

New Englander

Chess Club Update – May 2023

Chairman's Chatter

In my dotage, little things can give me great satisfaction. One such is to see the cross-table for the club championship fully populated! We completed a big 11 round tournament and congratulations go to the joint winners Ray and Phil with 8 points.

As the season nears its end, it is time to reflect on the competitions that ran throughout the year. The Cambridgeshire leagues (detailed below) can be summarised quite easily. We won them all! Many thanks to the captains for their efforts and well done to the teams for their success.

There are a few events outstanding before we close for the summer as listed in the *Diary Dates* section but the honours have mostly been decided as follows :-

Club Champion	R Ilett & P Turp	
Ladder	B Stephens	J Jennings
Grand Prix	P Spencer	P Walker
Rapidplay	P Walker	R Ilett
Lightning	P Walker	P Hanks
Christmas Special	P Walker	NW/NC

After probably our best year yet, I hope all club members will try to attend the Annual General Meeting to plan an equally enjoyable next season.

Paul Hanks

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2.



Last Month's solution (Vidmar v Euwe, Carlsbad 1929)

Position : 6k1/5p2/1p5p/p4Np1/5q2/Q6P/PPr5/3R3K

1 Qf8+ Kxf8 2 Rd8# [1 ... Kh7 2 Qg7#]

Result Round-up

Club Championship

White		Black	
N Wedley	0	1	E Knox
E Smith	0	1	P Turp
P Spencer	½	½	P Hanks
N Wedley	1	0	E Smith

Player	RI	PT	EK	PS	PW	PH	NC	CR	NW	JJ	ES	Tot
R Ilett	X	½	½	½	1	1	½	1	1	1	1	8
P Turp	½	X	1	1	0	½	1	1	1	1	1	8
E Knox	½	0	X	0	½	1	½	1	1	1	1	6½
P Spencer	½	0	1	X	1	½	1	½	0	1	1	6½
P Walker	0	1	½	0	X	1	0	1	1	1	1	6½
P Hanks	0	½	0	½	0	X	1	1	1	1	1	6
N Chedd	½	0	½	0	1	0	X	½	1	1	0	4½
C Russell	0	0	1	½	0	0	½	X	1	1	1	4
N Wedley	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	X	1	1	3
J Jennings	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	X	1	1
E Smith	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	X	1

Cambridgeshire League

Warboys A	1	New England A	4
N Greenwood	0	R Ilett	1
J Beck	1	P Walker	0
R Mann	0	B Stephens	1
B Duff	0	P Hanks	1
D Bentley	0	N Chedd	1

New England A	2	St Neots A	3
R Ilett	0	A Chapman	1
P Spencer	0	R Gompelman	1
E Knox	1	P Barkas	0
P Turp	1	D Rice	0
C Russell	0	C Emery	1

New England B	3	Godmanchester	1
P Spencer	1	J Wright	0
E Knox	1	A Rankine	0
C Russell	½	M English	½
N Wedley	½	R Jackson	½

Division One	P	W	D	L	Games	Pts
New England A	9	5	2	2	27½	12
St Neots A	9	4	2	3	24½	10
Peterborough A	9	3	3	3	22½	9
Warboys A	9	1	3	5	15½	5

Division Two	P	W	D	L	Games	Pts
New England B	10	6	2	2	23½	14
Ely	10	6	1	3	22	13
St Neots B	10	4	2	4	21	10
Warboys B	10	4	1	5	19	9
Peterborough B	10	3	2	5	21	8
Godmanchester	10	2	2	6	13½	6

Team 7000 (N)	P	W	D	L	Games	Pts
NE Patriots	6	4	1	1	18	9
Warboys WC	6	3	1	2	15	7
Peterborough	6	4	0	2	13½	8
Spalding	6	0	0	6	1½	0

New England Club Ladder

White		Black	
G Barham-Smith	0	1	I Goodwin
A Neville	1	0	D Dhokia
B Stephens	1	0	E Knox
J Jenning	0	1	B Stephens
A Neville	0	1	I Goodwin
I Goodwin	0	1	P Spencer
D Dhokia	0	1	A Neville
C Russell	0	1	B Stephens
I Goodwin	0	1	D Dhokia
A Neville	0	1	J Jennings

Position	Change		Player	Record @ 26/04/23
	Month	Overall		
1	+1	+3	B Stephens	½,1,0,1,1,½,1,1,1,1
2	+1	-1	J Jennings	1,0,1,0,1,0,1
3	+1	+3	P Walker	1,1,0,1,1,1
4	+1	+5	C Russell	1,0,0
5	+10	+10	P Spencer	1
6	+1	+7	G B'ham-Smith	0,1,1,0,0
7	+6	+5	D Dhokia	0,0,0,1
8	-	-1	E Smith	0,0,½
9	-3	-1	I Goodwin	0,0,1,0,1,1,1,0,0
10	-1	-8	N Wedley	0,1,1,0,0,1,1,½,0
11	-1	-1	P Hanks	½
12	-1	-1	A Neville	0,0,1,0,1,1,0,1,0
13	+1	+1	P Turp	0
14	-2	-9	R Ilett	½
15	+1	+1	E Knox	0

New England Grand Prix

Player	Champ	Ladder	League	Cup	Team 7000	Total	TPR*
P Spencer	6½	1	10	0	4½	22	1798
P Walker	6½	5	3	1½	1	17	1929
R Ilett	8	½	6	1½		16	2009
P Hanks	6	½	6	1	1½	15	1890
N Chedd	4½		5½		4½	14½	1669
C Russell	4	1	6½		1½	13	1643
B Stephens		8	3		2	13	1937
E Knox	6½		2½	1	2½	12½	1726
P Turp	8		3		½	11½	1823
N Wedley	3	4½	½	0		8	1407
J Jennings	1	4	½		2	7½	1335
A Neville		4				4	1240
I Goodwin		4				4	1258
G Barham-Smith		2			0	2	1230
E Smith	1	½			0	1½	1114
D Dhokia		1				1	1063

* Tournament Performance Rating is approximate

Website to Watch

As this issue is written, the match between Ding Liren and Ian Nepomniachtchi remains deadlocked. The World Champion will be back in action in Bucharest

from 6th to 15th May as both match contestants are taking part. With 8 other top grandmasters, the Superbet Chess Classic constitutes the first leg of the Grand Chess Tour. Details can be found at <https://grandchesstour.org/> which recommends games are followed on the St Louis Chess Club online channels (see <https://www.twitch.tv/stlchessclub> and <https://www.youtube.com/@STLChessClub> for Twitch and YouTube respectively).

Diary Dates

3 rd May	End-of-season Rapidplay
10 th May	Club Annual General Meeting
16 th May	Problem Night – to be held online. Details will be circulated
27 th June	Cambridgeshire County Chess Association AGM in St Ives

Match of the Month

Early this season, Neil Chedd, an old (friendly!) foe from Peterborough Chess Club turned up at New England out of the blue wanting to sign up with us. We were delighted to accept and renew his acquaintance.

I remembered that we had several ding-dong battles over the board some twenty years ago, so I decided to look them up for inspiration for our new battles to come. At that time, I had a pretty basic chess style (some would say I still do!) and typically tried to wipe out my opponent tactically from the outset, pouring all my energy into trying to find a killer blow. Suffice it to say, this strategy did not result in many endgames! Anyway, here is one of those typically messy games from that era. Not very scientific, but I always thought that they were great fun!

C Russell (Perkins) v **N Chedd** (Peterborough A)
H&PCA League Division 1; 13.10.1998

1	e4	c6
2	d4	d5
3	exd5	cxd5
4	c4	Nf6
5	Nc3	Nc6
6	Bg5!?	dxç4
7	Nf3!?	

The Panov-Botvinnik Variation of the Caro-Kahn Defence is supposedly the sharpest variation. Here, I was trying to find something slightly unorthodox to get Neil out of opening theory and thinking.

7	...	Qb6?!
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Neil took 7 minutes over this move so my strategy was working (7 ... h6! is much better) except I now miscalculated.

8	Qd2??
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I needed to recapture the pawn immediately with 8 Bxc4! After this, White is ahead. Pawn grabbing with 8 ... Qxb2? is a very bad idea. If 9 Rc1 Qb4 10 Qe2 Bg4 11 0-0 Bxf3 12 gxf3 and White has an overwhelming lead in development. Despite White being a pawn down, Fritz rates this position +3.5! Best

for Black is 8 ... Bg4! 9 0-0 0-0-0 10 d5 e5 11 h3 Bxf3 12 Qxf3 Nd4 13 Qd3 and White is slightly better.

8	...	Bg4!
9	Bxc4!	

For once I pick the best option! The game is currently level.

9	...	Bxf3
10	gxf3	Nxd4

Here 10 ... Qxd4 was better as it would have forced an exchange of queens.

11	0-0-0!	Rd8??
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This is a mistake. Neil has spent 40 minutes over his last 5 moves, but the position is difficult. Correct is 11 ... 0-0-0!= but there are no good alternatives. If e.g. 11 ... Nxf3?? 12 Qc2! Rc8 13 Qa4+ Rc6 14 Be3 is hopelessly lost.

12	Qe3?!
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So, of course I return Neil the favour! I spent a whole 20 minutes pondering this move, but there was only one killer reply. What was it?



All of 12 Qe3, Be3 and Nd5 give me a level game but after 12 Bxf6!! gxf6! 13 Nd5, Black's knight on d4 is en prise and the best option is to exchange the rook for my knight with 13 ... Rxd5 14 Bxd5 Qc5+ 15 Kb1 Qxd5 16 Qxd4 Qxd4 17 Rxd4 e5 with a winnable endgame. Bad is 12 ... exf6 13 Nd5 Rxd5 14 Bxd5 Bc5 15 b4!! Though hard to see, 12 ... Nc6 13 Qg5!! gxf6 14 Bxf7+! Kxf7 15 Qh5+ is winning.

12	...	e6!
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Clearly necessary. Now the game is level again!

13	Rxd4??
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My turn to blunder, and this is a complete lemon that should lose! If 13 Na4! Qc7 14 Rxd4 Rxd4 15 Qxd4 b5=. My only saving grace is that this move confuses Neil and he takes another precious 6 minutes off his clock to reply.

13	...	Rxd4!
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14 Bb5+ Nd7
15 Qe2 Bc5?!

Second best. Neil clearly wants to castle but the game is still precariously balanced. 15 ... a6!! 16 Bd3 Ba3!! 17 bxa3 Qc5! forks the knight on c3 and bishop on g5 so 18 Bd2 Ne5 19 Be4 Nc4 is a winning attack. That is hard to see when your time is short.

16 Be3! Rd6
17 Bf4! e5??

Under time pressure, this move loses a game that Neil was winning. By now, he was running out of time, having spent 64 minutes to my 54. The time control was 75 minutes for 36 moves, then 15 minutes allegro. Again, 17 ... a6! was best.

18 Qxe5+! Re6??

Another mistake. 18 ... Kf8 is best but 19 Qf5! g6 Bxd6+ should win.

19 Qxg7?!

Going for the rook in the corner but missing the best line. 19 Qb8+! Qd8 (19... Ke7 20 Nd5#) 20 Bxd7+ Kxd7 21 Qxb7+ Ke8 and now 22 Bc7!! leaves the black queen no good moves (22 ... Qe7?? 23 Qc8+; 22 ... Qd7 23 Rd1 Rd6 24 Qb8+ Ke7 25 Bxd6+ Bxd6 26 Nd5+ Ke6 27 Qxh8), though I would almost certainly played 22 Qb5+ picking up the bishop on c5 with a solid material advantage. After 22 Bc7, Black does have 22 ... Rb6! but 23 Bxb6 axb6 24 Rd1 Bd6 25 Qc6+ also picks up the bishop (25 ... Ke7 26 Qe4+ Kf8 27 Qe5 or 26 ... Kd7 27 Kb1 to avoid 27 ... Qg5+ and allowing 28 Nb5).

19 ... Bd4

Best by some margin. If the white queen moves, Black has 20 ... Bxc3 with simplification.

20 Bxd7+ Kxd7
21 Rd1!!

21 Qxf7+?? Kc8 only draws.

21 ... Re1??

Desperation. 21 ... Rd8 is best, but Neil is out of time.

22 Qxf7+ Re7
23 Qd5+ Kc8
24 Qxd4?!

Careless. 24 Rxd4!! wins quickly as Black cannot reasonably prevent 25 Rc4+. If 24 ... Rc7 25 Qf5+!! Kb8 26 Rd7! Rhc8 27 Rxc7 Qxc7 (because 27 ... Rxc7 is met by 28 Qf8#) but I am short of time now, too.

24 ... Qxd4
25 Rxd4 Rhe8
26 Rc4+?

I missed 26 Nb5! intending 27 Nxa7# and then 27 ... b6 27 Nd6+ or 27 ... Rd7 28 Rc4+ Kd8 29 Bg5+. With us both chasing the clock, the remainder of the game is really just skittles chess...

26 ... Kd8?

26 ... Kd7! would avoid the pin.

27 Bg5! Rf8?
28 Bxe7+

Obviously, time pressure is causing me to snatch at moves instead of playing 28 Re4! or 28 Nd5.

28 ... Kxe7
29 Rc7+ Kd6
30 Rxb7 Rxf3
31 Rxa7 h5
32 Rh7 Rh3
33 a4 Rxh2
34 a5 h4?

Fritz announces White has forced mate from here.

35 a6 h3
36 a7 Rh1+

Amazingly we reached the time control, but the game is over.

37 Kc2 Ra1
38 Rxh3

With better technique, I would have flashed out 38 Nb5+ Kd5 39 Na3 and my pawn queens.

38 ... Rxa7
39 Re3?

Oops! 39 Nb5+!

39 ... Rf7
40 Kd3 Rxf2??
41 Ne4+ 1-0

I was probably pleased with the win at the time, but all I really learned was that we both wasted far too much clock time trying to land a knock-out punch!

Chris Russell

Eye Opener

V V Alekseev v Y Kuznetsov (2254)
Novosibirsk Russia; 23.07.2001

1 e4 c6
2 d4 d5
3 exd5 cxd5
4 c4 Nf6
5 Bg5

Deviating from the renowned forerunner game Russell v Chedd but not an improvement.

5 ... Ne4
6 Bf4 Nc6

Black has 6 ... e5 immediately based on 7 dxe5 Bc5 8 Be3 (8 Bg3 Qa5+ 9 Nc3 [9 Nd2? Nxd2 10 Qxd2 Bb4] Nxc3 10 Qd2 Bb4) 8 ... d4 a) 9 Bd2/f4 d3 10 Be3 Bxe3 11 fxe3 Qh4+ 12 g3 Nxc3 etc. b) 9 f3 Bb4+ 10 Bd2 Qh4+.

7 Nf3 Bg4
8 Nc3 e5

Not as powerful as on one of the previous two moves.

9 dxe5

9 cxd5 avoids the problems on the a7-g1 diagonal.

9 ... Qb6
10 Qc2 Nb4
11 Qe2 Nd3+
12 Qxd3 Qxf2+
13 Kd1 Qxb2 0-1