

Welcome to all our club members and occasional readers

This is the fifth edition of our weekly bulletin. This week we have details of upcoming club, results from last week's club and International tournaments, and our board 1's game against NM Sam Copeland in the ECF USCF match.

Upcoming Events

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

Friday Evening Slow Blitz (Swiss) (ECF Members)
– 21/02 at 8-00 pm – 10|0

<https://www.chess.com/live#r=163895>

Saturday Evening Slow Blitz (lichess) (English Players) – 22/02 at 8-00 pm – 10|0

<https://lichess.org/tournament/6Vi7DkoL>

Sunday Evening Rapid (ECF Members) – 23/02 at 7-30 pm – 15|10

<https://www.chess.com/live#t=1149407>

Wednesday Evening Blitz (English Players) – 26/02 at 7-30 pm – 5|2

<https://lichess.org/tournament/UvTD7Zao>

Internationals

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 the monthly Cup of Nations challenges to the schedule as the dates are agreed.

<https://lichess.org/blog/XhDYRRQAACIAYX0a/stramer-team-battle>

The ECF also endorses the Team England Live (TEL) Club on chess.com for fixtures in the Live Chess European League (Season 1) - and World League (Season 5).

We will also be organising one off matches against other national federations.

Our Club memberships

Our memberships continue to grow with numbers as follows:

chess.com	Open club	2,266
chess.com	Members	200
lichess	English Players	161

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)
- 14/02 at 8-00 pm – 10|0

<https://www.chess.com/tournament/live/arena/ecf-friday-evening-slow-blitz-162982>

Saturday Evening Slow Blitz (lichess) (English Players) – 15/02 at 8-00 pm – 5|5

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



Sunday Evening Slow Blitz (ECF Members) – 16/02 at 7-30 pm – 15|10

Replaced by International

Wednesday Evening Blitz (English Players) – 18/02 at 7-30 pm – 3|2

<https://lichess.org/tournament/w8s51AFk>

International Weekend – 15th -16th Feb 2020

There were some big English wins in our first Online International Weekend on Saturday and Sunday 15th – 16th February.

The English players team came first in our [lichess Nations Cup Group Stage Team Battle](https://lichess.org/tournament/t2avr1D9) on 15th Feb some way ahead of the Russian and Spanish teams in second and third.

<https://lichess.org/tournament/t2avr1D9>

We went on to win the final at 2-00 pm on Sunday 16th Feb ahead of the Mongolian Team in second, Russians in third and Turkey in fourth followed by 5 other national teams.

Rank	Team	Player	Rating
1	English Chess Players	Bucks_Pugwalker 42+41 +40+27+26	176
2	SKY-MONGOL	borjigin 21+13+10+8+4	56
3	Россия. Russia.	Barlog 10+9+8+6+4	37
4	Türkiye	blackburnemedy 10+6 +5+4+2	27

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

There were nine national teams taking part in all (England, Russia, Turkey, Kenya, Nigeria, Brazil, Ecuador, Mongolia, and Japan). As with the group stage this was a one hour arena Blitz event with a 3|0 time control. Players were paired with players from opposing teams as they completed games.

We also won the [chess.com](https://www.chess.com) England-USA International fixture between ECF Members and

USCF Members on Sunday evening.

There were 17 boards in total with two games of 15/10 rapidplay per board with colours reversed between rounds.

<https://www.chess.com/club/matches/live/english-chess-federation-members/6091/games>



We had a strong ECF team with Robert Starley and IM Tim Wall on the top two boards. The teams had similar ratings and it was always going to be very competitive.

The English team took an early lead in round one which we maintained despite a late comeback from the US players, so that we won the event with 18.5 points against the US team's 15.5 total. There were some very close and hard fought games across all boards.

NM Sam Copeland played on board 1 for the US and provided a live stream for his first game against our board 1 – Robert Starley. You can find the commentary on Sam's twitch channel [twitch.tv/samcopeland](https://www.twitch.tv/samcopeland)

at

<https://www.twitch.tv/videos/553054288>

Robert lost in the endgame in round 1 but managed to win his second round match against Sam. Here is his second round game with commentary.

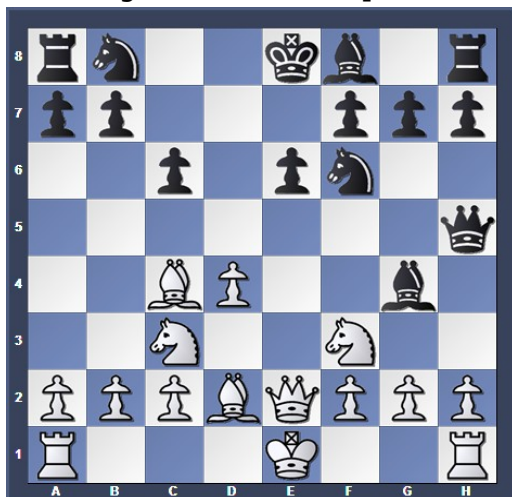
Copeland, Sam (2036) – Robert Starley (1961) [B01]

Live Chess Chess.com (2.1), 16.02.2020

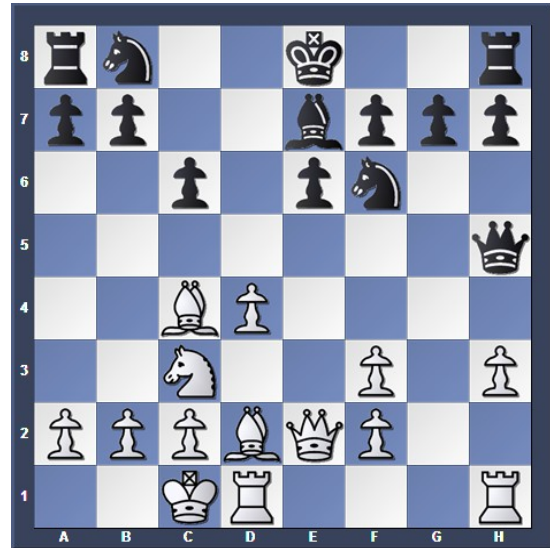
[Robert Starley] - I was playing in a county match in Lancashire on Sunday (which we won!) so I was happy to be back on the right side of the Pennines in time to play in this match as well. Somewhat surprisingly, I found myself playing on board 1 against National Master Sam Copeland, rated around 100 points above me both online and in the real world. The first game was pretty interesting as my opponent sacrificed a pawn for some positional compensation but I'm not going to discuss that here for 2 reasons, firstly because I'm still annoyed that I lost an ending I should have drawn, and secondly because I don't think I can add a lot to the excellent commentary provided by my opponent on his Twitch channel -

<https://www.twitch.tv/videos/553054288>

So, here's my second game against him in which I try to get my revenge. 1.e4 d5 2.exd5 Qxd5 3.Nc3 Qa5 4.Bc4 [4.d4 is, of course, the main line here but I've had what he played a few times before; people seem to quite trying it to get me out of my comfort zone a bit.] 4...Nf6 5.d4 Bg4 6.Nf3 e6 7.Bd2 Qh5 8.Qe2!? [It is more natural, and probably objectively better, to break the pin with 8.Be2 Nc6 9.h3 Bd6 ? but I guess he was already having visions of attacking me down the g-file in the future.] 8...c6



Secures b5 [I also considered 8...Nc6 but I didn't really like that he could reply 9.Bb5 =] 9.0-0-0 Be7 10.h3 Bxf3 11.gxf3

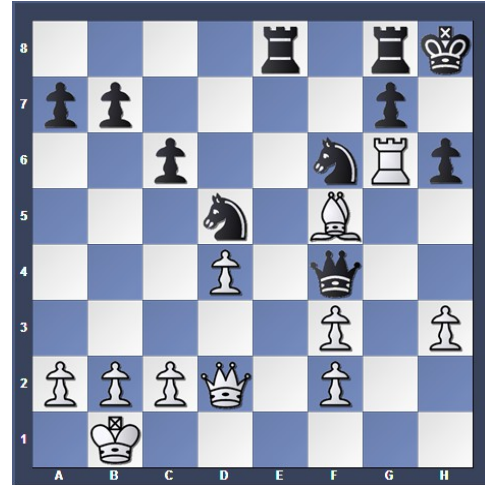


White has the pair of bishops and can attack down the g-file at the cost of ruining his pawn structure. 11...0-0 Castling into the attack somewhat but I preferred that to going queenside in the future when my c-pawn has moved and he has Bf4. 12.Rdg1 Nd5 13.Ne4 Nd7 14.Kb1?! A bit slow, there's no reason not to continue attacking me with [14.h4 f6 15.Bd3 +-] 14...h6?!

[14...b5 15.Bd3 Nb4 16.Bxb4 Bxb4 17.h4 ±] 15.Rg3? [15.h4! intending Ng3 when my queen is rather short of squares would have been much better for white. Probably I would have had to play some horrible anti-positional move like 15...f5 16.Nc3 +-] 15...Kh8 16.Rhg1 Rg8 17.Rg4? [17.Re1!? ?] 17...f5



Qxg6] 21...Rae8 22.Qd3 Bxd2 23.Qxd2 N7f6
24.Bd3 Qe7 The rook is trapped so the rest was
simple. 25.Bxf5 Qxd6 26.Rg6 Qf4



I guess he overlooked this move judging by the amount of time he spent here and his subsequent reply.

18.Ng3?? Now I simply win material but it's would not have been so clear if he had found the line I was a bit worried about in the game: [18.Rg6! Nf8 (18...fxe4 19.fxe4 Qxe2 20.Bxe2 N5b6 21.Bxh6 is the point when I can't recapture without getting mated) 19.R6g2 fxe4 20.fxe4 Qxe2 21.Bxe2 =] 18...Qf7 19.Nxf5 exf5 [19...Qxf5?! 20.Bd3 Qf7 21.Bg6 ?] 20.Rg6

The most precise move which forced resignation.

I guess he was hoping for one last cheap trick with e. g.[26...a6?? 27.Rxh6+ gxh6 28.Qxh6+ Nh7 29.Qxh7#] 0-1



ECF Online Newsletter

Contributing Editors

Nigel Towers

Peter Chaplin

20...Bg5! Although I should easily win a piece up, white still has quite a dangerous attack so I must be careful. Therefore I was happy to find this nice move which stops his plans and traps the rook, forcing further exchanges. [20...Rae8? for example allows 21.Bxh6] 21.Rd6 [21.Bxg5?