

# New Englander

## Chess Club Update – July 2021

### Chairman's Chatter

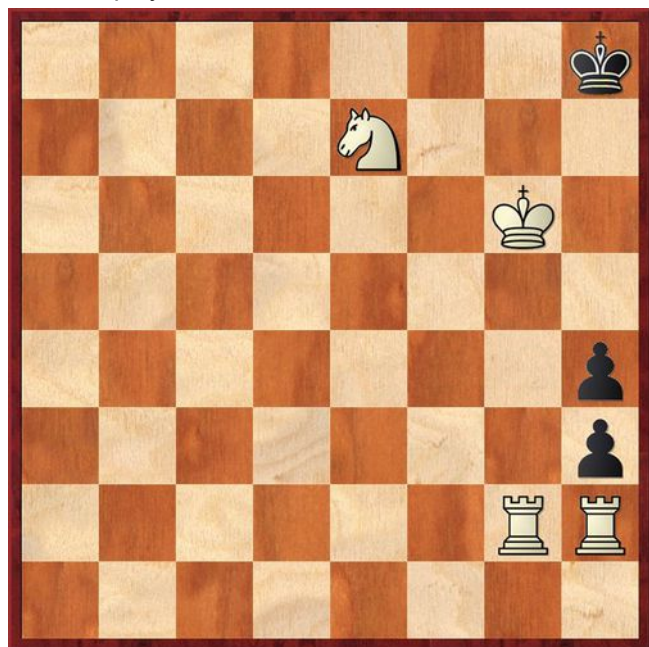
Such commitment! Despite the clash with the much-vaunted England v Scotland football match on TV, our club fielded a team in the Icen League. Having watched the big match, however, I think they knew where to find the best entertainment that evening!

We can only hope that the putative third wave of the pandemic is kept in check by the vaccination programme and that the delayed lifting of restrictions does not extend beyond July. See you soon...

*Paul Hanks*

### Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



Last Month's solution (Kuzokov 1982)

Position : 8/3p3K/8/1Q6/4k3/4P3/6R1/5N2

1 Rd2 d5/6 2 Qd5# [ 1 ... Kf3 2 Qf5#]

### Website to Watch

FIDE hosts one of its biggest events in July – the World Cup. Play starts on the 12<sup>th</sup> with the final (and any tie-break) on 6<sup>th</sup> August. For details, please see <https://worldcup.fide.com/>.

### Diary Dates

8<sup>th</sup> July New England Chess Club AGM

14<sup>th</sup> July County Association AGM

Please look out for email notification of times and online joining instructions via Zoom.

### Result Round-up

#### Iceni League

Norwich Dons	7½	NE U1700	½
"AlexanderNew"	11	R Ilett	00
"wriggler66032"	1½	P Spencer	0½
"RORYDONS24"	11	P Hanks	00
"MERVYN7"	11	M Scott	00

Wymondham	3	NE U1700	5
Default	00	C Ross	11
"MaaikeFloor"	01	R Ilett	10
"spookyrooky64"	01	P Spencer	10
"Neil_Hickman"	10	P Hanks	01

NE U1350	1	Linton Zebras	5
J Jennings	00	"Michos6"	11
S Walker	½½	"BenBro_1324"	½½
M Scott	00	"TaidSW"	11

#### Online tournaments : May/June 2021

Player	May	June		Total	Tie break	
	26 <sup>th</sup>	2 <sup>nd</sup>	9 <sup>th</sup> blitz			23 <sup>rd</sup>
R Ilett	2½	1	2	-	5½	-
C Russell	2½	-	-	2	4½	-
P Hanks	1	0	2½*	-	3½	-
R Taylor	2	-	1	-	3	-
P Spencer	-	-	-	3	3	-
J Jennings	1	-	1	0	2	-
M Scott	-	-	-	1	1	-
M Tarabad	0	-	-	-	0	-

\* includes ½ bye on late entry

#### Online Club Championship

Round 1			
J Sadler = Rd 2 (1)	P	P	P Turp
Round 2			
R Taylor (½)	P	P	P Hanks (0)
Round 3			
P Walker(2)			P Spencer (2)
M Tarabad (0)			P Turp (½+P)

Round 4		
P Hanks = Rd 3 (0+P)		M Tarabad (0+P)
J Sadler (1+P)		P Walker(2+P)
P Spencer (2+P)		R Taylor (1½+P)
P Turp (½+2P)		P Hanks (0+2P)

### Match of the Month

If you are as bad as me at chess, you have to expect the inevitable occasional blunders, when arguably all you can do is sit and wait for your opponent to crush you. This is an enormously frustrating experience and has led to many examples of bad behaviour by chess players. Aaron Nimzowitsch, after losing a game to Sämisch that he felt he should not have, famously stood on the table and shouted, 'Gegen diesen Idioten muss ich verlieren?' ('Why must lose to these idiots?'). Not nice, but I am sure we all know what he meant. We have all experienced that embarrassing game against supposedly weaker opposition. Expected to win, we have blundered and left ourselves forced to spend the rest of the evening sitting through a humiliating defeat, helpless to do anything while our opponent converts the win and then accepts the accolades of his teammates.

In chess, however, there is also 'gamesmanship'. By this, I do not mean the disgraceful behaviour of distracting your opponent by making odd noises, coughing loudly, or (when smoking was allowed) blowing smoke rings in his face. I am talking about psychology. You can always try to fool your opponent that there is more in a position than there really is. One of the great things about chess is the richness of possibilities the game can offer and sometimes that gives you the opportunity to come back from the grave. Here is just such a game of mine, when I managed to spare my blushes – but only just!

#### Chris Russell v David Bentley

New England v Warboys, CCA Div 2; 16.01.2019

1 e4 c6  
2 d4 d5

The Caro-Kann is a better defence than it initially looks. Black quickly develops his light-squared squared bishop, usually onto f5 where, if not exchanged, it can become a thorn in White's side. I decided to go for the Panov-Botvinnik attack and was lulled into a false sense of security by my opponent's unorthodox response.

3 exd5 Qxd5?!

This is not really sound, as Black must lose a tempo to retreat the queen when it is attacked.

4 c4

4 Nc3 Qd8 and 4 Nf3 Bf5 are perfectly good alternatives but I wanted to know where the black queen was going.

4 ... Qa5+?!

Not the best. I had expected 4 ... Qd8 5 Nf3 Bf5 6 Bd3 Bxd3 7 Qxd3 when I have a small lead in

development. Instead, if Black tries to profit from his wandering queen by 4 ... Qe6+!? 5 Be2 Qg6 6 g3, it will again just encourage me to activate my pieces (6 ... Qe4 7 Nf3 would be too much!).

5 Nc3

Had I known what was going to happen next, I would have played 5 Bd2. If then 5 ... Qd8 6 Nf3 gives me a small advantage. Alternatively, 5 ... Qb6 6 c5 Qc7 (not 6 ... Qxb2?? 7 Bc3!) 7 Nf3 also with a small development lead.

5 ... Bf5  
6 a3?!

I wanted to prevent Bf8-b4 and then exploit Black's badly placed queen to expand on the queenside with b2-b4. But Black needs to play e7-e6 first, so I have much better alternatives. 6 Nf3 e6 7 Be2 Nf6 (7 ... Bb4 8 Bd2) or 6 Bf4 Nf6 7 Nf3 e6 8 Be2 give White a solid advantage.

6 ... e6  
7 b4??

Played on autopilot and just like that, the game is lost. I wanted to dance on the table and scream like Nimzowitch! I was hugely angry with myself and also embarrassed to have let my team down. Of course, there are perfectly good moves here. I can try and trap the black queen with 7 Bd2 Qb6 8 c5 and if Qxb2?? (8 ... Qd8 gives me a small plus) 9 Ra2 wins. According to Fritz, a better plan and a more normal game continuation would be 7 Nf3! Be7 8 Be2 Nd7 9 0-0 Qc7 10 d5 Ngf6 11 Nd4 0-0 12 dxe6 Bxe6 Nxe6.

7 ... Bxb4!  
8 axb4

There is no alternative but to take the medicine. If 8 Nge2? Bxc3+ 9 Nxc3 Qxc3+ 10 Bd2 Qxd4 wins.

By now, you will have realised there is some gentle irony here. The wording "and wins" or similar is an expression of Fritz's assessment of the state of advantage in the position. I then extrapolate it to a final result on the assumption of best play by both sides – something that cannot be expected at our level!

8 ... Qxa1  
9 Qd2!?

This does not look great, but now the kidology starts! As my first goal, I wanted Black to worry about Na2 potentially trapping his queen. Fritz preferred either 9. Bd2 which allows the exchange of queens or 9.Nge2, which looks too slow, as I need to develop in a hurry.

A long time ago, Perkins Chess Club used to run a handicap competition based on material rather than time. For every 10 points difference in ECF grade, you could claim the equivalent of a pawn, so for 30 points you could remove a knight etc. Therefore, by effectively giving David a rook and pawn for bishop start I was giving myself a difficult, but not impossible game on paper, anyway! (I think that there were approximately 30 grading points between us at the time.)

9 ... Qa6??

Hope! An understandable mistake but, by choosing to extract the queen, David gives me time to develop and crucially reduces his positional advantage by more than a whole point. There just isn't time for me to snare the queen. I need several moves to bring my kingside pieces into play and untangle my king's position to allow Bc1-b2. In the meantime, Black can gain tempi by hitting my loose pawns. Fritz recommends 9 ... Na6! which removes one escape square from the queen but threatens Nxb4 to free a5 as an alternative after which 10 Na2 Rd8 11 Nf3 – I must defend d4 – 11 ... Ne7 12 Be2 (12 b5 Nc5) Bg4 13 Nc3 Nf5 14 0-0 Bxf3 15 Bb2 Rxd4 when the game is lost.

**10 Nf3**

I contemplated 10 g4!? as

- 10 ... Bxg4? 11 Qg5! looked to be to my advantage. Fritz found 11 ... Qa1 when 12 Kd2 is forced (12 Qxg4?? leads to a losing sequence in many different ways and worse, 12 Qxg7 allows mate in 2!) 12 ... Nf6 13 Qxg7 Rg8 14 Qxf6 is reminiscent of a French Defence but 14... Nd7 15 Qh4 a5 16 b5 leaves me with poor development and a king in the centre which could be exposed to further sacrifices such as 16 ... Nc5.
- but simply 10 ... Bg6!! 11 Be2 Ne7 12 c5 b5 keeps Black ahead.

And if 10 c5?! b5!

**10 ... Qb6**

How should I proceed with the fightback? If 11 c5 Qxb4. As my b4 pawn is hanging, b5, Qb2, Na4 and Ba3 are logical options.

8. 11 Ba3 looks promising as it will delay Black from castling, but after 11 ... Nf6 12 b5 a6! 13 Na4 Qd8 14 b6 a5! the game is still lost.
9. 11 b5!? Nf6 12 Qb2 (Ba3 transposes above) Bg4 13 Be2 0-0 14 c5 Qd8 and Black is winning.
10. 11 Qb2 Nf6 12 Na4 Qc7 13 Be2 0-0 14 0-0.

**11 Na4**

Probably no better than Ba3, but this move gains a tempo from the attack on the queen, and looked to me to be the most likely method of preventing Black from castling promptly.

**11 ... Qc7**  
**12 Be2**

Fritz rates 12 Qg5?! Bg6 13 Be2 h6 14 Qd2 Ne7 15 0-0 0-0 as better but as with the analysis variations above, we are talking about fine differences between slight transpositions.

**12 ... Nf6**  
**13 Qg5?!**

Admittedly dodgy, but this was another psychological (desperation?!) move. I wanted to discourage castling if I could. After 13 0-0 0-0 14 Qg5? a5! I am in real difficulties.

**13 ... Bg6?!**

This looks to be a sensible defence of g7 but the better move 13 ... 0-0! brings the king's rook into play.

**14 Bf4 Qd8**

14 ... Qe7 is better by making me divert attention to the b4 pawn.

**15 Nc5 Qe7**

Again, castling was much better: 15 ... 0-0!! 16 Nxb7? Qb6!

**16 0-0 h6!**  
**17 Qh4?!**

Not best, but keeping the threatened pin on the knight if Black castles. If 17 Qg3?! Nh5! and after 17 Qe5 0-0! I am faced with the possibility of 18 ... b6 19 Nd3 Nbd7 and forced to retreat my pieces with 18 Qe3 b6 19 Nd3 Bxd3 20 Bxd3.

**17 ... b6!**  
**18 Nd3 Bxd3**  
**19 Bxd3 Qxb4?**

Too greedy. Black needs to develop with 19 ... Na6! More importantly, I have achieved my second goal, and for Black, castling is now a bad idea. If 19 ... 0-0? 20 Bxh6 gxh6 21 Qxh6 Rd8 22 Ng5 Rxd4 23 Bh7+ Kh8 24 Nxf7+ Qxf7 25 Bg6+ Kg8 26 Bxf7+ Kxf7 27 Qh8 and White threatens Qh8-c8-b7. Now, how to exploit this position?

**20 c5?**

Not with this! I thought that establishing a bishop on d6 would be very strong, but I have missed a chance to almost equalise the game. Fritz found 20 Ne5!! which creates a new weakness at c6. Castling is still bad 20 ... 0-0?? 21 Bxh6! with an overwhelming attack e.g. 21 ... Rc8 (21 ... gxh6 22 Qxf6 with 23 Qxh6 to come) 22 Bxg7 Kxg7 23 Qg5+ but after 20 ... a5! 21 Qh3 a4 22 Qf3 Ra7 23 Nxc6 Nxc6 24 Qxc6+ Rd7 25 Qa8+ Ke7 26 Qxh8 Rxd4 27 Bc1 Rxd3 28 Qxg7 (or if 20 ... Qe7 21 Qh3 Nfd7 22 Nf3 Qa3 23 Ng5 hxg5 24 Qxh8+ Qf8), I am a pawn down but can fight on. My move gives Black a chance to shift a potent attacker and solve the problem of his king's position with 20 ... Qc3! 21 Be2 Qc2 22 Re1 0-0.

**20 ... bxc5?**

Now it is David's turn for a mistake.

**21 Bd6 Qb7??**

Perhaps not obvious, but this is the losing move. Both of Black's rooks are now bad. Any of Nbd7, Qc3 or Qa4 keep hold of the win. Development by 21 ... Nbd7! gives me an opportunity to complicate matters with 22 Qg3 Rg8 23 Rb1 Qc3 24 Bg6!?

- Acceptance leaves Black scrambling for a draw 24 ... fxc6 25 Qxg6+ Kd8 26 Ne5 Nxe5 27 dxe5 Nd7 28 Qf7 Re8 29 g3. Having prevented the back rank mate, White's threat of 30 Rb7 means Black would take the perpetual check i.e. 29 ... a5 30 Rb7 Qe1+ 31 Kg2 Qe4+ etc. This attack, however, is the sort of variation that requires computer vision.
- If Black were justifiably suspicious, he would prefer 24 ... cxd4 25 Bb4 Qc4 26 Qd6 c5 27



Ne5 Nxe5 28 Bxc5 Qxc5 29 Qxc5 Nfd7 30 Bxf7+ Kxf7 31 Qxd4 and after the dust has settled, White ends up the equivalent of a piece down.

21 ... Qc3! 22 Qg3 Nbd7 (22 ... Qxd3 23 Qxg7 is convincing counterattack) 23 Ne5 Qxd4 24 Nxc6 Qa4 halts my tricks and wins.

**22 dxc5**

It should come as no surprise that the formula in most lines comprises a rook penetrating down the b file, the queen trying to capture on g7 and my knight reaching e5 to divert the defenders. As a result, Fritz rates my move second best after 22 Rb1!! (which I had seen) 22 ... Qc8 23 Qg3 Nbd7 24 Ne5 g5 25 Qf3 Rf8 26 Nc4 tying black in knots, but I wanted to secure my bishop first. It is hard now to dislodge from its outpost.

**22 ... Nbd7**

Slightly better is 22 ... Qb3 23 Ne5 Nbd7 24 Rb1 g5 25 Qd4 Qd5! but Black is still losing.

**23 Rb1**

which gets my last piece into the fray.

**23 ... Qc8**

Now I have development that fully compensates for the material deficit, but how to take advantage?



**24 Re1**

Second best. Planning to break open the centre to get at the king but there is a much better alternative. 24 Qa4!! smartly shifts the attack to c6 when all Black has is 24 ... a5 (otherwise 25 Ba6 Qd8 26 Qxc6 is crippling) 25 Nd4 Ne5 26 Bxe5 0-0 winning. 24 Nd4 is also playable.

**24 ... Nf8?**

Black is trying to shore up the centre. He could not sit idly by and allow an assault based on, for instance, 24 ... a5 25 Nd4 a4 26 Rxe6 fxe6 27 Bg6+ Kd8 28 Nxe6# but this is far too passive.

**25 Nd4?!**

Missing both winning options 25 Qa4! a6 25 Ne5 and 25 Ne5 N8d7 26 Qg3 Nxe5 27 Qxg7 Rg8 28 Qxf6 Qd8 29 Qxe5.

**25 ... g5**

There is no salvation in 25 ... Rg8 26 Nf5 Qd8 27 Qa4 Qd7 28 Ne7.

**26 Qg3 Nd5!**

**27 Qe5 Rg8**

**28 Nf5**

Tempting, due to the double threat of Nxe6 and Ne7 but Fritz turned the screw with 28 Bb5! winning easily due to 28 ... f6!? or 28 ... cxb5 Qxd5!

**28 ... f6!**

**29 Qg3??**

Almost throwing the win away at the end. I totally missed 29 Qe2! threatening both Qh5 and Nxe6.

**29 ... h5?**

Fortunately for me, David misses 29 ... Rh8! To be fair to him, I had not seen it either. And after 30 Qf3! I am still better.

**30 f4?!**

Offering a pawn as bait to lure the knight away from the defence of e7. However, this is unnecessary. Fritz found 30 h4! g4 31 Bxf8 Kxf8 32 Qd6+ Kf7 33 Nh6+ winning.

**30 ... Nxf4??**

Black can fight on with 30 ... Qb7 but 31 Qh3 h4 32 Nd4 Kf7 33 Nxe6 Re8 34 Qg4 Rxe6 35 Rxe6 Nxf4 36 Re1 Nxd3 37 Qc4+ Kg7 38 Re7+ is conclusive.

**31 Ne7!**

This is good enough, though Fritz found 31 Bxf4!! which is lethal.

**31 ... h4**

Instead, 31 ... Qd8 32 Nxg8 Kf7 33 Nxf6 will denude the black king such that 33 ... Kxf6 34 h4 wins.

**32 Qf3 Qd7?**

**33 Nxg8 N8g6?**

This accelerates the end but the game is lost anyway. If 33 ... Kf7 34 Nxf6 Kxf6 35 g3 hxg3 36 hxg3 N8g6 37 gxf4 Nxf4 38 Bxf4 gxf4 39 Qxf4+ mates, or 33 ... Qg7 34 Qxc6+ Kf7 35 Nxf6 Qxf6 36 Qxa8 wins.

**34 Bxg6+ Nxg6**

**35 Nxf6+ Kd8**

**36 Nxd7 Kxd7**

**37 Qf7+ 1-0**

and with mate to follow David resigned.

As a younger man, I might well have resigned this game on move 8 and just gone home in a foul mood, but so early on I needed to at least try to redeem myself. The game above is littered with mistakes on both sides, and is hardly my finest hour, but I did have just enough play to con my young opponent out of a win. To quote a famous phrase: 'it ain't over until the fat lady sings.'

*Chris Russell*