

# New Englander

## Chess Club Update – August 2022

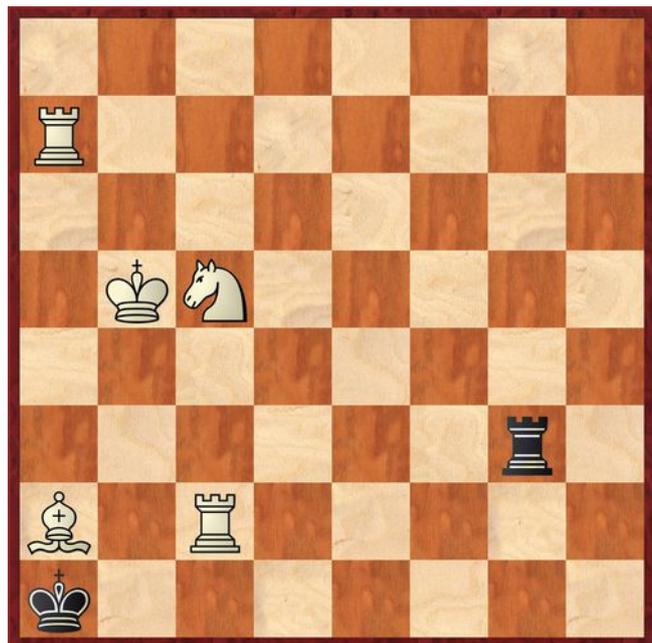
### Chairman's Chatter

Once, 50 years seemed like a long time. It is hard to believe, however, that we have reached this milestone since the famous Spassky v Fischer match which grabbed the headlines in 1972. With this theme of nostalgia in mind, the *Match of the Month* article in this issue delves into that glorious decade when club membership boomed and England held high hopes of toppling the mighty USSR at the Olympiads.

*Paul Hanks*

### Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 3. With the season over, you should have the time to enjoy a longer and slightly more advanced puzzle taken from the ECF magazine *Chess Moves*. Perhaps the most fascinating aspect is to find the intriguing defences to some of the obvious tries and if you cannot wait, an explanation can be found via the link <https://www.englishchess.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Chess-Moves-June-2022.pdf>



Last Month's solution ([lichess.org/study/4Re4Lmxw](https://lichess.org/study/4Re4Lmxw))

Position : 8/2K5/8/2k5/2b5/2B5/2Q2n2/8

1 Qa4 Bb5 2 Qd4# [1 ... Bd5 2 Qb4#; 1 ... other 2 Qc6#]

### Website to Watch

The Chessable British Chess Championships are being held in Torquay from 8<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> August. Play commences at 2-30pm except for the final Sunday which starts at 10am. Details can be found on the website <https://www.britishchesschampionships.co.uk/>

### Diary Dates

- 1<sup>st</sup> September ECF membership renewal due
- 7<sup>th</sup> September Start of new season, probably with the club Rapidplay
- 25<sup>th</sup> September 17<sup>th</sup> Cambridgeshire Rapidplay at Whittlesford. The entry form can be found [here](#) and contains the playing times and prize fund. Late entry fees apply after 17<sup>th</sup> September.
- 26-27<sup>th</sup> November Provisional dates for the County Individual Championship
- 21<sup>st</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> January '23 EACU Closed Championship

### Match of the Month

The game I am putting under the microscope is not one of my soundest. Actually, it's terrible during some phases and nothing to be proud of.

It was into brought into my thoughts when I reading the second of two pieces written by Paul Conway in the ECF magazine *Chess Moves* (Sept/Oct 2021 issues) as part of its creative writing initiative. The records show him appearing for Sheffield University from late 1978 and so did not quite overlap with either my time there or that of our club chairman.

Active in south Manchester in his earlier years, he reflected on meeting Malcolm Pein and his family - Malcolm being exactly the same age as him and going on to become an international master and one of the movers and shakers of English chess (see [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malcolm\\_Pein](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malcolm_Pein)).

Then came the New Englander newsletter for July 2022 with its discussion of 1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 g6 3 f3 and voilà, the pieces fell into place to prompt a reminiscence of an encounter long ago in Liverpool which took place a few weeks after our wedding (we recently celebrated our 45th anniversary!).

Let me point out Atticus was not Malcolm Pein's club - he lived in suburbia, well outside the city. However, he did begin to show up and was welcomed into the club competition (possibly a summer tournament?) in 1977. In one of the rounds he was paired with me. Oh dear...

Our grades hardly differed but (unlike me) he was clearly a fast-improver at that time. This game, it turned out, was my first game after tying the knot and my last before leaving Liverpool and moving into our house in the Peak District, ready for our new jobs!

Before showing the moves I need to make it clear I was sober, and as far as I know, so was my opponent (who wasn't old enough to drink legally, anyway).

**Robert K Taylor v Malcolm Pein**  
Atticus Tournament; 14.07.1977

1 d4

Principally, I play 1 e4 but I switch away from it now and then.

1 ... g6  
2 c4 Nf6  
3 f3

I've never favoured 3 Nc3. It turns out I have had the position after 3 f3 on no less than eight occasions. It surprised me to discover this - admittedly it is over a period of 4½ decades! What happened next is four opponents chose 3 .. Bg7; two tried 3 .. c5; and two went for 3 ... d5.

You've got me really thinking about 3 ... Nh5 though. All my initial scepticism has dissolved - I am a convert to the move, especially after seeing the databases and also trying it on Fritz 14. It would seem to be at least as viable as all the older popular lines! New opening ideas still come up and are nice to see.

3 ... c5  
4 dxc5 Qa5+  
5 Bd2 Qxc5  
6 Na3 Bg7  
7 b4 Qe5  
8 Rc1

8 Nb5 is superficially interesting but Black can calmly respond to the possibilities of 9 f4 or 9 Bc3 and 10 Nc7+ with 8 ... Nc6 and 9 ... Qb8.

8 .... 0-0  
9 Bc3 Qh5

Not wise to give a very talented 16-year-old a big, big edge early in the game. I am some way from untangling my kingside pieces.

10 e3 d5

10 ... Nc6 is a natural developing move. 10 ... a5 threatens 11 ... axb4 12 Bxb4 Rxa3 13 Bxa3 Qa5+ and 11 bxa5 is an inadequate response for similar reasons starting 11 ... Rxa5.

11 Ne2 dxc4  
12 Ng3

My move lets Black hit the unguarded pawn on e3 with tempo whereas 12 Nf4 Qg5 13 Nxc4 prevents the awkward 13 ... e5 but 13 ... Nc6 renewing the option still forces 14 Kf2.

12 ... Qh6  
13 Kf2 Nc6  
14 Bxc4 Rd8  
15 Qb3 e6  
16 Rcd1?

16 Rhd1 develops easily, especially as 16 ... Qxh2 obviously fails to 17 Rh1 – a trap that also follows 16 ... Rxd1 17 Rxd1.

16 ... Bd7  
17 Nc2

In contrast to earlier, 17 Nb5 has a more subtle point because if it is driven away by 17 ... a6, 18 Nc7 Rac8

19 Nxe6 recovers the piece on f6 or d7 as appropriate after exchanges.

17 ... Rac8  
18 Rd2 a6  
19 Qb2 Qh4

My next move makes matters worse.

20 Nd4? Ne5  
21 Be2 Neg4+!

Winning. Declining the sacrifice wrecks my coordination (22 Kg1) or loses material (22 Kf1 Nxe3) even if there is nothing worse (22 Ke1 Nxe2).



22 fxe4 Rxc3?

Inferior to 22 ... Ne4+ but it should still be winning.

23 Bf3

23 Rf1 and I manage to castle with 24 Kg1.

23 ... Rc7  
24 Rhd1?

24 Rc1 keeps some defensive chances, though it appears grim.

24 ... Nxe4+?

Really, this game contains a very high error-content, and borders on the comic - there is more to follow... With 24 ... e5! the advancing pawn wins a piece because 25 Nc2 e4 26 Be2 Nxe4+ with a discovered attack on my queen.

25 Bxe4 Qxe4  
26 Kg1

Perhaps White is (again) losing after this.

26 ... h5  
27 Qb3 h4  
28 Nge2 h3  
29 Ng3 e5  
30 gxh3 Qxe4  
31 Nf3

Curiously, with an annoying threat to f7 after 32 Ng5.

31 ... Qg4

**32 Qd5 Re8**  
**33 Qd6**

Will Black capitalise now? He has to be feeling that he had plenty of earlier opportunities which slipped away.

**33 ... Rcc8?**

A strange choice. The time control was 3 moves away and it was hardly practical to calculate 33 ... Qxf3 34 Qxc7 Bh6 35 Nf1 (35 Qxd7 Bxe3+ mates, 35 Re1 Bxe3+ with winning material) 35 ... Bc6.

**34 Kg2?**

34 Qxd7 Qxf3 35 Rf2 Qxe3 and with 36 Qxf7+, all Black's advantage would have disappeared but the players were moving instantly (to get to 35 moves).

**34 ... Bc6**  
**35 Rf2 e4**

A lost position (for the umpteenth time). I'm not quite ready to shake hands though.

**36 Ng1 Qg5**  
**37 Rdf1 Rcd8**  
**38 Qc7 Rd7**  
**39 Qb6 Bd4?**

No longer subject to time pressure, this miscalculation is a sign of my young opponent's impatience. Simple chess would soon bring home the victory for Black.

**40 exd4 e3+**  
**41 Rf3 e2**

Black must feel there is a hidden knock-out blow but amongst many continuations, 41 ... Rd6 42 Qc5 Qxc5 43 dxc5 Rd2+ shows an eventual endgame with R + 2P v 2N is the likely scenario.

**42 Re1 Rde7**  
**43 Qc5**

My game is easy to play here, which makes a change, and things look pretty double-edged.

**43 ... Qd2**  
**44 Kf2 Re3**  
**45 d5 R3e5**

I suspect he is lost - if he hadn't found this.

**46 Rxe2**

Quite a reversal has taken place.

**46 ... Rxe2+**  
**47 N3xe2**

The other way 47 N1xe2! was strong.

**47 ... Bxd5**  
**48 Qc3 Qg5**  
**49 Qf6**

The sealed-move. Yet there was never a resumption (scheduled for the next week) of the game, because Pein simply neglected to turn up and thus a win for White was awarded.

**49 ... 1-0**

As sample continuations, after 49 Qf6

- 49 ... Qg4 50 Rg3 Qe4 51 Qf4 Bxa2 52 Re3 Qxf4+ 53 Nxf4 Rxe3 54 Kxe3 shows that a

tricky defence lay ahead for Black if he had in fact played on

- 49 ... Qxf6 50 Rxf6 Bxa2 51 Rb6 Bd5 might set more problems, but difficult to defend as well.

As you would expect, I showed up on 21st July, well armed for either of those endgames!

*Bob Taylor*

## Chess in Schools and Communities

Chess in Schools and Communities (CSC) is a charity that provides chess opportunities for children in schools, both in curriculum time and through after school clubs. Malcolm Pein who features in the *Match of the Month* set it up in 2010 and he remains its chief executive officer. Anyone who has visited the London Chess Classic (another brainchild of his) will have witnessed how schoolchildren from the initiative have been welcomed at this elite event.

After completing a CSC tutor training day, I arranged to run an after-school club at my local primary school for 7-11 year olds. The club has been running for a year now, and for the hour each week we typically spend up to 30 minutes looking at a new topic and the remainder of the time playing games. We started back in October with mostly beginner players, so the first term was focussed on how the pieces move. The curriculum contains lots of fun mini games which help to reinforce this learning, and get the children playing games and thinking right from the start. By the end of the school year, the children were playing full games and we had covered tactics such as pins, forks, and skewers.

As well as the lessons and games, we have also run over the board tournaments using the mini games, and full tournaments using the children's ChessKid accounts. In the last week of term we ran a team quiz, to test them on areas we've covered over the year and to encourage them to work together to solve problems.

For more information, please see the CSC website <https://www.chessinschools.co.uk/> or view its online brochure [here](#).

*Ed Knox*