

Welcome to all our club members and occasional readers

This is the first edition of the ECF online weekly bulletin which we expect to issue approximately weekly with details of our upcoming events, results from ECF online club tournaments and articles of interest from members.

Upcoming Events

Our ECF online events for the upcoming week are as below:

Friday Evening Slow Blitz (Swiss) (ECF Members)
- 24/01 at 8-00 pm - 10|0 -

<https://www.chess.com/live#t=1141031>

Saturday Evening Blitz (lichess) (English Players)
- 25/10 at 8-00 pm - 5|5 -

<https://lichess.org/tournament/7H1PihLN>

Sunday Evening Rapid (ECF Members) - 26/01
at 7-30 pm - 15|10

<https://www.chess.com/live#r=158729>

Sunday Evening Bullet (English Players) - 26/01
at 9-00 pm - 1|0

<https://lichess.org/tournament/fB8pzxXC>

Wednesday Evening Blitz (English Players) -
29/01 at 7-30 pm - 3|2

<https://lichess.org/tournament/8yk4gJJq>

Our club memberships are now:

chess.com	Open club	1,170
chess.com	Members	162
lichess	English Players	128

Details and joining instructions can be found here as ever: <https://englishchessonline.org.uk/>

Bullet Chess – Our regular tournaments are a mix of rapid and blitz. These are relatively quick times controls but still too slow for some, and in response to multiple requests we held our first bullet event last Sunday evening (19/01) on lichess. <https://lichess.org/tournament/84fRUk2l>

Sunday is a popular day for bullet on lichess - especially after 9-00 pm – as the 'Speed Kings' settle in for the evening.

They say bullet isn't real chess which could be true but that perhaps misses the point. We certainly have some gems of bullet history - the highlight being the 2001 bullet immortal on ICC between GMs Roland Schmalz and Ronen Har-Zvi.

<https://www.chessgames.com/perl/chessgame?gid=1553589>



After a relatively quiet Vienna Game opening GM Har -Zvi (*thejoker*) playing with the Black pieces reaches the above position after GM Schmalz (*hawkeye*) plays 10 gf. This is where the fun starts. Can you see Har-Zvi's move and the follow up – and could you see it in a second or two? He saw the forcing line and the follow up moves and proceeded to demolish the unofficial bullet world champion of the day with a queen and multiple piece sacs and a forced White king march to the 8th rank accompanied by Black's remaining minor pieces. Har-Zvi checkmated the White King on move 24 with 29 seconds on his clock for the whole game.

There were some (almost) equally dramatic games on Sunday night with lichess ECF club member *cynosure* going on an unbeaten run of 27 games. If you go on a streak in lichess Arena matches you get double points for a win (4 rather than 2). *cynosure* ended up with

107 points from 29 games in the hour's tournament, comfortably ahead of **somethingpretentious** who came second with 59 points.

Nakamura's key tips for bullet are play an opening where you are very familiar with the positional ideas so you can get ahead on time, use lots of small improving moves, don't assume too much with pre-moves, choose your thinking time well, and of course - never resign!
<https://www.chess.com/article/view/7-bullet-chess-tips-by-hikaru>

Bullet is not for everyone but it's worth giving it a try at least once – in which case why not join the Speed Kings for our next bullet event which will be at the same time (9-30 pm) on Sunday 26th on lichess. This time we will try a 2|1 format which gives a little more time for planning and calculation - although not much!

The Weekly Patzer

By Patzer Master Peter Chaplin

In this weekly column I will discuss various things related to online chess and Blitz chess in particular.

Any feedback, comments or suggestions are always welcomed so please don't hesitate to get in touch

This week I take a look at a not very well known trap which arises in the Danish Gambit. Having the initiative in Blitz chess is very important as your opponents will have to use up their limited time to try and solve the problems you set them.

Offering the gambit of a pawn, or two or even sacrificing an entire piece are both excellent methods to generate a ready made initiative.

- 1 e4 e5**
- 2 d4 exd4**
- 3 c3 dxc3**
- 4 Bc4 cxb2**
- 5 Bxb2**



The well known starting position of the Danish gambit accepted. It should be obvious what White's compensation for the two pawns is and theory agrees with this visual assessment as Black normally always offers to return the pawns in return for reaching an endgame in which they hold a slight advantage.

5,...d5

If Black does not play this then you have double 'Sniper Power' with your Bishops and will be able to score a quick knockout or at worse at least go down fighting in a blaze of glory!

Helpful Hint: Bb4+ at some point over the next few moves before you have had a chance to 0-0 should be answered with Kf1

6,Bxd5 Nf6

White normally now continues with 7,Bxf7+ and after the following moves 7,...Kxf7 8,Qxd8 Bb4+ 9,Qd2 Bxd2 10, Nxd2 an endgame is reached where Black is slightly better but the result should probably still be a draw if both sides play accurately.

All fine and dandy but not very inspiring as White so instead of that it's far better to play a *Patzer* move!

7,Nc3!?



7,...Nxd5

8,Nxd5

Most opponents you face probably won't have seen this before and will now be thinking along the lines of "I'm a pawn up so let's kick the Knight and exchange Queens".

8,...c6??

9,Nf6+! With a winning advantage for White.



Next week I will present an interesting piece sacrifice that can occur if Black does not fall into the above trap and plays 8,...Nd7 instead. Whilst not 100% sound Black does have to be extremely careful and find a series of 'only moves' otherwise White will be able to score a quick knockout or escape with a draw.

Until next week wishing everyone good luck with their games and remember if you can't

play good moves then play your bad moves confidently!

Puzzle of the Week

You may have been hearing all about the Iranian super talent GM Alireza Firouzja exploits at Wijk aan Zee this week but for our puzzle we take a look back at his 'Immortal Blitz Game' played in 2018 on chess.com against one of the strongest Blitz players of all time Hikaru Nakamura.

Here is the critical position after White's 20th move pawn to c5



What did Firouszja (Black) now play and what was the follow on?

Helpful Hint: it may not be the move you first think of - but it seals Nakamura's fate .

Dont worry if you can't solve it as all will be revealed next week including the move and the follow up!

Good luck in your online club games for the coming week!

Also do please contact the editors if you would like to provide material for the Newsletter – including a favourite online club game, opening, middle or endgame themes and ideas, and chess puzzles or studies.

ECF Online Newsletter

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