New Englander

Chess Club Update – October 2026

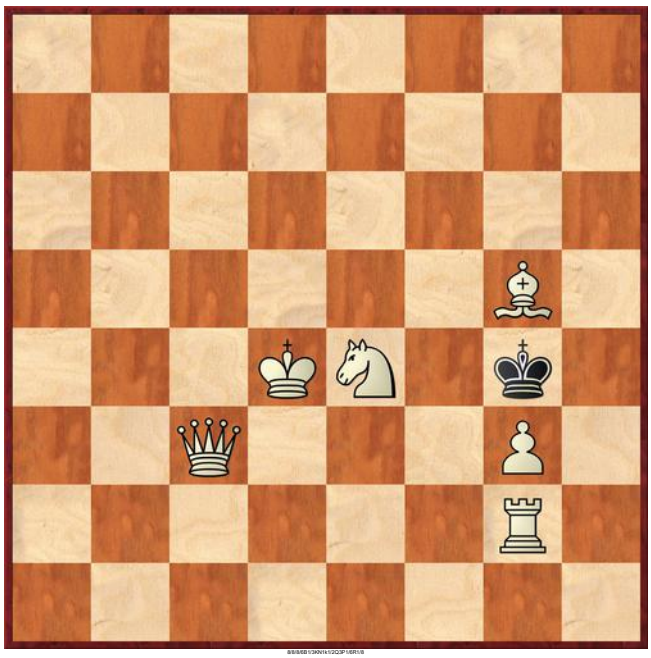
Chairman's Chatter

As the season changes, we bid farewell to some members and wish them well in their new chess abodes. At the same time, we welcome some new faces and hope they enjoy their time with us. We also have some returning players to boost our ranks and it is a pleasure to see Phil Turp back at the board. He shares his experience in the *Match of the Month* article and has been a stalwart manager of our website publishing club information online for many years as exemplified by this being the 250th edition of the newsletter!

Paul Hanks

Puzzle Problem

White to play and mate in 2.



Last Month's solution (van Dijk 1948)

Position : 8/8/8/5R2/8/2KPkB1b/8/5R2

1 Bd1 Bxf5 2 Rf3# [1 ... Bxf1 2 Rf3#; 1 ... Bg2 2 Re1#; 1 ... Bg4 2 Re5#]

Diary Dates

24th October — 2026 English Championship until 1st November at Holiday Inn, Thorpe Wood

28-29th November — A five-round Swiss event at Christie Hall Wansford for the County Individual championship. Entry £25 (£15 juniors) before 20th November to james1blair@yahoo.co.uk

Website to Watch

Visit www.eccc26.me to watch the European Chess Club Cup between 17th and 23rd october in Budva, Montenegro. It should include many of the top grandmasters despite the tournament clashing with the US Championship from 9th to 22nd in St Louis.

Result Round-up

Cambridgeshire League

St Ives A	4½	New England A	½
R Lee	1	P Walker	0
D Redman	1	R Ilett	0
R Coleman	1	P Spencer	0
M Rippon	1	J Sutherland	0
N Greenwood	½	C Russell	½

New England A	2½	St Neots A	2½
P Walker	1	A Chapman	0
R Ilett	1	R Gompelman	0
P Spencer	0	R Palumbo	1
J Sutherland	½	C Emery	½
C Russell	0	J Moxon	1

New England A	1	St Ives B	3
P Spencer	0	S Caraway	1
P Turp	½	R Ling	½
C Russell	½	P Baddeley	½
J Peoples	0	J Canamares	1

New England A	3	Peterborough B	1
P Spencer	1	N Chedd	0
P Turp	1	D Redden	0
J Sutherland	1	M Svilenov	0
J Peoples	0	D Shehada	1

New England C	0	Peterborough C	3
A Thobani	0	J Blair	1
S Stuart	0	A Biermann	1
N Foreman	0	A Hammond	1

New England Club Championship

White			Black
P Spencer	P	Rd 1	E Knox
P Walker	P	Rd 1	N Foreman
J Sutherland	P	Rd 1	P Hanks
R Ilett	1	0	D Dhokia
P Turp	1	0	J Peoples
S Walker	P	Rd 1	C Russell

New England Club Rapidplay : 2nd September 2026

Pos	Player	Round					Tot
		1	2	3	4	5	
1	V Jones	1	1	1	1	-	4
2=	P Turp	1	1	½	0	1	3½
	R Ilett	1	0	½	1	1	3½
4=	J Peoples	1	1	0	0	1	3
	J Sutherland	0	1	1	0	1	3
	A Thobani	0	1	1	1	0	3
	E Knox	0	1	0	1	1	3
8	S Stuart	1	0	0	1	0	2
9=	I Goodwin	0	0	1	0	0	1
	C Russell	1	0	0	0	0	1
	S Walker	0	0	1	0	-	1
	D Dhokia	0	0	1	0	0	1

Match of the Month

Looking for a game for the newsletter that wasn't too bad, I thought I'd brave the passage of time and look back a few years to see how I was playing then. At the time, my BCF grade was 135 which is about 1600 in today's money whilst my opponent was 140.

P Turp v **G Fernie**

Tilbury v Wansted, Essex League Div 2; 12.02.1980

1	**d4**	**Nf6**
2	**c4**	**e6**
3	**Nc3**	**Bb4**
4	**a3**	

These days, I tend to avoid this Saemisch Variation in the Nimzo-Indian Defence and play the classical 4 Qc2. The text line is mainstream and Fritz has this a main line.

4	**...**	**Bxc3+**
5	**bxc3**	**c5**

5 … 0-0, 5 ... b6 and 5 ... d5 all look sensible alternatives to me.

6	**e3**	**b6**

This fianchetto defines the O'Kelly Variation. For guidance nowadays, it would be topical to see how Magnus Carlsen treats the opening. As Black, he would have preferred 5 ... Nc6 (e.g. v Jobava in 2010) and as White when he reached this position against Nakamura in 2020, he faced 6 ... Nc6 – losing both games!

7	**Bd3**	**Bb7**

In view of White's foreseeable response, Black's light-squared bishop is not achieving much on the long diagonal and a different strategic idea is Bc8-a6 to put pressure on c4. Black only returns to this much later.

8	**f3**	**Nc6**
9	**Ne2**	**d6**
10	**e4**	

I've managed to reach a nice position that Fritz says is equal. As an example, Fritz 21 – not available or even imagined in 1980! - gives 10 ... Nd7 11 0-0 Qe7 12 f4 f6 (or 12...0-0-0) 13 Re1 0-0-0 14 a4 (or 14 Ra2) Na5 15 Ng3 g6 16 Ra2 e5 17 Be3 Ba6 18 Nf1 Kb8 19 Nd2 Bb7 20 Nf1 Ba6 with repetition. To some extent, this continuation encapsulates the changes of modern times with the advent of AI. Very few of these moves would have been Fritz's top choices of maybe a decade earlier and possibly fewer still would come naturally to a human player.

10	**...**	**e5**
11	**Bg5**	

I looked long and hard at this and wondered what I had planned against 11 ... cxd4. It turns out if Black does exchange, the pawn becomes untenable after 12 cxd4 exd4 13 Bc2. The computer is telling me I have a slight plus so...

11	**...**	**0-0**

An alternative is 11 ... h6 12 Be3 Qe7 13 0-0 0-0-0 14 a4 Na5 15 Ng3 g6 16 Re1 Kb8 17 Nf1 which has echoes of a previous comment both in terms of the moves played and their comprehensibility.

12	**0-0**	

This game seems to be one of my 'route 1' attacks! Perhaps 12 d5 is what I might play now since I still have the break f3-f4 at some stage whereas closing the centre gives Black few options. For instance, 12 d5 Na5 13 Ng3 h6 14 Be3 Bc8 15 0-0 Kh7 16 h3 (I have to be careful because the hasty 16 f4 runs into 16 ... Ng4 17 Bd2 Qh4) 16 ... Nd7 17 Qe2 g6.

12	**...**	**h6**
13	**Bh4**	**Rc8?**

Neither Fritz and Stockfish like this move. If the intention was to obtain play along an open c file, 13 ... cxd4 would be more consistent. Instead, the computer's favourite is the line 13 ... g5 14 Be1 Nh5 15 Ng3 Nf4 16 Nf5 exd4 17 cxd4 Bc8 18 Nxh6+ Kg7 19 Nf5+ which is assessed as OK for Black but is it convincing? 14 Bf2 looks more purposeful and what about 15 ... Nxg3? Have I become a dinosaur in the silicon age?

14	**d5**	**Na5**
15	**f4**	



Forward!!

15	**...**	**exf4**

Against 15 ... g5, the most direct play is 16 fxg5 Nh7 (16 ... hxg5 17 Bxg5 is suicidal) 17 g6 Qxh4 18 gxh7+ Kxh7 19 Ng3 Rc7 20 Nh5 f6 21 Rf5 but with 22 g3 Qh3 23 Nxf6+ to come, it seems no better for Black.

16	**Nxf4**	**g5**

Even 16 ... g6 fails to prevent 17 Nh5.

17	**Nh5**	**Nxh5**

If you enjoy finding the quickest route to checkmate, the position after 17 ... hxg5 18 Nf6+ Kh8 19 Qh5 Kg7 is a nice one to study. The key move is 20 Ne8+.

18	**Qxh5**	**Kg7**

Black's denuded kingside can offer no defence e.g. 18 ... gxh4 19 Rf4 and Black must part with his queen. The best try is to cover the second rank with 18 ... Rc7.

19	**Bg3**	

Route 1 is 19 e5 based on 19 ... gxh4 20 Qf5. Black tries to defend against 20 Rf6 to no avail.

- 19 ... dxe5 20 Rf5 f6 (20 ... gxh4 21 Raf1 Qe7 22 Qg4+ Kh8 23 Rf6) 21 Rxg5+ fxg5 22 Qg6+
- 19 ... f5 20 exf6+ Rxf6 21 Bxg5 hxg5 22 Qh7+ Kf8 23 Bg6.

18	**...**	**Ba6**

Black tries a distraction but 19 ... f6 20 e5 Qe8 21 Qg4 fxe5 22 Rxf8 Kxf8 23 Rf1+ Kg8 24 Qe4 Rc7 25 Rf6 is one of many routes to break through.

20	**e5**	**Bxc4**

Trying to simplify and get his knight back in the game.

21	**Bxc4**	**Nxc4**
22	**Rf6**	

As in other lines, once I manage to play this, Black is sunk.

21	**....**	**Nxe5**

Black can try to pick up material for his queen with 22 ... Qxf6 23 exf6+ Kxf6 but it is still hopeless after 24 Qxh6+ Kf5 (24 ... Ke7 25 Qxg5+ Kd7 26 Qg4+ winning the knight) 25 Rf1+ Ke4 26 Qxg5 f5 27 Rd1.

23	**Bxe5**	

Find the mate in 4 that I missed! 23 Qxh6+ Kg8 24 Bxe5 Re8 (24 ... dxe5 25 Qxg5+ Kh8 26 Rh6#) 25 Rg6+ fxg6 26 Qg7#

23	**...**	**Qxf6**
24	**Bxf6+**	**Kxf6**
25	**Qxh6+**	**Ke7**
26	**Re1+**	**Kd7**
27	**Qxg5**	**Rce8**
28	**Qf5+**	**1-0**

When I looked at this game, it appeared very straight forward because Black seemed to walk into a very simple attack. The problems for Black all start with his 13th move but I'm not sure my younger self would have recognised that at the time.

Phil Turp

Eye Opener

A R Spiller v **A O'Kelly de Galway**
Stevenson Memorial Bognor Regis; 15.04.1955

1	**d4**	**Nf6**
2	**c4**	**e6**
3	**Nc3**	**Bb4**
4	**a3**	**Bxc3+**
5	**bxc3**	**c5**
6	**e3**	**b6**
7	**Bd3**	**Bb7**
8	**f3**	**Nc6**
9	**Ne2**	**Rc8**

So far, this follows the main game when Ra8-c8 was criticised at move 13. Here, the inventor of the opening system plays it much earlier, going single-mindedly for immediate pressure on the weak pawn on c4.

10	**e4**	**Na5**
11	**d5**	

Should White be bothered? If the threat is ignored with 11 0-0 cxd4, there is plenty of compensation in 12 e5 Ng8 13 Nxd4 Nxc4 14 Bxc4 Rxc4 15 Nb5.

11	**...**	**Ba6**
12	**e5**	**Ng8**
13	**d6**	

This looks tempting but 13 Ng3 Bxc4 14 Ne4 brings about lines similar to the last comment. You would need confident foreknowledge to sacrifice two pawns with 14 ... Bxd5 15 Nd6+ Kf8 16 0-0 rather than 16 Nxc8.

13	**...**	**Bxc4**	
14	**Bxc4**	**Qh4+**	
15	**g3**	**Qxc4**	
16	**Rb1**	**f6**	
17	**f4?**	**Qe4**	**0–1**