

# New Englander

## Chess Club Update – March 2019

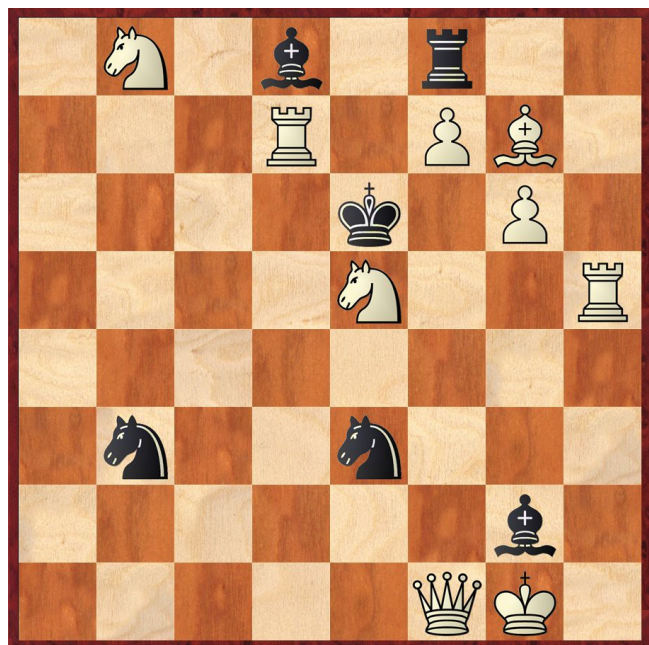
### Chairman's Chatter

We all believe computers, don't we? Differing versions of Fritz led to some disputed analysis in the featured game. Chris Russell spent some supposedly hard-earned pension on Fritz 16 to resolve the matter. You pays your money and you takes your choice...

*Paul Hanks*

### Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2. This position is meant to test your solving prowess having won 1<sup>st</sup> prize at the Youth Chess Composing Challenge, Ohrid 2018.



Last Month's solution (Meinartz 1933)

Position : 7k/4N3/6K1/8/7p/7p/6RR/8

1 Rg3 hxg3 2 Rxh3#

### Website to Watch

There are no less than three major tournaments in the coming month.

- From 5<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> March, the World Team Championships in Astana, Kazakhstan sees competition between the top ten countries – and includes England! For a "Live" link, see <http://wteams.astana2019.fide.com/en/home/>
- Skopje, Macedonia hosts the European Individual Chess Championship from 18<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> March. The official website [eicc2019.mk](http://eicc2019.mk) may not carry live games.
- The USA Championship takes place in St Louis from 20<sup>th</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> March (see <https://www.uschesschamps.com/>)

### Diary Dates

19<sup>th</sup> March Re-arranged match Spalding v New England B

20<sup>th</sup> March Lancaster Club AGM. Remember that we lose our room for the evening

23<sup>rd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> March EACU Congress to determine the regional champion at Whittlesford with Open, U-170 and U-130 sections

31<sup>st</sup> May-2<sup>nd</sup> June Newmarket Congress.

Entry forms for the latter two events can be found at [www.eacu.org.uk](http://www.eacu.org.uk) under "Fixtures and Events".

### Result Round-up

#### New England Club Ladder

White		Black	
E Smith	0	1	P Walker
J Sadler	1	0	M Tarabad

Position	Change		Player	Record @ 27/02/19
	Month	Overall		
1	-	+2	P Walker	½,1,½,1,0,1,1
2	-	-	J Parker	0,0,1
3	-	+10	J Sadler	0,1,1
4	-	+6	N Wedley	0,1,0,0
5	+1	-4	P Spencer	1,½,½,1
6	-1	+2	R Ilett	1,1,1
7	+1	-1	M Tarabad	1,0,1,1,1,1,0
8	-1	-4	T Ingram	0,1
9	-	+2	E Smith	0,0,0,0
10	-	-1	D Lane	0,1,0,0
11	+1	+1	P Weinberger	0
12	-1	-7	P Hanks	0
13	-	-6	P O'Gorman	0

#### Cambridgeshire County Chess Leagues

Royston	4	New England A	1
K Clark	0	J Dille	1
P Kemp	1	R Ilett	0
M Pinner	1	P Hanks	0
P Walton	1	P Turp	0
D Hurricks	1	J Sadler	0

<b>New England B</b>	<b>1½</b>	<b>Spalding</b>	<b>2½</b>
P Spencer	½	J van Gemeren	½
R Jones	0	P Szutkowski	1
J Sadler	½	J Smith	½
C Russell	½	F Robinson	½

<b>St Neots B</b>	<b>1½</b>	<b>New England B</b>	<b>2½</b>
P Barkas	1	J Sadler	0
K Holditch	½	R Jones	½
M Friday	0	E Knox	1
F Rock	0	M Ingram	1

<b>New England B</b>	<b>P</b>	<b>St Neots B</b>	<b>P</b>
Re-arranged for 17 <sup>th</sup> April 2019			

#### Team 550 Competition

<b>NE Cavaliers</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>NE Patriots</b>	<b>1</b>
J Sadler	1	P Weinberger	0
M Tarabad	½	S Walker	½
E Knox	½	M Ingram	½
N Wedley	1	E Smith	0

#### Fenland Trophy : Semi-final

<b>NE Patriots</b>	<b>2½</b>	<b>Cambridge</b>	<b>1½</b>
R Ilett	1	M Symanski	0
P Hanks	1	S Pride	0
C Russell	½	D Cattermole	½
M Ingram	0	A Norman	1

#### Club Championship

<b>Round 3</b>			
P Hanks (1½)	1	0	M Tarabad (½)
P Weinberger (1)	1	0	D Lane (1)

<b>Round 4</b>			
R Ilett (2)	½	½	P Spencer (3)
N Wedley (1)	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>	R Jones (½+ <b>P</b> )

<b>Round 5</b>			
C Russell (2½)	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>	J Sadler (2+ <b>P</b> )
J Sutherland (1½)	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>	J Sadler (2)
P Spencer (3½)	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>	P Turp (2½)
R Jones (½+ <b>2P</b> )	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>	P Hanks (3½)

<b>Round 6</b>			
D Lane (1+ <b>P</b> )	0	1	R Jones (½+ <b>3P</b> )
J Sadler (3+ <b>2P</b> )	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>	P Walker (4)
E Knox (3)	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>	P Spencer (3½+ <b>P</b> )

<b>Round 7</b>			
C Russell (3½+ <b>P</b> )	0	1	P Hanks (4½+ <b>P</b> )
P Turp (3½+ <b>P</b> )	0	1	E Knox (3+ <b>P</b> )
E Smith (2)	0	1	M Tarabad (2½)
R Ilett (3½)	1	0	J Sadler (3+ <b>3P</b> )
R Jones (1½+ <b>3P</b> )	1	0	J Suth'land (1½+ <b>2P</b> )
N Wedley (1+ <b>P</b> )	½	½	J Parker (½)
N Wedley (1½+ <b>P</b> )	1	0	D Lane (1+ <b>P</b> )
S Walker (2)	½	½	S Wozniak (3)
P Weinberger (2+ <b>P</b> )	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>	T Ingram (1½+ <b>P</b> )
P Walker (4+ <b>P</b> )	<b>P</b>	<b>P</b>	P Spencer (3½+ <b>2P</b> )

<b>Redraw</b>			
T Ingram (Rd 5)			R Jones (Rd 3)
D Lane (Rd 4)			J Sutherland (Rd 6)

#### New England Grand Prix

<i>Player</i>	<i>Champ</i>	<i>Ladder</i>	<i>League</i>	<i>Cup</i>	<i>550 Team</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>TPR*</i>
R Ilett	4½	3	1½	2	2	13	161
P Spencer	3½	3	3½		3	13	146
M Tarabad	3½	5		0	3½	12	112
P Walker	4	5	1			10	169
P Hanks	5½	0	1½	1	2	10	164
C Russell	3½		4½	0	1½	9½	122
J Sadler	3	2	½		2	7½	127
E Knox	4				2½	6½	113
P Weinberger	3	0	1		2½	6½	100
P Turp	3½		½	0	2	6	127
S Walker	2½		1		2	5½	88
S Wozniak	3½				1	4½	118
J Dille			4			4	212
N Wedley	1½	1		½	1	4	94
R Jones	2½		½		½	3½	104
J Parker	1	1			1	3	72
D Lane	1	1			1	3	87
J Sutherland	1½				1	2½	100
T Ingram	1½	1				2½	89
M Ingram				½	1½	2	82
E Smith	2	0			0	2	61
P O'Gorman	1	0				1	74

\* Tournament Performance Rating is approximate

## Match of the Month

Chess is fundamentally a game of mental pressure. While the game is in the balance, you have to be on your toes looking for any way to win. However, once you think that you have the game in the bag, it is all too easy to relax and lose concentration.

Anyway..., here is one game that I definitely should not have let get away from me! I have not played much first division chess for a while so when Ray asked me to play this season, I definitely felt the pressure not to let him down. And when my opponent made what I thought was an error on move 2, I became far too happy for my own good!

**Colin Emery v Chris Russell**  
New England A v St Neots A, 26.09.2018

**1 e4 e6**  
**2 f4?! b3?! Qb6**

A common theme in the French Defence is that White establishes a pawn on e5, whilst Black tries to undermine it by attacking d4. Consequently, in some lines f4 is a logical way for White to shore it up. After some bitter experience, I learned not to do this in the advance variation. The g1-a7 diagonal can become horribly weak...

**2 ... d5**  
**3 e5**

Best, but White has lost the opening tempo advantage.

**3 ... c5**

aiming for an 'advance' variation to exploit Black's diagonal weakness.

**4 Nf3 Nc6**  
**5 d4?! e6**

conforms to this variation, but preceding this with 5 c3 would be a better plan now.

**5 ... Bd7**

5 ... Qb6 is arguably more consistent as 6 c3 cxd4 7 Nxd4 (7 cxd4!?) Nxd4 8 Qxd4 Bc5 is good for Black, but this move helps to get Black's white-squared bishop into the game, which can otherwise become problematic in this variation.

**6 Be3?!**

This looks logical but it has its drawbacks as it weakens b2. Hereafter, things get murky.

Based on advice mostly from Fritz 8, 6 Be3 is not best and both 6 Nbd2 (if 6 ... cxd4 7 Ndb3 regains the pawn) and 6 dxc5 defending d4 were better. It also gives 6 a3 as superior but after a good long soak, 6 Be3 does improve to be roughly equal.

Fritz 11, however, prefers 6 Be3 to the alternatives giving Black a small edge (-0.3 pawns) whereas 6 dxc5 Bxc5 gives Black a handy lead in development. (-1 pawns).

With version 16, Fritz likes 6 c3 Qb6 7 Qb3 Qxb3 8 axb3 and 6 dxc5 Bxc5 7 Nbd2 Nh6 8 Nb3 Bb6 9 c3 - both of which it rates giving Black a small edge.

I do find the analysis engine in Fritz frustratingly inconsistent. It appears to start to promote different lines as 'best' dependent on where you start the assessment and for how long you let it run. It does tend to converge to similar lines if you leave the analysis to soak overnight - which is admittedly a long time to wait.

**6 ... Qb6**  
**7 b3?! Qb6**

defends the pawn but again not the best. 7 Nc3! holds d4 as if 7 ... Qxb2, 8 Nb5! At this point, Black has to deal with the threats of 9 Nc7+ and 9 dxc5 followed by 10 Nd6+ as well as worrying about the possibility of a trapped queen (8 ... Qb4+ 9 Bd2 Qb2 10 Bc3 is thematic albeit not best). At this point, we again enter the fog of war in a battle of Fritz's versions in relation to whether Black can counter with the double-edged 8 ... Nb4.

Fritz 8 rates 8 ... cxd4! as level (or 8 ... Rc8 for that matter, which it thinks is also much better than 8 ... Nb4). I would put a question mark against 8 ... Nb4?

According to Fritz 11, 8 ... Nb4 is Black's best try and would render a small advantage. Even so, this is not territory to enter without preparation e.g.

- 9 Nc7+ Kd8 10 Nxa8 Nxc2+ 11 Kf2 Nxa1+
- 9 Rb1 Qxa2 10 Nc7+ Kd8 11 Nxa8 Nxc2+ 12 Kf2 Nxe3+ 13 Kxe3 Nh6
- 9 Kd2 Rc8 10 dxc5 a6
  - 11 Nd6+ Bxd6 12 exd6 Nf6
  - 11 Rb1 Qxa2 12 Nd6+ Bxd6 13 exd6 Qa5

I would not have contemplated these variations for very long in a real game.

Fritz 8 recommends 7 Nc3 c4 (and, after some time, Fritz 11 agrees it is viable!) 8 Bc1 Nh6. Fritz 16 recommends 7 ... cxd4 8 Nxd4 Bc5 9 Na4 Qa5+ when in all cases, Black has only a small development lead.

**7 ... Nh6**

Fritz rates 7 ... cxd4 as marginally better (8 Nxd4 Bc5 9 c3 Nh6 10 a3 Rc8 etc.) However, I have given Colin the opportunity to make a mistake.

**8 Bd3??**

This stops Nf5 but blocks the white queen's defence of d4.

8 c3 (Fritz 8) might seem to save the pawn but 8 ... Nf5 (Fritz 11) adds pressure to d4. With the bishop on e3 en prise, it probably forces 9 cxd5 Bxc5 10 Bxc5 Qxc5 11 Qd2 (otherwise 11 ... Qe3+ and 12 ... Qxf4) 11 ... 0-0 when Black has a fine position. However, after 8 ... cxd4 (Fritz 16) 9 Nxd4 (if 9 cxd4 Bb4+ 10 Nbd2 Nf5 is awkward for White) Bc5 10 Be2 Nxd4 11 Bxd4 Bxd4 12 Qxd4 Qxd4 13 cxd4 Nf5, the d4 pawn is lost anyway.

It is probably time to liquidate the centre with 8 dxc5 but 8 ... Bxc5 9 Bxc5 Qxc5 10 Qd2 Ng4 gives Black many tactical possibilities with the marauding knights e.g. 11 Nc3 Nb4 12 Bd3 Ne3 and 13 ... Rc8 in the offing.

8 ... cxd4  
9 Bd2 Be7

Too safe. I want to get my king castled but I am missing the opportunity to exchange off Colin's white-squared bishop. 9 ... Nb4 10 0-0 Nxd3 11 cxd3 Be7 is better.

10 0-0 0-0  
11 Ng5!?

This came as an unpleasant surprise! I do not fancy 11 ... Nf5 12 Nxh7 Kxh7 13 g4 Rh8 14 gxf5 exf5, nor 11 ... Bxg5 12 fxg5 Nf5 as both allow Colin to develop open lines against my king. It seems that losing a pawn has made him turn nasty!

11 ... g6

successfully blockades the position, but makes it difficult to commit other pieces to the defence of my king. Colin thinks he can see the potential to attack and continues...

12 Rf3?

which, fortunately for me, is not a sound strategy. There are several ways to defend. Relatively best is 12 ... Bxg5! 13 fxg5 Ng4! when the threat of 14 ... Ngxe5 cannot be met. 12 ... f6 13 exf6 Bxf6 14 Rg3 Nf5! is also good. 12 ... Nf5 and 12 ... Ng4 are also both solid. Muggins comes up with

12 ... f5?!

which is admittedly playable, but nowhere near as good. I had seen that if 13 Rh3, then I can exchange White's knight on g5 and 14 ... Ng4 is a solid defence. Colin kindly obliges me.

13 Rh3?!

13 Rg3! Ng4 14 Rxg4 fxg4 15 Qxg4 Bxg5 16 Qxg5 would have given White better chances.

13 ... Bxg5  
14 fxg5 Ng4

Now the e5 pawn is lost and White is in real trouble.

15 Bf4 Ncx5  
16 Qe2?!

Relatively best is 16 Bxe5, but I now have a massive pawn steamroller to drive down the board and I am confident that the game is over. I slow down, looking for the killer move that will end the game (Uh-oh!)

16 ... Nxd3

Fritz likes 16 ... Nf7 but simplifying seems a good plan.

17 cxd3 Rac8!

17 ... e5 is also good.

18 Na3

Alternatively, 18 Nd2 e5 19 Bxe5 Rfe8 20 Nf3 Re7 21 Rh4 Nxe5 22 Nxe5 Qc7 and the knight must be lost.

18 ... e5  
19 Bd2 Rfe8

This looked good to me but 19 ... f4 20 Rf3 Qd6 is even sharper.

20 Qe1 e4

20 ... f4! is also good

21 Qh4

Curiously Fritz rates this as best but it just seems to waste time to me.

21 ... Re7  
22 Rc1?

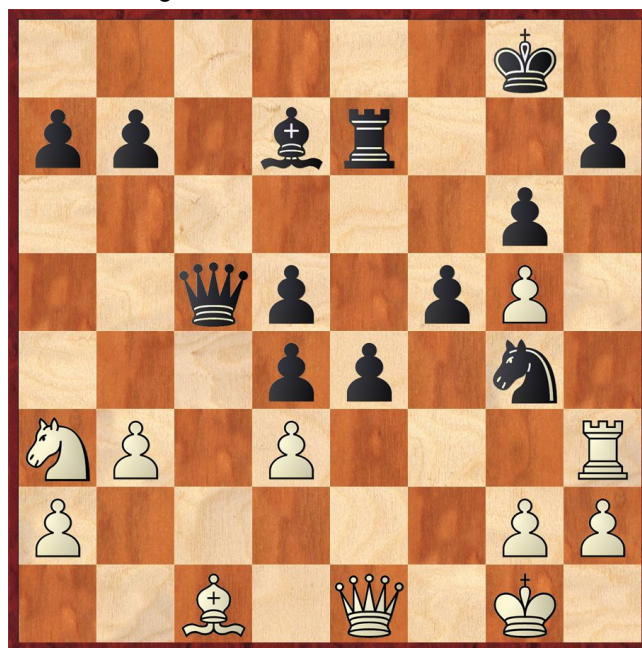
22 Qe1 is needed but the game should be lost anyway.

22 ... Rxc1+  
23 Bxc1 Qc5!

There are so many threats now that I am running out of time trying to pick the best move. So inevitably this is where it starts to go wrong...

24 Qe1

Colin defends his bishop, but here I really should have killed off the game – how?



24 ... e3?!

Nope. A protected passed pawn on the 6<sup>th</sup> rank looks very handy, and there are several other potential moves, Bb5, f4, a5, etc., but there is a killer blow available...

24 ... exd3!! Trebling the passed pawns looks counter-intuitive, but once opened with check, the g1-a7 diagonal proves lethal. There is no defence :-

- 25 Qd2 Re2 mating if the queen abandons e1 or 26 Rxd3 Rxd2 27 Bxd2 Qxa3.
- 25 Qd1 d2
  - 26 Bxd2 d3+ losing the queen or getting mated
  - 26 Qxd2 d3+ 27 Kf1 Re2 28 Qxe2 Qxc1+ 29 Qe1 d2 30 Qxc1 dxc1Q+
- 25 Qf1 d2 26 Bxd2 d3+ 27 Re3 (if 27 Kh1 Nf2+) 27 ... Rxe3 28 Bxe3 Qxe3+ 29 Kh1 d2

25 Nb1?

25 Rh4 or 25 b4 needed trying. This move allows the black queen to invade.

25 ... Qc2



threatening 26 ... Qf2+ 27 Qxf2 exf2 28 Kf1 Re1#

**26 Rf3**

defends the mate but loses the knight.

**26 ... Qxb1**  
**27 h3 Ne5**  
**28 Rf1 Qxd3**

After the game Colin said that he was going to resign if I played 28 Nxd3. I had considered this but thought the centrally placed queen was more valuable than the potential to swap off more material. However, 28 Nd3 is actually more direct i.e. 28 ... Nxd3 29 Qa5 e2 30 Re1 Qxc1 31 Qd8+ Kf7 32 Qxe7+ Kxe7 33 Rxc1 Nxc1 34 Kf2 d3 35 Ke1.

**29 Qa5 Bb5**  
**30 Qd8+ Kf7**

A mistake, but I am getting into time trouble. Black's attack fends off the queen and holds together very nicely after 30 ... Re8 31 Qxd5+ Kh8 32 Re1 Bc6 33 Qc5 (if 33 Qd6 Qc2 34 Qf6+ Kg8) 33 ... Bxg2 34 Kxg2 Qe4+ 35 Kg3 f4+ 36 Kh2 Nf3+ 37 Kg2 Nh4+. However, hindsight is a wonderful thing!

**31 Qxd5+ Re6??**

Oh dear, I have seen the draw by repetition, but there is an easy way to escape. 31 ... Kg7 32 Re1 Qc2 and if the king moves 33 ... Bc6 wins; or 33 Qxd4 Qf2+ 34 Kh2 Bc6 35 Qb2 (35 Rg1 f4 threatens 36 ... Qg3+ and 37 ... Qxh3#) 35 ... Qxe1 winning.

Sadly now

**32 Qxb7+ Re7**  
**33 Qd5+ Re6??**  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$

and worried about being short of time I offered a draw! I think Colin was as stunned as I was!

Even now 33 ... Kg7 34 Re1 Qc2. If now 35 Qxb5 Qf2+ 36 Kh2 Nf3+ and mates, or 35 Kh1 Bc6! winning easily (sigh). Of course, the winning ending analysis was by Fritz, not me. So I guess I just have to work on my killer instinct and console myself that I played a pretty good game up to move 31. But I feel like a fisherman telling everyone about the one that got away.

*Chris Russell*

## Eye Opener

Occasionally, chess makes it to Hollywood. One recent film to highlight our game was *Queen of Katwe* which I knew little about until I came across the following game.

### J N February v P Mutesi

Women's Olympiad, Batumi 2018

Phiona Mutesi was a 10 year old Ugandan girl seeking to escape the slums of Katwe when she learned chess. She went on to win a national school's competition and has been part of her national team at the Olympiad since 2010. She has achieved creditable scores around 50% and was awarded the Women's Candidate Master title.

1	e4	e6
2	Nf3	d5
3	Nc3	Nf6
4	e5	Nfd7
5	d4	c5
6	dx c5	Bxc5
7	Bd3	0-0



**8 Bxh7+**

Sorry, Black has allowed another Greek gift sacrifice. Let's see how well/easily it works.

**8 ... Kh8**

8 ... Kxh7 9 Ng5+ Kg6 (not 9 ... Kg8 10 Qh5 when Black has to shed material to prevent checkmate 10 ... Qxg5 or 10 ... Bxf2+ 11 Kxf2 Nf6 12 exf6 Qxf6+ 13 Kg3 Qh6) 10 Qd3+ f5 (10 ... Kh5 11 Qh7+ Kg4 12 Qh3#) 11 Qg3 Nxe5 (11 ... Qe7 12 h4 with a continuing attack) 12 Nxe6+ Ng4 13 Nxd8 Bxf2+ 14 Qxf2 Nxf2 15 Kxf2 Rxd8 and the position is level on material!

**9 Ng5 Nxe5**

9 ... g6 would stop the white queen's incursion via h5. It is still lost with best play but White would have to sweat a little longer e.g. with 10 Qf3 Nxe5 11 Qh3 Kg7 12 Nge4 Ng4 13 Nxc5 e5.

**10 Qh5 g6**  
**11 Bxg6+ Kg7**  
**12 Qh7+**

12 Nxe6+ B/fxe6 13 Qh6+ Kf6 14 Bg5# would have been quicker.

**12 ... Kf6**  
**13 Nge4+ dx e4**  
**14 Nxe4+ 1-0**

Black resigned due to 14 ... Ke7 15 Bg5+. However, there was again a more forceful variation – 14 Bg5+ Kxg5 15 Nxe4+ Kf4 16 Qh6+ Kg4 (16 ... Qg5 17 Qxg5#) 17 h3#.

In these situations, I tend to believe computers!