

New Englander

Chess Club Update – August 2018

Chairman's Chatter

The new gradings have been published on the website <http://www.ecfgrading.org.uk/new/menu.php>. This mark of our recent performance should be the spur to greater things in the coming season. A good start would be some practice during August because the Club Championship may start as early as 5th September. Just what the Ladder competition is for!

Paul Hanks

Diary Dates

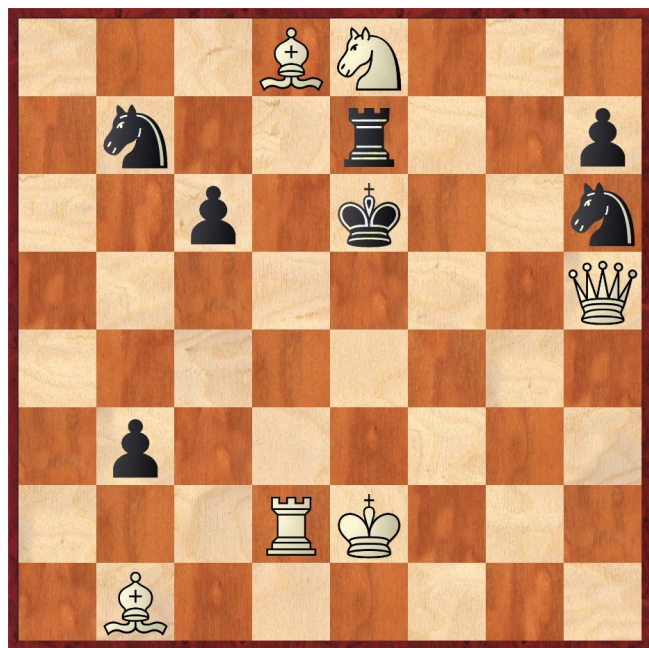
12th August *Chess in the Park* with GM Keith Arkell is a fun event from 12-4pm at Iltter Park, Walton. All welcome.

23rd September The Cambridgeshire Rapidplay will be held at Whittlesford with four sections (Open, U160, U125 and U90). The five rounds start at 10am.

24-25th November The Cambridgeshire County Individual Championship has Open, U140 and Junior sections and takes place at Peterborough Bridge Club, Lincoln Road.

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2. Be prepared to find several variations!



Last Month's solution (The Problemist 2002)

Position : 2B1Nb2/2p5/2kp1pN/Pp3P2/1Pp2QP1/2K3P/8/8

1 Qh6 d5 2 Ne5# [1 ... Kd5 2 Qh1#; 1 ... B any 2 Ne7#]

Website to Watch

The next leg of the Grand Chess Tour circuit is the Sinquefeld Cup held in St Louis from 18th to 27th August (28th if play-offs are needed). The official website is grandchesstour.org but this may not host live games.

Result Round-up

New England Club Ladder

White		Black	
J Parker	0	1	P Spencer
P Spencer	½	½	P Walker

Position	Change		Player	Record @ 18/07/18
	Month	Overall		
1	+1	+1	J Parker	0
2	+1	+1	P Walker	½
3	-2	-2	P Spencer	1,½

New England Grand Prix

Player	Champ	Ladder	League	Cup	550 Team	Total	TPR*
P Spencer		1½				1½	161
P Walker		½				½	138
J Parker		0				0	88

* Tournament Performance Rating is approximate

Bluff of the Month

"Russians play chess while we play poker." I thought I knew the source of this quotation but when checking in my compendium, I found I was wrong. Rather than President Kennedy during the Cuban missile crisis of 1962, it turned out to be a newspaper headline from 1961. This thankfully avoids the irony that JFK did indeed play chess!

In the computer age, there is little scope for the art of bluff. Grandmasters who, during opening preparation, discover a clever resource that has a difficult refutation dare not take the risk against opponents who probably have the same software. Such a pity! Chess should really be about setting and resolving the difficulties of the position in progress on the board. In that case, a successful bluff has to be carefully calculated based on some key elements :-

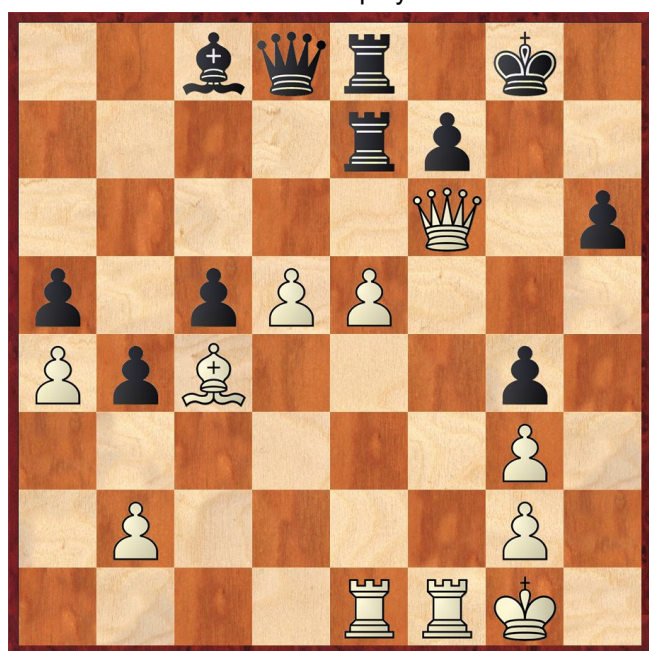
- your move needs some shock value i.e. it is unlikely to have been considered by your opponent
- it changes the nature of the position so that previous analysis cannot be easily adapted
- it must have tactical justification, at least at some superficial level
- it comes when there is little time to re-adjust.

The unwritten fifth law, of course, is that your position is sufficiently bad that bluffing is the best, last or only hope of changing the result!

Sadly, during one game this season, I found myself in such a wretched plight that I was forced to roll the dice...

P Cusick v P Hanks
Spalding v New England B, 01.11.2017

Black to play



The time situation was not so acute that the players were reaching out for a piece (any piece!) just to complete the moves but there were only a few minutes to go. White has slowly built up a crushing position on the kingside and was probably now looking for a quick checkmate. Fritz's evaluation makes it plain that although material is level, I am effectively a queen down! Ugh!

There is a glimmer of hope, nevertheless, particularly if I play my idea swiftly and with mock confidence.

29 ... Be6??

Suddenly, the proud pawn centre is under pressure from 30 ... Bxd5 and 30 dxe6 allows 30 ... Qd4+ 31 Kh2 Qxc4 when f7 is defended again from an unusual angle. Even so, White should still be winning but needs to find and assess 32 Qxh6 Rxe6 33 Rf6 because Black is still in the fight after 32 Rf4 Qxe6 or 32 exf7 Qxf7 33 Qxh6 Qg7.

Objectively, 29 ... Be6 should be labelled as a blunder. It leaves White with a forced checkmate which I shall leave as an exercise for the readers but

remember, you only have a couple of minutes to find it!

Instead, White opted for a simple continuation

30 Bb5

30 Rd1 would have forced either a humiliating retreat by the bishop or resignation in the light of 30 ... Bc8 31 e6

- 31 ... fxe6 32 dxe6 Qc7 33 Qg6+ Kh8 (33 ... Rg7 34 Qxe8+ Kh7 35 Bd3+) 34 Rf7 Rxf7 35 exf7
- 31 ... Rf8 32 exf7+ Rexf7 (32 ... Rxf7 33 d6) 33 Qg6+ Kh8 (33 ... Rg7 34 Rxf8+ Kxf8 (34 ... Qxf8 35 d6+ Kh8 36 Qxh6+ Rh7 37 Qxf8#) 35 Rf1+ Kg8 36 d6+ Kh8 37 Qh6+ Rh7 38 Rf8+) 34 Rxf7 Rxf7 35 Qxf7

30 ... Qxd5

I do not have the option of saving the rook since 30 ... Rf8 31 Qxh6 Qxd5 (31 ... Bxd5 32 Qg5+ Kh8 33 Kf2) 32 Qg5+ Kh8 33 Rf6 (though now 33 Kf2 Qd4+ is a perpetual check). At the cost of the exchange, I have solidified the light squares and have a chance to defend. Besides, what about that queenside pawn majority?

The game continued :

31 Bxe8 Rxe8 32 Qxh6 Qd4+ 33 Rf2 Rd8 34 Qg5+ Kf8 35 Qf6 Ke8 36 Qh8+ Ke7 37 Qf6+ Ke8 38 Kh2 Qd3 39 Kg1 Qd4 40 Qf4 Qd7 41 Rff1 Qxa4 42 Qc1 Qb5 43 Rd1 Rxd1 44 Rxd1 c4 45 Qg5 Qb6+ 46 Kh2 c3 47 bxc3 bxc3 48 Rd6 Qc7 49 Qg8+ Ke7 50 Qg5+ Ke8 51 Qc1 a4 52 Qg5 a3 53 Qg8+ Ke7 54 Qg5+ Ke8 1/2-1/2

So how did I get in such a mess? It would be nice to say a slight opening inaccuracy saddled me with a cramped game but after

1 d4 Nf6 2 c4 e6 3 c3 Bb4 4 e3 c5 5 Nge2 0-0 6 a3 Bxc3+ 7 Nxc3 b6 8 d5 exd5 9 cxd5 d6 10 Bd3 Re8 11 f3 Bb7 12 0-0 Nbd7 13 e4 a6 14 Bg5 h6 15 Bh4 b5 16 a4 b4 17 Nb1 Rc8 18 Nd2 Ne5 19 Nc4 Nxc4 20 Bxc4 g5 21 Bg3 Nh5 22 Qd3 Nxc3 23 hxg3

Fritz gives White a small edge (less than half a pawn). I should now have relied on counterplay with 23 ... Qf6 24 Bxa6 Bxa6 25 Qxa6 Qxb2 26 Qxd6 Qd4+ 27 Kh2 b3. Instead, I tried passively to keep lines closed and with each move, my position worsened.

23 ... a5
24 f4 g4

Although ugly, 24 ... Qf6 is probably best.

25 Rae1 Rc7

It is getting to the stage where Black has to depend on offbeat tactics such as 25 ... Qb6 due to 26 e5 Ba6 27 Bxa6 c4+.

26 e5 Rce7
27 Qf5 Bc8
28 Qf6

The game is now hopelessly lost. Or is it?

28 ... dxe5
29 fxe5