

New Englander

Chess Club Update – September 2022

Chairman's Chatter

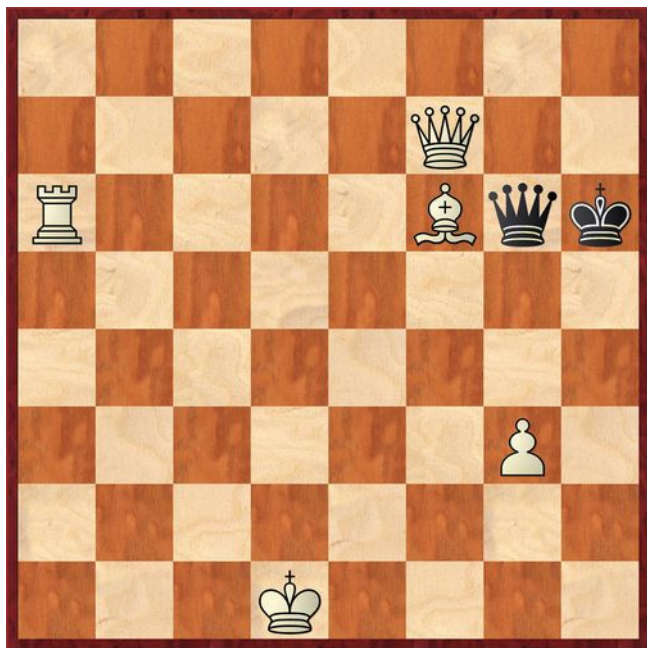
With 50 years passing since the Spassky v Fischer match, it has been a summer of nostalgia. We complete it in this issue with another *Match of the Month* from yesteryear and then, it is time to look forward.

The new season begins on 7th September with the Club Rapidplay and league fixtures follow shortly afterwards. There are some fresh changes with Ely and Godmanchester entering Division 2. There should be plenty of excitement until the end of April!

Paul Hanks

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2.



Last Month's solution (Fabel 1934)

Position : 8/R7/8/1KN5/8/6r1/B1R5/k7

1 Rd7 Rd3 2 Rd4 Rxd4 3 Nb3# [1 ... Rg1/b3+ 2 Nb3#; 1 ... Rg5 2 Rd1#]

Diary Dates

- 1st September ECF membership renewal due
- 7th September Start of new season with the Club Rapidplay
- 25th September 17th Cambridgeshire Rapidplay at Whittlesford. The entry form can be found [here](#) and contains the playing times and prize fund. Late entry fees apply after 17th September.
- 13th November Patrick Ribbands EACU Team Championship at Bury St Edmunds

Website : www.newenglandchess.org.uk

26-27th November Christie Hall, Wansford is the new venue for the County Individual Championship. Entry form available from [here](#)

21st-22nd January '23 EACU Closed Championship
County team matches will be played at Turner Hall, Newmarket on the following dates : 9 & 30 October, 4 December, 19 February, 5 March and either 11 December/12 March (the last to be confirmed).

Website to Watch

The Sinquefeld Cup takes place in St Louis, USA from 2nd to 11th September and marks the finale to the Grand Chess Tour. Magnus Carlsen heads a list of 10 top grandmasters. Details of the tournament can be found [here](#) and the web page contains a link to live action via youtube.

Eye Opener

I had thought the French Defence seemed to be going out of favour at the top level of chess but a search of an online database quickly shows that Carlsen will give it a try. Refine your criteria to the Winawer Variation and put the boot on the other foot. Who has dared to try the line against Carlsen? The response is not quiet total silence but it proved my point. Very few elite players bother and then, White steers away from the critical lines. Have computers spoilt all the fun?

B Kreiman v G Milicevic
Toronto Open 1998

1	e4	e6
2	d4	d5
3	Nc3	Bb4
4	e5	c5
5	a3	Bxc3+
6	bxc3	Ne7
7	Qg4	Qc7

The *Match of the Month* game varies with 7 ... cxd4 but the text move is the main line. White responds with a lesser known continuation.

8	Bd3	h5
9	Qxg7	Rg8
10	Qh6	cxd4

10 ... Rxg2 is a good test of tactical skill and position assessment. 11 Ne2 threatens to trap the rook with 12 Ng3 but after 11 ... c4, switch on your computer!

11	Ne2	Nbc6
12	cxd4	Nxd4
13	Nxd4	Qc3+
14	Qd2	Qxa1
15	c3	

The black queen will be lost to 16 Nb3.

Match of the Month

Bob Taylor's article in the August issue mentioned Paul Conway's memoir in the ECF magazine *Chess Moves*. On re-reading the tale of Lancashire junior chess from 50 years ago, I noticed a passing reference to "a wizard of the bar football table" called Paul Lamford. Just like Bob's experience, it sparked me into recalling a long-lost game.

It was played in a county match at a police training establishment. After a tiring journey, my team-mates and I suffered the indignity of a rather brusque greeting at the reception desk – probably due to most young people arriving there doing so under sanction of the local magistrate. After all, it was Manchester!

As a result, I arrived at the board 15 minutes after the start time but found it was my opponent's clock that was ticking. He arrived about 5 minutes later.

P A Lamford v P Hanks
Lancashire II v Yorkshire II, 1974

1	e4	e6
2	d4	d5
3	Nc3	Bb4
4	e5	c5
5	a3	Bxc3+
6	bxc3	Ne7
7	Qg4	

In the Winawer Variation of the French Defence, I am offering the famous "Poisoned Pawn" sacrifice. This invites White to pocket two pawns at the cost of several tempi. At different points in the past, I acquired two books on the subject but cannot recall if I had the first when this game was played. If I did, it does not show in my performance.

7	...	cxd4
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Alternatives at move 7 that I would consider include 7 ... 0-0, 7 ... Qa5 and 7 ... Nf5. Books on opening theory also mention 7 ... Kf8, 7 ... Nbc6 and 7 ... Ng6 but they attract comments from Psakhis such as "curious", "rare and risky".

8	cxd4	Qc7
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My version holds the simple threats of 9 ... Qxc2 and 9 ... Qc3+.

9	Bd2	
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It is easy now to poke fun at my lack of theoretical knowledge. How was I to realise that the recommended move is 9 Kd1? Spassky played this against Lutikov in 1960 before even Informator existed, let alone the Internet and repeated it against Korchnoi in his 1977 Candidates Match. Compare the years!

9	...	Nbc6
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I can defend h7 with 9 ... Qxc2 and have no pawn deficit after 10 Qxg7 Rg8 11 Qh6. Both queens are exposed and tactics are in the air e.g. 11 ... Nbc6 (to prevent 12 Rc1 hitting c8) 12 Nf3 Nxd4 13 Nxd4 Qb2. The "book" continuation is 11 ... Qb2 12 Rd1 Qxd4 13 Nf3 Qe4+ 14 Be3 Qg6 which is assessed as "none too convincing" - possibly for both sides! No, I was not

aware of any of this and preferred to carry on in a cavalier spirit.

10	Nf3	Bd7
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I could continue 10 ... Nf5 or even the fearless 10 ... 0-0 but for that, I should really need to be familiar with the theory! My choice is consistent but inferior.

11	Qxg7	0-0-0
12	c3	

12 Qxf7 immediately transposes into the game. White defends d4 to pre-empt 12 ... Nf5.

12	...	Nf5
13	Qxf7	

13 Qg5 would eliminate any danger of the queen becoming trapped. My opponent, however, thinks he has spotted a flaw in my plan.

13	...	h5
14	Ng5	

The threat to e6 seems to avoid a perpetual attack on the white queen which would occur after, for instance, 14 Bd3 Rdf8 15 Qg6 Rfg8 16 Qf7. Black could try 15 ... Nce7 which comes to the same result with best play but allows White a misguided escape attempt by 16 Qg5 Rfg8 17 Qf4 Rg4.



14	...	Nxe5
15	Nxe6	

In fact, White has slammed the door shut on himself by creating a new method to ensnare the queen by 15 dxe5 Rdf8 16 Qg6 (16 Nxe6 Qxe5+) 16 ... Rh6.

15	...	Nxf7
16	Nxc7	Kxc7

Black has won a piece but White has two pawns and the bishop pair. All I have to do is win the endgame, right? Fortunately, my woeful technique will be aided by my piece activity and the white king's position in the centre i.e. the lingering benefits of the Poisoned Pawn opening!

17	Bf4+	N7d6
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18	Bd3	Rhe8+
19	Kd2	Kc6
20	f3	Nc4+
21	Bxc4	dxc4
22	Bg5	Rc8
23	g4	

Until this point, both sides have played first-choice computer moves but White should activate his rooks with 23 Re1 (either!)

23	...	hxg4
24	fxg4	Nd6
25	Bf4	

There is no time to defend the pawn with 25 h3 due to the fork 25 ... Ne4+. The endgame is now easy but will be tedious if White can simplify and start to exploit his passed pawns. Why not still go for the jugular?

25	...	Bxg4
26	Rae1	Ne4+
27	Kc2	Bf5
28	Kb2	Nf2

With 29 ... Nd3+ and 29 ... Rxh1 threatened, White is lucky to hold on to his loose pieces but only at the cost of a fatal penetration.

29	Rxe8	Rxe8
30	Rf1	Re2+
31	Ka1	Ne4

The net is closing in. Mate by Re2-a2 looks likely unless c3 is protected and even then, Black still has another piece to bring into the attack...

32	Rc1	Kb5
33	d5	Ka4 0-1

I can ignore the passed pawn (34 d6 Kxa3 35 d7 Ra2+ 36 Kb1 Nd2#) and even temporary defence of a3 by 34 Bd6 merely permits 34 ... Nd2 with a quick checkmate.

New England Chess Club Fixtures 2022-23

Updated 18 Aug 2022

Club Championship		League Match		Internal Event	
H = home A = away		Fenland Trophy		County Event	
Day	Date	All Club	A	B	Patriots
W	07/Sep	Rapidplay	←	←	←
M	12/Sep		←	←	←
W	14/Sep	Round 1	←	←	←
W	21/Sep	Club Ladder	←	←	←
Sa	25/Sep	County Rapidplay, Whittlesford			
Tu	27/Sep		←	←	←
W	28/Sep	Round 2	←	←	←
w/c	03/Oct		←	←	←
W	05/Oct	Club Ladder	←	←	←
w/c	10/Oct		←	←	←
W	12/Oct	Club Ladder	←	←	←
M	17/Oct		←	←	←
W	19/Oct	Round 3	←	←	←
W	26/Oct	Club Ladder	←	←	←
W	02/Nov	Club Ladder	←	←	←
w/c	07/Nov		←	←	←
W	09/Nov	Club Ladder	←	←	←
Su	13/Nov	Patrick Ribbands EACU Team Championship, Bury St Edmunds			
w/c	14/Nov		←	←	←
W	16/Nov	Club Ladder	←	←	←
Tu	22/Nov		←	←	←
W	23/Nov	Round 4	←	←	←
S/S	26-27/Nov	County Championship, Christie Hall, Wansford			
M	28/Nov		←	←	←
W	30/Nov	Round 5	←	←	←
W	07/Dec	Club Lightning	←	←	←
Th	08/Dec		←	←	←
W	14/Dec	Club Ladder	←	←	←
W	21/Dec	Xmas Special	←	←	←
W	28/Dec	No meeting	←	←	←
W	04/Jan	Round 6	←	←	←
W	11/Jan	Club Ladder	←	←	←
W	18/Jan	Round 7	←	←	←
Th	19/Jan		←	←	←
W	25/Jan	Club Ladder	←	←	←
W	01/Feb	Club Ladder	←	←	←
Tu	07/Feb		←	←	←
W	08/Feb	Club Handicap	←	←	←
Tu	14/Feb		←	←	←
W	15/Feb		←	←	←
M	20/Feb		←	←	←
W	22/Feb	Round 8	←	←	←
W	01/Mar	Club Ladder	←	←	←
W	08/Mar	Club Ladder	←	←	←
W	15/Mar	Club Ladder	←	←	←
w/c	20/Mar		←	←	←
W	22/Mar	Club Ladder	←	←	←
W	29/Mar	Round 9	←	←	←
Th	30/Mar		←	←	←
w/c	03/Apr		←	←	←
W	05/Apr	Club Ladder	←	←	←
W	12/Apr	Club Ladder	←	←	←
w/c	17/Apr		←	←	←
W	19/Apr	Club Ladder	←	←	←
w/c	24/Apr		←	←	←
W	26/Apr	Club Ladder	←	←	←
asap/no date			←	←	←
	tba	Club AGM	←	←	←