

New Englander

Chess Club Update – October 2021

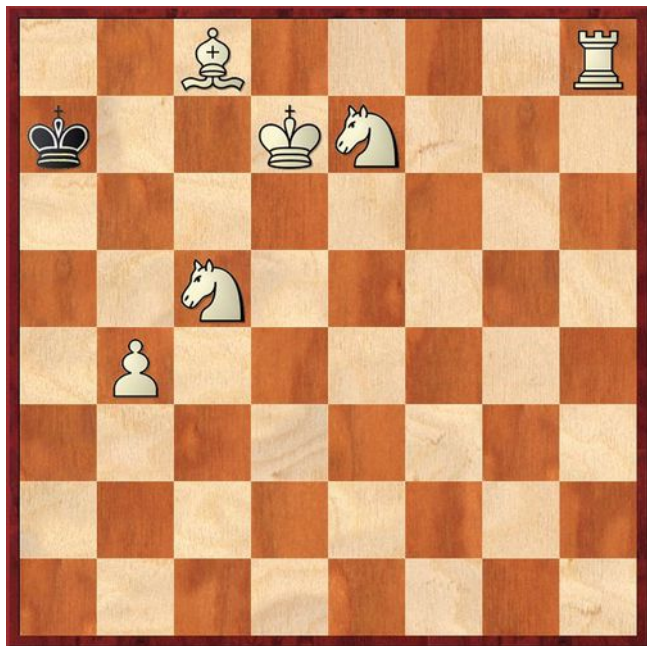
Chairman's Chatter

Actors often speak of "opening night nerves" when a new show causes understandable anxiety – both in its production and reception. So it was with the inaugural night at our new venue at the Yard of Ale. I am glad (and relieved!) to say that it went well and it feels good to be recording real games again in the *Results Round-up*. So much so that I have decided to report my thoughts as a spectator of the Rapidplay event in a *Tournament Treats* article instead of our normal *Match of the Month* feature.

Paul Hanks

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2



Last Month's solution (Carpenter 1902)

Position : Q7/8/2B5/b1p5/1k6/2p5/2K5/8

1 Bd7 Ka3 2 Qxa5# [1 ... c4 2 Qf8#; 1 ... B any 2 Qa4#]

Website to Watch

The British Chess Championships are the main event in October. They will be spread over venues in Hull and Milton Keynes between 2nd and 17th. Whether you want to follow the Open or Women's Championship or the Junior and Senior events, details can be found at <https://www.britishchesschampionships.co.uk/>.

Starting on 25th October and running into next month is the highest-budgeted Swiss tournament ever registered with FIDE. The top 100 strongest players in the Open and Women's sections have been invited

with 14 other qualifiers to play for places in the World Championship Candidate's Tournament. Due to Covid restrictions in the Isle of Man, Riga in Latvia is now the venue for the Grand Swiss but due to the late switch, a dedicated website has yet to be created.

Result Round-up

Club Rapidplay : 1st September 2021

Player	Round				Total
	1	2	3	4	
P Spencer	½	1	1	1	3½
J Sadler	1	1	0	1	3
P Walker	0	1	1	1	3
R Ilett	1	1	1	0	3
J Jennings	½	0	0	1	1½
E Smith	1	0	0	0	1
C Russell	0	0	1	0	1
P Cooper	0	0	0	0	0

Club Championship

Round 1		
E Smith	1 0	P Cooper
P Spencer	1 0	N Foreman
C Russell	1 0	J Jennings
P Hanks	0 1	R Jones
N Wedley	0 1	R Ilett
E Knox	P P	P Walker

Round 2		
J Jennings (0)	1 0	E Smith (1)
P Walker (P)	1 0	P Spencer (1)
R Ilett (1)	1 0	C Russell (1)
P Cooper (0)	0 1	E Knox (P)
R Jones (1)	1 0	N Wedley (0)

Round 3		
P Hanks (0) – Rd 2		P Cooper (0)
C Russell (1)		R Jones (2)
E Knox (1+ P)		R Ilett (2)
N Wedley (0)		P Walker (1+ P)
J Jennings (1)		P Hanks (0+ P)
E Smith (1)		P Spencer (1)

Cambridgeshire League

New England A	2½	Peterborough A	2½
P Walker	½	C Tandy	½
R Ilett	0	F Bowers	1
P Hanks	1	C Masseron	0
P Spencer	0	B Rhodes	1
E Knox	1	T O'Keefe	0
Peterborough B	1	New England B	3
C Masseron	½	R Ilett	½
B Rhodes	½	P Spencer	½
C Bengtson	0	R Jones	1
B Carlile	0	C Russell	1

New England Club Ladder

White		Black	
E Smith	1	0	P Cooper

Position	Change		Player	Record @ 29/09/21
	Month	Overall		
1	-	-	E Smith	1
2	-	-	P Cooper	0

New England Grand Prix

Player	Champ	Ladder	League	Cup	Team 7000	Total	TPR*
R Jones	2		1			3	2003
R Ilett	2		½			2½	1845
E Smith	1	1				2	1102
C Russell	1		1			2	1621
E Knox	1		1			2	1677
P Walker	1		½			1½	2071
P Spencer	1		½			1½	1545
P Hanks	0		1			1	1719
J Jennings	1					1	1338
N Wedley	0					0	1323
P Cooper	0	0				0	724

* Tournament Performance Rating is approximate

Diary Dates

13th October Club lightning tournament has been **re-scheduled to 10th November** due to a clashing home Fenland cup fixture

27th/28th November Cambridgeshire Individual County Championship at Peterborough Bridge Club, Lincoln Road. Visit <http://www.cambschess.co.uk/CambsChampionships2021.pdf> for an entry form.

Tournament Treats

Was it the novelty of the event? Plenty of good cheer and hearty company? The speed and fury of the play? Or merely, the slice of chocolate cake? Perhaps, an element of all these things played a part in making a success of our inaugural event after lockdown.

Let us not forget, however, that the evening of 1st September started with gratitude to and some measure of physical effort from Chris and Jim shifting the club cupboard and installing a small mountain of equipment. That done, the club's new life at the Yard of Ale could begin.

The club Rapidplay is the traditional start to a new season but the circumstances this year made it particularly special. Two years ago, we could not have imagined what was to come. Thousands of deaths from an unknown disease, curtailment of freedoms, economic contraction, suspension of social contact and the disappearance of many everyday activities. In comparison with this tragic and, sadly, continuing global situation, missing play over the board for eighteen months is small beer but eight contestants gathered to make the first small steps back towards normality.

The surprises began in the very first round. Was it rustiness? Or a strategic ploy to keep below the radar on the leaderboard?

Jonathan Sadler downed rating-favourite Peter Walker and Chris Russell gifted his opponent some free thinking by forgetting to press his clock for three minutes. When he lost on time (no surprise there), Ray Ilett had just three minutes on his clock... After regular online play, Paul Spencer should have had no excuses but against newcomer Jim Jennings, he had to scramble in an inferior ending and only reached a K v K drawn endgame with one second remaining. Ed Smith opened his account beating Piers Cooper, the second new face, but both these players found the going tough thereafter.

Jim reinforced his dark-horse status in the next round. For the second game in succession, he quickly lost a piece and then swarmed forward with a mass of compensating pawns. In this case, Ray Ilett was able to resist and secure the point. By now, the form book was re-asserting itself with the higher rated players winning their games.

An hour of play called for a re-fuelling interlude and although the extra calories were not strictly necessary for our waistlines, the thought behind the confectionery treat was generally appreciated. (A vegan option will be attempted in future. Sorry!)

Back on the battlefield, the two 100% records were put at stake in round 3. Ray overcame Jonathan with an attack in which the white king was checkmated, moved and remained en prise for several moves unnoticed by both players! Peter and Paul moved up stealthily behind with smooth wins and could yet win the tournament with a victory in the final round.

Having reached the climax of the tournament, you are probably wondering what I was doing on the sidelines. Apart from making the draw, logging the result and, of course, slicing the cake, I was acting as club photographer. Unfortunately, it is not possible to snap away without distracting the players but they displayed admirable concentration to remain relaxed and natural. My efforts should by now be adorning the club website so that the whole world can marvel at the sight of us playing chess. After all, they say no publicity is bad publicity.

Many images that I captured were literally snapshots of the game positions and I intended to try to reconstruct the sequence of moves for post-mortem analysis. One that was only a few moves from the start should have been easy to emulate as it resembled a standard opening. Even this task became redundant when Chris supplied the score with a few comments of his own.

C Russell v J Sadler
New England Rapidplay 01.09.2021

1	e4	e5
2	Nf3	Nc6
3	d4	exd4
4	Bc4	

The Scotch Gambit is the sort of thing you find in a beginners' book. Easy to counter, so virtually never seen nowadays. I thought that my opponent may not know it.

4	...	Bc5
5	0-0	Nge7

To my surprise, Fritz pointed out that I was wrong – this is **not** a mistake but 5 ... Nf6!? 6 e5 is more normal. Black then gets a level game after

- either 6 ... d5 7 exf6 dxc4 8 fxg7 Rg8 9 Re1+ Be6 10 Bg5 (10 Ng5 is the Max Lange Attack in the Two Knights Defence discussed in the newsletter of September 2016) Be7 11 Bxe7 Qxe7 12 Nxd4 Rd8 13 c3 Rxd4
- or 6 ... Ng4 7 Bf4 0-0 8 h3 Nh6 9 Bxh6 gxh6 10 c3.

6 Ng5!?

Provocative but without any advantage! Slightly better is 6 c3!? dxc3 and then 7 Ng5 d5! is thematic. The b2 pawn cannot be taken and the power of White's light-squared bishop must be nullified. After 8 exd5 c2 9 Qxc2 Nd4 10 Qd1, the game is level.

6	...	0-0?
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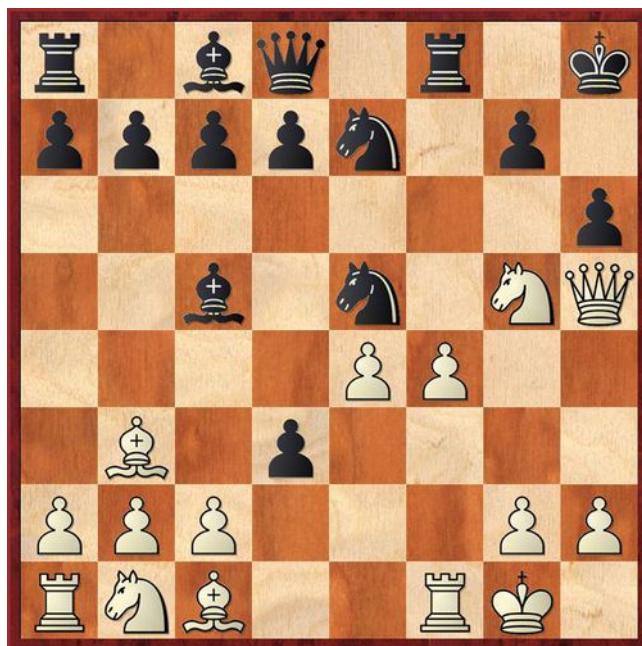
This was a blunder that should have lost the game. But I was so amused that I forgot to concentrate! Note that the correct move is again 6 ... d5! 7 exd5 Ne5 8 Bb3 0-0 is simply level as I then lose a tempo by having to retreat the bishop.

7	Qh5	h6
8	Bxf7+?	

Totally stupid - played thinking that either of 8 Bxf7 or 8 Nxf7 wins. 8 Nxf7! Rxf7 (8 ... Qe8 allows mate in 3) 9 Bxf7+ is crushing! If 9 ... Kh7 10 Qxc5 wins, 9 ...

Kh8 10 Bxh6 is even stronger or 9 ... Kf8 10 Bb3 d5 11 exd5 Na5 12 d6 Nxb3 13 dxe7+ Qxe7 14 axb3 is also a totally won game!

8	...	Kh8
9	Bb3	Ne5
10	f4	d3+



Flash, bang, wallop! I took the picture at this point. Was what followed my fault? [editor]

11	Kh1	dx2
12	fxe5??	

Instant suicide!! There is nothing wrong with 12 Nd2! White is rather better after

- either 12 ... Qe8 13 Qxe8 Rxe8 14 fxe5 hxg5
- or 12 ... Nd3 13 Nf7+ Rxf7 14 Qxf7 d6

but not immediately winning the game. Pride goeth...

12	...	Rxf1#
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The Scotch gambit is generally only something to try in a fun skittles tournament, as in a proper game it would usually lead to an inferior position for White. Though it is something worth knowing, especially the 'equalising' move of d5!

Chris Russell

Back in the real tournament, Paul Spencer was drawn with Black against Ray in the decider. A simple fork netted him a bishop and although Ray tried some tricks when reduced to a pair of rooks, Paul sealed his triumph with a devastating counter-attack. Congratulations!