1							1	2	2	103	153
Peter Weinberger								½			½	1	100	100
Mahmoud Tarabad		0	1	1	½	½	½	1	1	0	5½	9	99	117
Jamie Sutherland			1								1	1	80	130
Norman Wedley		½					1				1½	2	74	99
Total	1½	4	4	2½	1½	3	2	2½	2½	½	24	-	-	-
Sum of opponents' grades	448	432	361	538	506	395	487	384	546	529	based on grades at start of the season without 100 as fixed minimum			
Sum of Cavaliers grades	500	398	426	499	427	396	467	443	513	499				