

Welcome to all our club members and occasional readers

This is the second edition of our weekly bulletin. This week we have details of upcoming club and International events, results from last weeks club tournaments, the second in our Patzer master series on the Danish, and a second problem position from the Blitz Immortal.

Upcoming Events

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

Friday Evening Slow Blitz (Swiss) (ECF Members)
- 31/01 at 8-00 pm – 10|0

<https://www.chess.com/live#r=159547>

Saturday Evening Blitz (lichess) (English Players)
– 01/02 at 8-00 pm – 5|5

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

Sunday Evening Rapid (ECF Members) – 02/02
at 7-30 pm – 15|10

<https://www.chess.com/live#r=159550>

Sunday Evening Bullet (English Players) – 02/02
at 9-00 pm – 1.5|0

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

Wednesday Evening Blitz (English Players) –
05/02 at 7-30 pm – 5|2

<https://lichess.org/tournament/V7o6n65e>

International

The English Players club is a member of the Association of (National) lichess Clubs. The club will be playing in lichess Cup of Nations team battles going forwards and we will add fixtures to the schedule as the dates are agreed.

The ECF also endorses the Team England Live (TEL) Club on chess.com and we will keep you posted on TEL fixtures in the Live Chess European League (Season 1) – currently in progress - and World League (Season 5) – which is due to start shortly.

We are also organising an England USA (ECF Members v USCF Members) match on chess.com

for Sunday 9th Feb and will publish details on the ECF Members club site once the fixture has been finalised.

Our club memberships are now:

chess.com	Open club	1,266
chess.com	Members	171
lichess	English Players	138

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

Last Week's Results

Last weeks ECF club tournaments and results were as below.

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

<https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/ecf-friday-evening-slow-blitz-1141031>

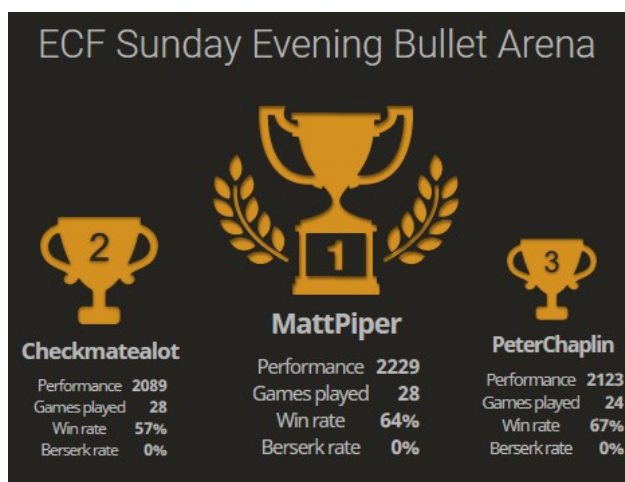
Saturday Evening Blitz (lichess) (English Players)
– 25/10 at 8-00 pm – 5|5

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

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

<https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/ecf-sunday-evening-blitz-1139749>

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



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

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

The Weekly Patzer

By Patzer Master Peter Chaplin

Last week I showed a trap that can occur in the Danish Gambit after the moves 1,e4 e5 2,d4 exd4 3,c3 dxc3 4,Bc4 cxb2 5,Bxb2 d5 6,Bxd5 Nf6 7, Nc3!? Nxd5 8,Nxd5 c6 9,Nf6+ with a winning advantage for White...

I suggested that this might be a good line to try out in Blitz games because White has an easy to play ready made initiative and it will be difficult for Black to solve all the problems if they are unfamiliar with the line.

This week I should like to show an interesting piece sacrifice that can occur if Black does not fall into the above mentioned trap and plays instead the move 8,...Nd7 (it should be mentioned here that Black doesn't really have any other moves apart from this that doesn't either lose outright or give him a bad game) play now continues...

9, Nf3 c6 (again this is the only move that keeps Black's advantage)

10, 0-0 (sacrificing the Knight which must be accepted) 10,...cxd5

11, exd5

When the following position is reached where White has regained his pawns and has a huge lead in development as compensation for the knight.



Black must now play **11,...Be7** as pretty much everything else loses as you can confirm with your engine.

12, Bxg7 Rg8

13, Re1 (a nice feature of this line is that White never retreats at any point! Every move is always a forward facing move.)

Black now has two moves either **(A)** 13,... Nb6 or **(B)** 13,...Rxc7 anything else loses. As before I will leave you to check that for yourselves with your engines.

(A)

13,...Nb6 (The choice of Stockfish and so safe to assume Black's best move)

14, d6 Be6 (14,...Rxc7 is not good now because 15,Rxe7+ Kf8 16,Qd4! gives White enough compensation for the piece)

15, Nd4 (another forward facing move!)

15,...Rxc7 ('only' move again)

16, Nxe6 fxe6

17, Rxe6 Qd7

18,Qb3! I like this move as it now forces Black to find another 'only move'.

18,...Kf8 nothing else can help Black as your engine will again confirm.

19, dxe7+ Rxe7

20, Rxe7 Qxe7

21, Rd1



And here White is technically 'bust'.

However there are still plenty of swindling

chances for a perpetual check or even a *patzer mate* (if you're very lucky) with the open position of Black's King... for example **21,...Rd8? 22,Qf3+** and draw! Check it on the engine.

You should have a big time advantage at least by this point though which will greatly improve your chances of pulling the swindle off!

(B)

13,...Rxc7
14, d6 Nb6
15, Rxe7+ Kf8
16, Qd4! And we have transposed into the note for Black's 14th move in variation A above where White has sufficient compensation as once again the engine will confirm!

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 (continued)

Last week we looked at the 'Immortal Blitz Game' played in 2018 on chess.com at 3|0 time control between the Iranian GM Firousza and 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 Alireza Firousza (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 .

Firousza played the simple interference sacrifice



21..d5, sacrificing the bishop on g3 and breaking the lines of communication in W's position. Nakamura played 22 cb taking the free piece. Play continued: 22.. Nxc7 offering a second piece which Nakamura refuses (although the second capture would have been playable with more time to calculate). Nakamura plays the safe looking Nd4 to reach the position below and setup the winning combination for the Iranian GM.



What did Firousza play in the above position to force the win and what was Nakamura's reaction?

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

Contributing Editors

Nigel Towers
Peter Chaplin (the Patzer Master)