

New Englander

Chess Club Update – November 2020

Chairman's Chatter

Definitely something new... By adopting four digit numbers, the English Chess Federation has changed its grading structure to make it conform more to the ELO system. It appears to use the formula :

$$\text{New ECF} = 7.5 \times \text{Old ECF} + 700$$

In future years, the Team 550 competition is likely to become the Team 7000 tournament!

You can check your new rating at the website https://www.ecfrating.org.uk/v2/new/list_players.php and although the intention is to update it monthly, this may not happen due to the additional workload on our volunteer grading officers.

Paul Hanks

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



Last Month's solutions

Position : 8/1pBN4/8/R7/1k6/3K4/2P5/8 (Diot 1953)

1 Nb8 b6 2 Nc6# [1 ... b5 2 Na6#]

Position : 8/p1p2k2/2Q3p1/3P1b2/8/1P3BK1/P3Pp1r/6b1

R Fontaine v M Vachier-Lagrave, Aix-les-Bains 2007

1 ... f1N+ 2 Kf4 Rh4+ 3 Kg5 [3 Ke5 Bh2# (3 ... Bd4#) ; 3 Bg4 Rxg4+ 4 Kf3 (4 Ke5 Re4#) 4 ... Nd2# (4 ... Nh2#)] **3 ... Be3+ 4 Kxh4 g5+ 5 Kh5 Ng3+ 6 Kh6 g4#**

Position : 8/1pkb1R2/p7/2KB1p2/2P5/8/8/3r4

M Timmermans v Rijnaarts, Amsterdam 2013

1 ... b6+ 2 Kb4 Rd3 and **3 ... a5#** forces White to give up material e.g. 3 c5 Rxd5 or 3 Rxd7+ Kxd7

Position : 6k1/5p1p/p2p1BpQ/2p5/1pP3PK/1P2r2P/1P2q3/3R4

Gajewski v G Jones (analysis), Iceland 2013/14

1 ... Qf2+ 2 Kg5 Re5+ 3 Bxe5 Qe3+ 4 Kh4 Qxh6 0-1 [4 Bf4 Qe7#; 4 Kf6 Qxe5#]

Diary Dates

It is becoming more difficult to find announcements about forthcoming tournaments. Just head for the popular websites.

lichess is advertising its Blitz Titled Arena (see <https://lichess.org/tournament/nov20bta>) which has a novel feature – the Beserk button. Players can activate this to sacrifice half the time but potentially score 3 points for a win instead of the normal 2.

Bigger money is on offer at chess.com. Their Speed Chess Championship runs from 1st November to 13th December (<https://www.chess.com/article/view/2020-speed-chess-championship>) and with \$100k in the prize fund, it will surely attract the big names.

Result Round-up

Online tournaments : October 2020

Player	October				Total	Tie break
	7th	14th	21st	28th		
P Walker	1	3	3	3	9	1
R Ilett	3	2	2	-	7	-
P Hanks	2	2	2	1½	6	1½
P Spencer	2	-	1	1½	4½	-
S Walker	1	1	-	-	2	-
C Russell	-	-	1	-	1	-
M Tarabad	0	1	0	0	1	0

New England World Cup

Final		
P Hanks		P Spencer

Online Club Championship

Round 1		
P Hanks		P Walker
M Tarabad	0 1	P Spencer
C Russell	½ ½	R Taylor
E Knox	0 1	J Sadler
J Sadler = Rd 2 (1)		P Turp

Round 2			
P Turp			E Knox (0)
P Walker			M Tarabad (0)
P Spencer (1)	1	0	C Russell (½)
R Taylor (½)			P Hanks
Deadline : 30 th November		Next draw : 1 st December	

Iceni League

Broadland	6½	New England	1½
"RIPOL"	½1	P Walker	½0
"MagicBlunderMan"	11	P Spencer	00
"Ajerifoz"	11	M Tarabad	00
"PaulBadger"	½½	S Walker	½½

New England	1½	Norfolk & Norwich	8½
P Walker	0½	"JeamNiguel"	1½
P Hanks	00	"JerungPutih"	11
P Spencer	10	"nosnilloc"	01
E Knox	00	"LaupMiths"	11
S Walker	00	"Daviduea"	11

Norfolk Nomads	8½	New England	3½
"Housing Crisis"	11	P Walker	00
"silentassassin"	1½	R Ilett	0½
"combie"	01	P Hanks	10
"pss03d"	½1	P Spencer	½0
"GrahamL51"	11	E Knox	00
"Castle-19"	0½	M Tarabad	1½

New England	5½	Dons	8½
P Walker	01	"wriggler66032"	10
R Ilett	10	"pe4nut"	01
P Spencer	10	"Canaryhammer"	01
E Knox	01	"RORYDONS24"	10
P Weinberger	0½	"MERVYN7"	1½
M Tarabad	0½	"gambitapawn"	1½
S Walker	½0	"grahamxjones"	½1

Broadland	4½	New England	3½
"Dynamo24"	11	P Walker	00
"mariner235"	00	R Ilett	11
"Blocksetter"	0½	P Spencer	1½
"marklim1"	11	E Knox	00

Match of the Month

I began playing online chess when I retired last month and, although it's different to over the board play, I thoroughly enjoy it. A little dexterity with the mouse (or touchscreen) is required; in one game my opponent, intending to take the pawn on b7 with his queen on b3, actually played Qb3-b6, to which I replied axb6. Touch-move is not enforced but, as I found out to my cost, you do have to be careful to return your piece to its original square if you change your mind. At least you can utter those expletives out loud without giving offence.

I find some of the post-match analysis on chess.com really useful. Being told whether each of your moves was brilliant, best, excellent, good, an inaccuracy, mistake or blunder is a bit like having your homework marked at school. And if you really miss staring into your opponent's eyes at those critical moments of the game you can always set up a Zoom link on another device.

I do find it irritating not to know the identity of my opponents online. I later discovered that my opponent in this game, playing under the Belgian flag, was Richard Polaczek who has a standard ECF grade of 221. The game was played with a time limit of 15 minutes each plus 10 seconds per move. You can follow the game on the New England page of www.chess.com.

RIPOL (2279) v **peter9974** (1930)
New England v Broadland A, Board 1
Iceni League on chess.com on 01.10.20

1 d4 Nf6
2 Bg5

The Trompowsky Attack which anyone who plays one of the Indian Defences should be prepared to face.

2 ... e6

I wanted to avoid lines such as 1 ... d5, 1 ... c5 and 1 ... g6 where White can double Black's pawns by exchanging on f6 on the next move. Although these positions are roughly equal, I don't meet that kind of pawn structure often and regular players of this opening tend to know the positions well. It appears that I am putting my knight on f6 into a pin but I can easily chase the bishop away by 3 ... h6 and 4 ... g5 before White can trap my knight by e2-e4-e5. I first saw this idea in game 19 of the Karpov-Korchnoi World Championship match in 1974. Black can also play 3 ... Ne4 but that can lead to complications if White later plays f3 after retreating his bishop.

3 e4 h6
4 Bxf6

If 4 Bh4, then 4 ... g5 and if White plays 5 Bg3, I win a pawn by 5 ... Nxe4. If 5 e5, then I can play 5 ... gxh4 6 exf6 Qxf6 and occupy the half open g file with my rook, leaving my king in the centre or eventually castling on the queenside.

4 ... Qxf6
5 c3 d6

In the aforementioned game, Korchnoi played 5 Nf3 here and the game continued 5 ... d6 6 Nc3 g7 7 Qd2 Qe7 8 0-0-0 with White eventually winning in 79 moves.

I wanted to create a strong point on e4 by playing a pawn to that square where it can be defended by a bishop on g6, a knight on either d7 or c6 and a rook on e8.

6 **Bd3** **e5**

The position now resembles the King's Indian and Old Indian defences, with which I am more familiar.

7 **Ne2** **g6**

I wanted to put my queen on e7 so I decided to develop the bishop to g7, even though it takes longer and I am already behind in development.

8 **0-0** **Bg7**

9 **f4** **Qe7**

I needed to remove my queen from the f file and possible attacks from White's rook on f1.

10 **Nd2** **Bg4**

All best/excellent moves by both sides up to this point but the analysis engine on chess.com recommends 10 ... 0-0 instead, leaving the bishop on c8 for now to protect against 11 Qb3.

11 **dxex5** **dxex5**

12 **f5**

From this square, the pawn can spearhead a kingside attack with moves such as h3, g4, g5 and f6 but White has another idea which I hadn't seen.

12 ... **0-0**

12 ... Nc6 is better, preparing to castle on the other side of the board.

13 **fxg6** **fxg6**

14 **Qb3+**

This move, giving check and attacking my pawn on b7, is the point of White's play on move 12. I used to wonder why masters often spend a move putting the king in the corner but having lost countless games due to a check on this diagonal, I now understand.

14 ... **Kh7**

15 **Rxf8** **Qxf8**

16 **Qxb7** **Nd7**

I wanted to play 16 ... Qc5+ and 17 ... Qe3 forking the knight on d2 and the bishop on d3 but after the immediate 16 ... Qc5+ 17 Kh1, I would be forced to play 17 ... Qc6 to defend my rook and allow the exchange of queens.

17 **Nb3**

I thought this move played into my hands as I can play 17 ... Nc5, attacking queen and bishop, and if White captures on c5 then I can recapture with check, giving me a tempo to save my rook on a8. I was expecting instead 17 Qxc7 (rated by chess.com as the best move) and after 17 ... Qc5+ 18 Qxc5 Nxc5 19 Bc4 Rd8 20 Nb3 Nxe5 21 h3, Black does not have sufficient compensation for the pawn. White can also prevent the check on c5 with 17 b4 Qd6 18 Nc1 (18

Qxa8 Qxd3 wins two pieces for the rook) 18 ... Nb6, retaining a slight advantage.

17 ... **Nc5**

18 **Nxc5**

An inaccuracy according to chess.com which recommends instead 18 Qb5 Nxb3 (or 18 ... Nxd3 19 Qxd3) 19 axb3 with an advantage to White.

18 ... **Qxc5+**

Now it is Black's turn to check on the diagonal (see note to move 14). White's minor pieces appear to be isolated from his major pieces on a1 and b7 and at this point, I was beginning to think that the position was in my favour.

19 **Kh1** **Rd8**

20 **Ba6**

If 20 Qb5, Black plays 20 ... Qxb5 21 Bxb5 Rd2 winning back the pawn on b2 or could try for more with 20 ... Qe3 21 Bc4 Rd2 if you were happy to defend after 22 Qe8.

20 ... **Qf2**

20 ... Bc8 looked tempting but Black can defend his Bishop with 21 Qb5. The idea of playing both my queen and rook to the 7th rank looked very strong. The immediate 20 ... Rd2 would probably transpose back to the game.

21 **Ng3**

The alternative 21 Ng1 is slightly better as the knight would cover the f3 and h3 squares, which turn out to be important later.

21 ... **Rd2**

Threatening 22 ... Qxg2#.

22 **Rg1**

The only defence.



22 ... **Bf3**

I wanted to attack the pawn on g2 again and I chose Bf3 rather than Bh3 because I was worried that White might eventually play his queen to the h file with

check. In either case, White cannot capture the bishop because of the threat of mate by 23 ... Qxh2.

Another temptation might be to target g1 by 22 ... Bf8 but it rebounds due to 23 Qxc7+ Bd7 24 Be2 Bc5 25 Rf1.

23 Bf1

Again, the only defence.

23 ... h5

I could not see any immediate breakthrough so I decided to bring up reinforcements.

24 Qxc7

White cannot free his position and so continues to capture loose pawns. chess.com prefers 24 Qc8 (threatening 25 Qh3) but after 24 ... Bg4 25 Qxc7, Black can still play 25 ... h5.

24 ... h4

Although the knight on g3 is not essential to the blockade that White has erected around his king, his kingside has become so congested that there is simply nowhere for it to go without loss of material.

25 Qe7 hxg3

26 Qh4+ Kg8

My rook on d2 prevents another check from the queen on d8 but 26 ... Bh5 27 Bc4 Rxb2 hxg3 may have been better.

27 hxg3

White has now accumulated three pawns for my bishop and material is even.

27 ... Be2

Keeping bishops on the board would have been a better plan with 27 ... g5 28 Qxg5 Bxe4 but 28 ... Rd6 might have led to a lively finish.

28 Bxe2 Qxe2 ½ – ½

This may seem cowardly on my part as chess.com shows Black to be 3.88 ahead but I could not see any immediate breakthrough. In order to win, I think I have to promote my pawn now standing on e4 and I wasn't confident of achieving that in the 3 minutes that I had left, whilst at the same time avoiding the threats of perpetual check from White's queen. At this point I noticed that my opponent turned off the online chat function. RIPOLO obviously didn't want to talk about it.

I think the accuracy figures (94% v 98.8%) shown by chess.com are flattering, given the number of points that I overlooked in this game.

I would recommend that anyone reading this article tries out online chess, if you have not already done so, and takes part in the club's online events during lockdown.

Peter Walker

Eye Opener

We are all getting used to the tighter time controls that are prevalent in online chess. This is possibly not conducive to the highest standard of play but adds to the excitement. Even top players are exposed to the same perils of tactical oversight – they are mortal!

P Eljanov (2765) v P Harikrishna (2763) Stavanger Blitz 2016

1	d4	Nf6
2	c4	e6
3	Nf3	d5
4	g3	

The Catalan opening is commonplace in the opening repertoire of most grandmasters with Anand and Kramnik being notable exponents. White is relaxed about the fate of the pawn on c4 because there are several routes to recapture if Black insists on d5xc4 (e.g. the game continuation and Nf3-e5xc4). If Black tries to defend with b7-b5, the long diagonal will allow White plenty of counterplay.

4	...	dx4
5	Bg2	Nc6
6	Qa4	Bb4+
7	Bd2	Bd6

So far, no clouds on the horizon. Harikrishna has been on the White side of this position in a game which continued 8 0-0 0-0 9 Nc3. Instead, White embarks on a slightly awkward deployment of his queenside pieces.

8	Bc3	0-0
9	Nbd2	Bd7
10	Qxc4	

How can Black exploit White's recent moves?



10	...	b5
11	Qxb5	

After the retreats 11 Qb3 or 11 Qd3, the bishop is trapped by 11 ... b4.

11	...	Nb4
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I should have expected the lesser evil 12 Qc4 Nc2+ but White chose **12 Qxb4 Bxb4 13 Bxb4 Re8** and although the game struggled on for another 25 moves, the result 0-1 was never in doubt.