

# New Englander

## Chess Club Update – July 2022

### **Chairman's Chatter**

Changes are afoot with ECF membership. Previously, payment of subscriptions could be made until 30<sup>th</sup> June and backdated to the start of the season. Henceforth, membership will run for the year from the date of renewal. This has its good and bad points.

You will now receive a full 12 months rather than until the following September but if you allow a gap in membership, you may incur additional fees (i.e. fines) for graded games as a non-member. Please make sure you maintain your affiliation in a timely fashion.

*Paul Hanks*

### **Cambridgeshire AGM Summary**

Ten CCCA members attended the Annual General Meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> June at Warboys. The main points of business were as follows :-

- The advisory Covid protocol was rescinded
- Last year's County Rapidplay went ahead successfully as one of the first post-Covid tournaments but made a small financial loss due to the reduced number of entries. See *Diary Dates* for the forthcoming event
- County teams scored well at EACU level and in the knock-out stage, the Open team defeated Worcestershire before losing in the semi-final to Devon. Teams comprised 12 boards which was recommended to continue
- The League season also progressed well without any defaulted matches. Entries for 2022-23 have a deadline of 1<sup>st</sup> August. The clubs represented intended to maintain their commitment and there is a chance of team(s) from Ely making an appearance
- Next season will see the introduction of the ECF League Management Software which captains and competition organiser will need to use to register games for grading
- The Association made a small surplus due to a one-off bequest from the sale of the late Patrick Ribbands chess collection. Entry fees were re-instated for the league, Team 700 and Fenland Cup competitions
- Rule changes approved included :
  - pronouns to enshrine gender neutrality
  - across all events, board order tolerance set to 100 for players rated above 1375
  - a warning only on the first occurrence of a phone interruption.

### **Puzzle Problem**

White to play and mate in 2



Last Month's solution (Hoffenreich 1925)

Position : 8/8/8/n7/K7/B7/k1B4p/7R

**1 Bd1 any 2 Bb3#**

### **Website to Watch**

The Biel International Chess Festival in Switzerland celebrates running for 55 years with a tournament from 14<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> July. The field does not have its usual top names but has at least 3 young grandmasters who should be watched as stars of the future. <https://www.bielchessfestival.ch/Homepage.html> is the website but you may have to look elsewhere for the live games.

The 2022 Olympiad in Chennai, India just squeezes into this month. Round 1 will be played on 29<sup>th</sup> July and 10 more are packed in until 9<sup>th</sup> August. The official website is <https://chessolympiad.fide.com> but again, this far in advance, it is difficult to tell how much coverage there will be.

### **Diary Dates**

- 1<sup>st</sup> September ECF membership renewal due
- 7<sup>th</sup> September Start of new season, probably with the club Rapidplay
- 25<sup>th</sup> September Cambridgeshire Rapidplay at its usual venue in Whittlesford. Please consult <http://www.cambschess.co.uk/> for confirmation of the date and the entry form.

## Match of the Month

Human virtues are things you just need to be born with and I obviously missed out badly. When babies were standing in line to receive their ration of patience, I could not be bothered to wait in the queue... When it comes to chess, one style of play is to impose your will forcibly on the position whilst the method favoured by most current grandmasters is to accumulate the concessions made by your opponent slowly in a cat-and-mouse game.

### P Hanks v I Phillips

New England v Cambridge, Fenland Cup s/f; 01.12.21  
Cambridge have been the dominant team in league chess for the last few seasons. In 2021–22, they limited their involvement to the Fenland Cup and we met them in the semi-final. They were still very strong and I decided to avoid any possibility of a quick loss that would put scoreboard pressure on my teammates in compensating for the deficit.

<b>1</b>	<b>d4</b>	<b>Nf6</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>c4</b>	<b>g6</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>f3</b>	

My first foray with this waiting move which seeks to narrow Black's options. I did not know my opponent and suspected he may try the Grunfeld Defence 3 Nc3 d5. In the Exchange Variation 4 cxd5 Nxd5 5 e4, Black has the 5 ... Nxc3 (and much subsequent theory) but my move order denies him this possibility.

<b>3</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>Bg7</b>
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We are now heading back to the mainstream Samisch Variation of the King's Indian Defence. An expert in these positions, Peter Svidler, chose an independent path with 3 ... Nc6 and took down Nakamura in fine style in Amsterdam 2009. I was also totally unaware there is another tricky line 3 ... Nh5 and without knowing the tactics, I might paradoxically have lost in record time (see the Eye Opener section).

<b>4</b>	<b>e4</b>	<b>d6</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Nc3</b>	<b>Nbd7</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Be3</b>	<b>0-0</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Qd2</b>	<b>Re8</b>

I was fairly happy to see this. Kasparov was a King's Indian addict in his early years and generally criticised the rook venturing from the f file where it should support the natural plan f7-f5.

<b>8</b>	<b>0-0-0</b>	
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This very opening and castling on opposite flanks hardly fit with my negative game strategy but familiarity with the structures should help me.

<b>8</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>e5</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>d5</b>	

Normally, I would push 9 g4 (Fritz's recommendation) at the first opportunity. However, as my only objective was to prolong the game, I blocked the centre.

<b>9</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>b6</b>
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My opponent's caution is conspiring with me. Has he mistaken my slow approach for ineptitude? Clever disguise, eh?

<b>10</b>	<b>Nh3</b>	<b>Nc5</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>Nf2</b>	<b>Nfd7</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>g4</b>	

Without a defensive knight on f6, White has no reason to hold back from 12 h4 and 13 h5. That might be too purposeful!

<b>12</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>a5</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>h4</b>	<b>a4</b>
<b>14</b>	<b>h5</b>	<b>Qe7</b>

I was reasonably sure I could hold out for some time now. Black's queenside advance does not look dangerous, his knights lack targets and mobility and I felt my position was more harmonious with a clear plan on the kingside.

<b>15</b>	<b>Bh6</b>	
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The computer is unimpressed with my obstinacy and reckons Black sufficiently cramped to let me play actively on two fronts with 15 Nb5 now or after 15 h6.

<b>15</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>Qf8</b>
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15 ... Bxh6 16 Qxh6 g5 would slam the door on my assault and imprison my queen. I have not seen this defence before and is maybe a reason to play g4-g5 before h4-h5. Something to remember!

<b>16</b>	<b>Bxg7</b>	<b>Qxg7</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>g5</b>	

This is still rated second best to 17 Nb5 but objective evaluation is probably subordinate to the psychological viewpoint. With defence uppermost in his ind, my opponent intends to fortify his kingside allowing me to survive longer. More time gained!

<b>17</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>Ba6</b>
<b>18</b>	<b>Be2</b>	<b>Qf8</b>
<b>19</b>	<b>hxc6</b>	

This move is an object lesson in relieving tension prematurely. What has happened to my patience? 19 Ng4 would freeze the knight on d7 and let 20 f4 rip open the files and dark squares without 20 ... exf4 making e5 an outpost for that piece.

<b>19</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>fxg6</b>
<b>20</b>	<b>Rh6</b>	

20 Rh4 would have much the same effect on the h file with allowing the queen swap.

<b>20</b>	<b>...</b>	<b>Qf4</b>
<b>21</b>	<b>Rdh1</b>	<b>Re7</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>Ng4</b>	<b>Rf8</b>
<b>23</b>	<b>R6h4</b>	<b>Qxd2+</b>

An endgame! Surely, I have managed to spin it out long enough. I have a small advantage and can expect to be able to play on beyond the other games in the match. By then, the result will have been decided and I cannot be held to blame.

<b>24</b>	<b>Kxd2</b>	
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I have let Black perform the exchange whereas Fritz advises that White should have played Qxf4 on all three occasions to save the tempo from my move 23. I worried about the hole on e5 after exf4 and the freedom given to the knight on d7 but as noted earlier, Black is not ready to exploit it.



24 ... Rc8

This move looks strange to me but it is well considered by Fritz. Its aim must be to support c7-c6 and facilitate Nc5-e6. It appeared a weakness to me and I decided to let it happen. I am in no hurry!

25 Ke3 c6

My eyes must have lit up at this point.

26 dxc6 Rxc6

27 Nd5 Rg7

Forced. If 27 ... Rf7, 28 Nh6+ and should the rook leave the second rank e.g. 27 ... Re8 28 Rxh7 leads quickly(!) to checkmate : 28 ... Rcc8 29 Rh8+ Kf7 30 R1h7+ Ke6 31 Rxe8+ Rxe8 32 Nc7# is the prettiest.

28 Ngf6+ Nxf6

Declining the knight exchange is better but still hopeless.

- 28 ... Rxh7 29 Rxh7+ Ke8 (29 ... Ke6 30 Re7#) 30 Ne7
- 28 ... Kh8 29 Rxh7+ etc.
- 28 ... Kf7 29 Rxh7
- 29 ... Nf8 30 Rxg7+ Kxg7 31 Ne7 Rc7 32 Ne8+
- 29 ... Rc8 30 Rxg7+ Kxg7 31 Rh7+ Kf8 32 Nxd7+
- 29 ... Nxf6 seems least decisive after 30 gxf6 Rxh7 31 Rxh7+ Ke8 but 32 f4 (threatening 33 f5 gxf5 34 Bh5+) 32 ... exf4+ 33 Nxf4 asks Black to escape 34 f7+ Kf8 35 Nxg6#.

29 gxf6 Rf7

30 Ne7+ Rxe7

31 fxe7 1-0

The passed pawn is isolated but decisive.

- 31 ... Kf7 32 Rxh7+ Ke8 33 Rg7
- 31... Rc8 32 Rxh7 Ne6 33 Rh8+ Kg7 34 Rxc8 Bxc8 35 e8Q.

## Eye Opener

Khodashenas (2405) v Mosadeghpour (2437)  
Iran 2016

1 d4 Nf6  
2 c4 g6  
3 f3 Nh5

Black's move violates opening principles which decry moving the same piece twice at such an early stage. This game shows that the direct refutation is not so simple.

4 g4 e5  
5 gxh5 Bb4+  
6 Kf2

Not 6 Nc3 Qh4+ 7 Kd2 exd4 which easily regains the sacrificed piece.

6 ... Qh4+  
7 Ke3

After 7 Kg2, Black can choose either 7 ... gxh5 when the open g file forces 8 Nh3 Rg8+ 9 Ng5 Rxg5 10 Bxg5 Qxg5 11 Kf2 exd4 or 7 ... Be1 8 Nh3 d6.

7 ... d5  
8 cxd5 Bf5



White is curiously powerless against the threat 9 ... Bc2 10 Qxc2 Qxd4#.

9 Nc3

Development at last! Black eventually won with 9 ... 0-0 but missed

9 ... Bc2  
10 Qd2 Bf8 0-1

The check on the c1-h6 diagonal is deadly.

Had I gone down in flames like that in the match, I would have had to walk home!