



B.S.C.C.

The Bishop's Stortford Chess Club



Simultaneous / All V leuan Report

Thursday 4th October 2018

What an incredible turnout for this year's Simultaneous! The grand total of 18 players lined up, all with the white pieces, against 'little old' me. Whilst the little part may be pushing the bounds of credibility, the old part has started ringing more true at this annual event – rather than me being the youngest player at the club when I joined 7 years ago, I believe half tonight's participants qualified as young upstarts!

So how did the challengers fare compared to last year's 12/14? Let's review (with some appropriate diagrams to boot)!

First, I should mention the time control – 75 mins each. This works well for 12 players but was actually quite a factor for 18, as not only did I have less time, I also was so busy going around that I did not start looking at the clock situation until it was too late.

Second, being black led to my opponents generally having middle-games they were familiar with, which meant several games were decided in the endgame, which is a pleasant change.

Third, I assume Alan was true to his word and turned up the day before, but apparently he played black and was disqualified.

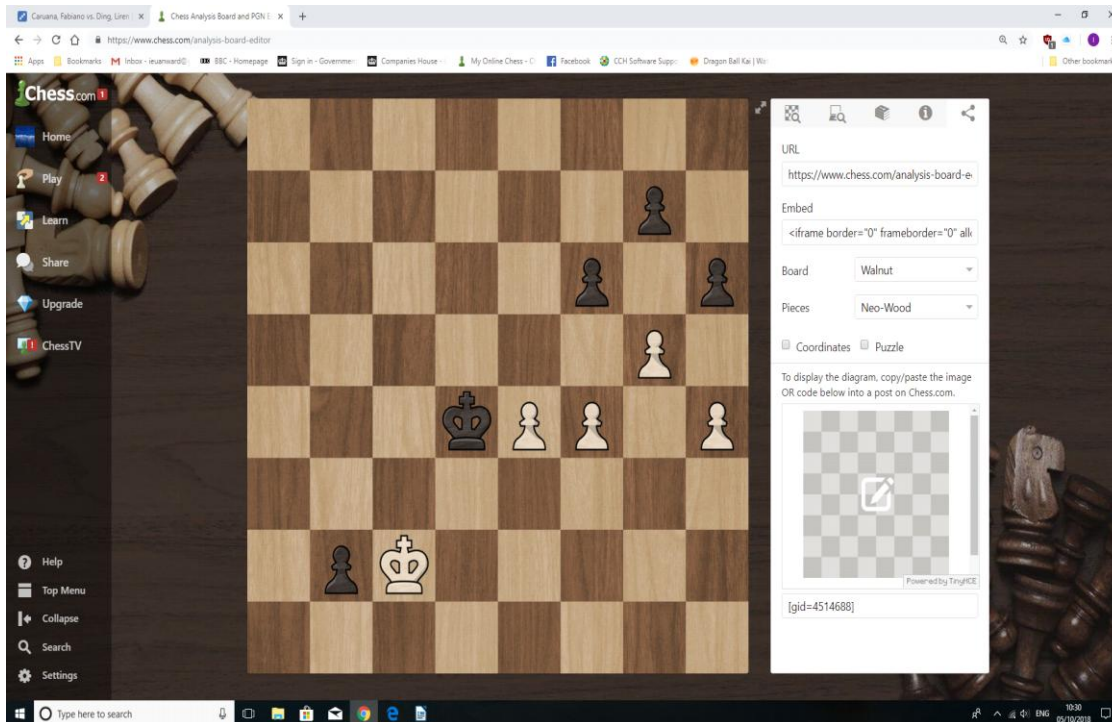
Alex (the younger) – played a really solid game, developed nicely and had a decent position until he let me start picking off his queenside pawns with my queen. I won an exchange and then proceeded to queen a pawn. However, when I checked the clocks I only had about a minute left to checkmate him as he had been moving so quickly (and possibly something to do with changing the clock or adjusting it when it stopped working!) With the innocence of youth, Alex kept making moves up to checkmate rather than wait for me to wander away to other boards – a lesson for all of us, students and teachers alike (you know who you are!).

Hanako – she has actually played real chess recently in two rapid plays. 2/6 in Richmond was a good first tournament but 0/5 in the Cambridge Rapid Play was tougher. Pieces were developed, as taught to her by her excellent coach, but then she gave away her rook, which isn't in the training manual. Luckily, 'Daddy rule number 3' was invoked and she was allowed to take the move back, leading to a more prolonged struggle. However, despite pleas to "give me your bishop", I proceeded to checkmate her as quickly as possible. Cruel to be kind.

Neil – a Nimzo-Indian (d4 Nf6 c4 e6 Nc3 Bb4) where for a brief moment I thought I had the common Qg6 and Bh3 tactic but overlooked the possible reply Qxb7 protecting g2. So instead everything got swapped off down to a single rook each, but I had hope the queenside pawn majority (a + b pawns vs a pawn, against e,f,g,h, vs f,g,h, pawns on the kingside) might lead to something. Neil found the correct defense of pushing his pawns, including the move e5 in the position below.

Unfortunately, a moment of haste and a simple draw became a tough queen ending became a lost king and pawn ending.

...	fxe5
f5!	hxg5
hxg5	e4
f6	e3
f7? (fxg7=)	e2
f8=Q	b1=Q+
Kxb1	e1=Q+
Ka2	Qa5+
Qa3??	Qxa3+
Kxa3	...



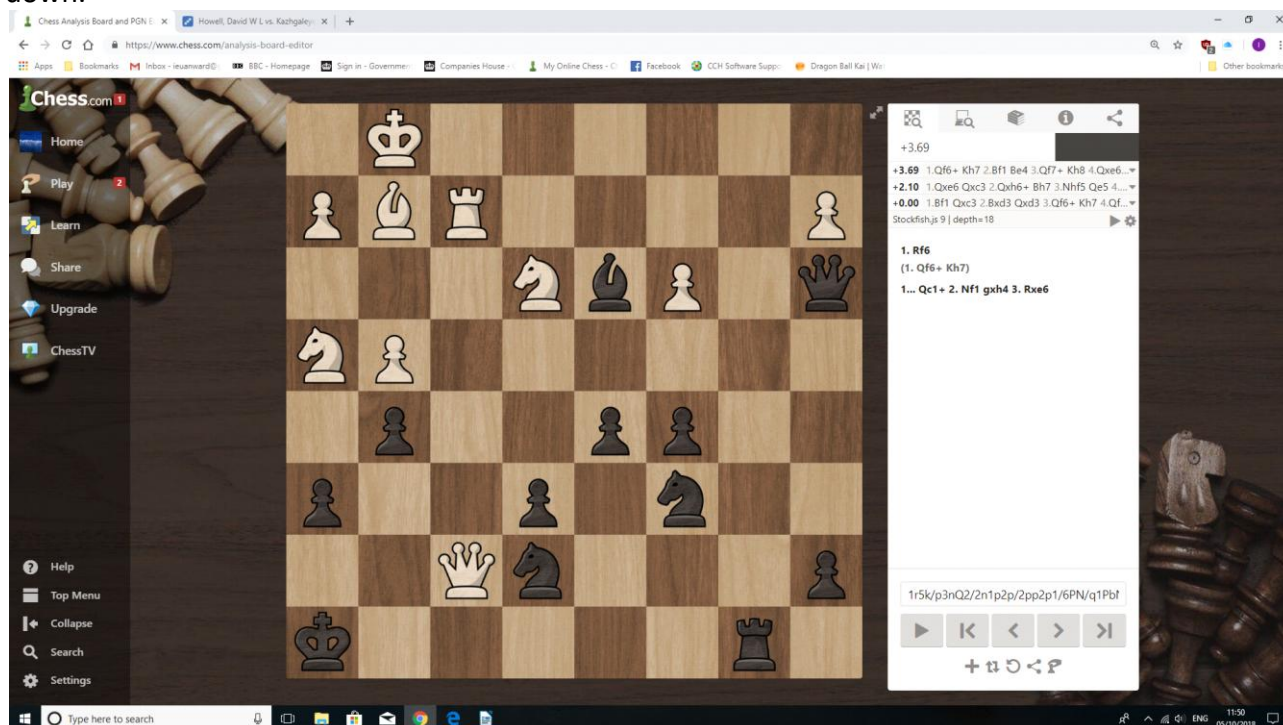
Alex (the young but elder) – I am sure Alex has a name for the opening (which may or may not be correct!), but all I know is it started with e4 c5 Nc3 Nc6 Bb5 Nd4. His knight got to b5 and created a few moments of uncertainty as things got quite tactical. I saw my way through the mess and emerged a piece up. Alex had to leave early so graciously resigned – a true gentleman in the traditional spirit of the game.

Kaiya – playing online when he can, Kaiya played an excellent OTB game. A QGD position where I was trying to deliver checkmate with a white-squared bishop on e4, Queen on g6 and Rook on d2. Good defence staved off the attack and I decided to sacrifice the exchange for a pawn – a passed pawn on d3. He continued to defend everything but after much manoeuvring I grabbed the f-pawn in return for swapping queens into what was a decent ending. A passed g-pawn teamed up with the passed d-pawn and overloaded the rook to force a queen. Despite being down to a minute, checkmate followed shortly.

Adam – e4 c5 Bc4. I have no idea what this variation is called (no doubt Alex can assist), but it was one of many different responses to the Sicilian on the night. I shut the bishop out with e6 and d5, weakened his kingside by provoking f3 and got all my pieces into decent positions to begin the assault. Somehow his knight on b1 never got into the game, so it was looking good. I then cunningly blundered a pawn to lift his spirits, followed by actually offering a pawn to gain more momentum for the attack. Luckily it worked, as a pawn on h3, knight on e5 and Queen on d5 came together to cause resignation.

Gary – a Closed Sicilian with an unusual and interesting Nh3. That apart, we followed the usual setups for both sides until it was time for things to explode in the middle. With my queen offside, the tactics looked to be favourable for white and it seemed inevitable that a kingside breakthrough would win the game, as

my king was so exposed. In the position below Qf6+ and the slow Bf1 give white +3.7, but Gary played Rf6 going for mate. Qc1+ Nf1 gxh4! turns the tables to +5 for black, as h6 is defended and white is a piece down.



Lee – the first new face of the evening, putting up admirable resistance. I won an exchange and then he simply let me take his knight on f3, giving me a whole rook advantage. Pushing his queenside pawns did, however, create a passed c pawn that got all the way to c7 and provided tactical chances to go wrong. Having sidestepped the traps, I was eventually able to deliver checkmate with queen and rook. A solid first effort!

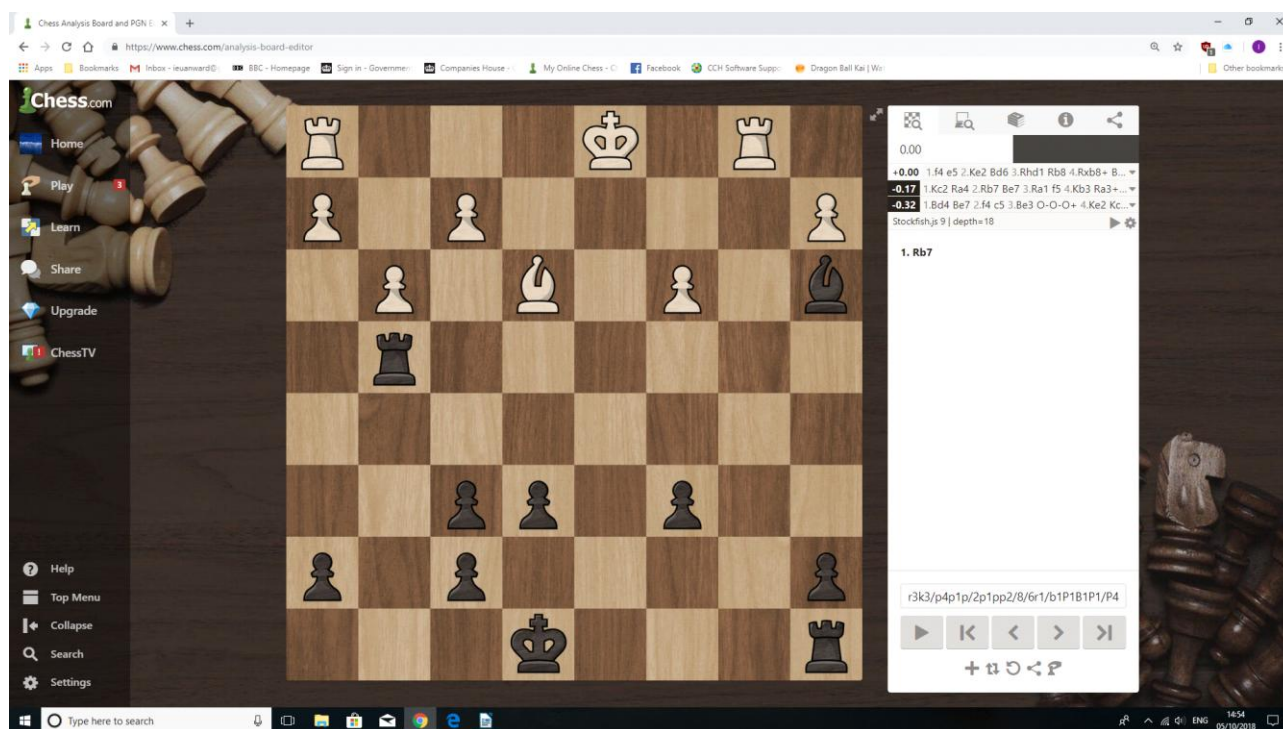
Pete – in a d4 opening I set up with d6 g6 Bg7 Nf6 Nbd7 Re8 etc. to go for an e5 break. Pete played the interesting d5 to stop this, but after cxd5 cxd5 his d5 pawn became weak. After some shenanigans on the queenside to soften things up, the d-pawn did drop and I started to infiltrate the queenside. Then I looked at the clock, which showed I had about 9 minutes left to his 50! This rather unnerved me as it was the first time I had even thought about the clocks. I believe after this observation I proceeded to blunder in two other games in an effort to speed up. Shortly afterwards Pete gave me a free rook, but having done a few more circuits I realised it was impossible to make the requisite moves to finish the game in the time left, so I resigned.

Charles – another anti-Sicilian, e4 c5 f4 d5. Just as we were nearing full development Charles took a pawn on c5 that led to him having a rook and pawn for 2 minor pieces. Usually favourable for the two minors, it proved easier to play my position. A passed a-pawn was created that tied down his rook and king, giving free rein for my king to invade the kingside. A tactical slip gave me the rook and the game.

Ray – a decent opening phase from Ray saw us emerge on even terms. For a moment it appeared he had a potentially dangerous kingside attack but a timely prod of his queen drove him (and her) back. Once the kingside attack wasn't on any more Ray decided to consolidate by castling kingside himself. Alas, the h4 pawn that had been so eager to march up board was stranded and Qxh4 not only won a pawn but simultaneously turned the tables as mate was threatened on h2. Rather than continue the battle, Ray resigned.

Laurie – yet another anti-Sicilian, the Alapin variation e4 c5 c3. This one had a bit of a twist to it, as Laurie played his knight to e2 rather than f3. Apparently this is a good line for white, but as I am struggling to recreate the move order I still do not know why! I won a pawn after the opening phase but then failed to

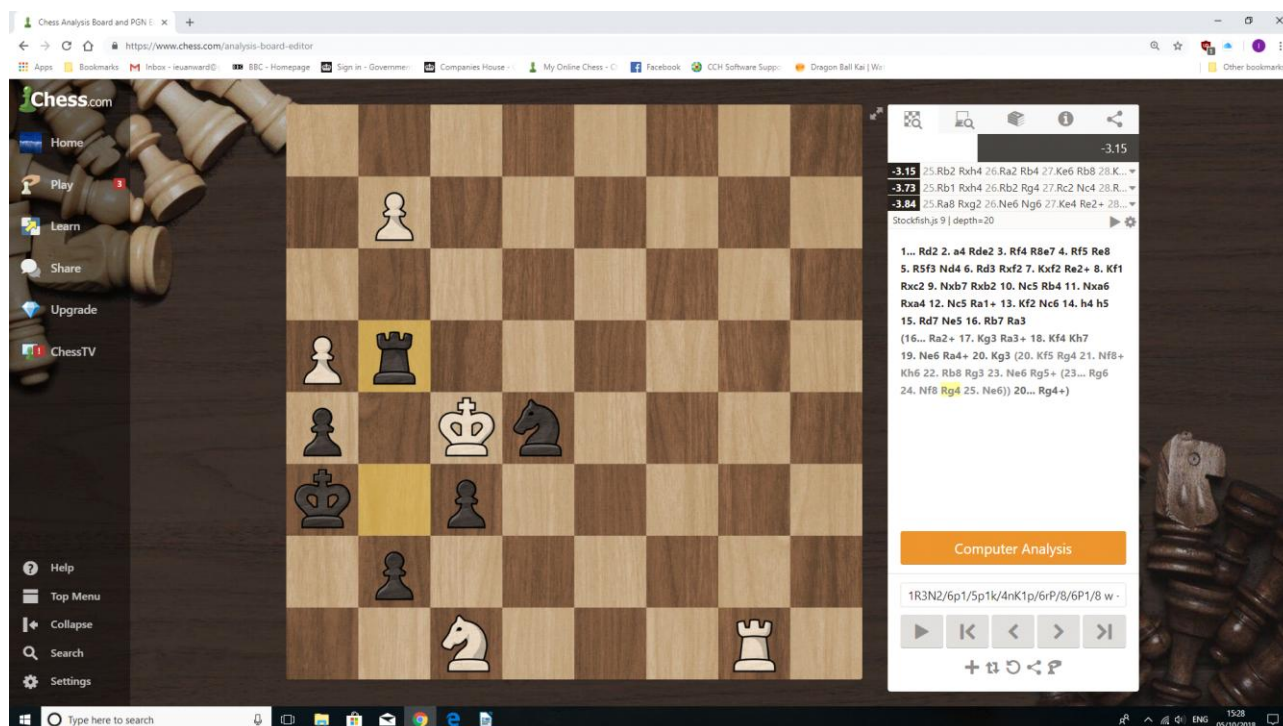
consolidate properly, messing around with Rg8-g4 instead of just castling. Laurie got developed, had a nice b-file to infiltrate my position and the computer gives equality despite the pawn deficit. However, he was thwarted by unknown rules of chess! White to play a normal move and lose (see below)!



That's right, the natural looking rook to the seventh loses to castles queenside, check! Unfortunately Laurie thought this was an illegal move, which it isn't since the king does not travel through check!

Luke – the second new face of the night, but he was pulling no punches as he launched an early a4! Luckily I am not easily perturbed and developed everything normally preparing for an all-important e5 push. Luke decided not to exchange on e5, perhaps overlooking my next push to e4 forking knight and bishop. Luke castled queenside and launched all his kingside pawns forward, winning a pawn or two. Ultimately though he took one pawn too many and lost his bishop and the game.

Lou – the third newcomer of the evening and one of only two players to play a 'proper' Sicilian. Lots of the usual moves ensued but as I could equalise comfortably after my d5 push, white probably lost a tempo somewhere compared to the main lines. My rooks infiltrated the second rank and my knight was also allowed to enter the game with tempo, which looked threatening but was still technically equal. Ultimately I won an extra pawn leading to a R+N+3P vs R+N+2P battle on the kingside.

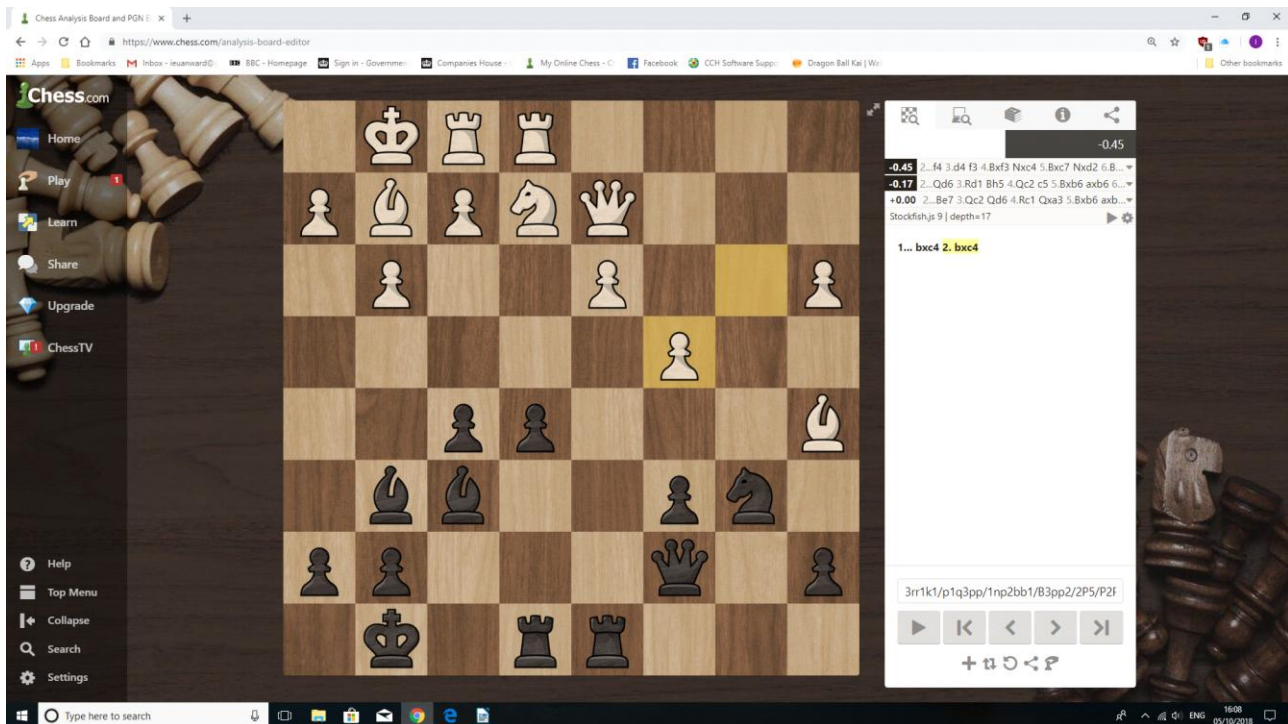


We reached this position, but perpetual/mate can be avoided by Ne6 Ng6, winning h4 with check and g2 to follow. White therefore resigned.

Tim – through an unusual move order we eventually ended up in a symmetrical English type structure. The strange thing was though that I was the first to play Rb8 and b5, whilst typically white has this advantage. My pieces found some holes in white's position but I wasn't sure it was enough to win any material, Soon after my Bishop got to d3 pinning the e2 knight to the Rook on f1 and rather than let things open up Tim sacrificed the exchange. I invaded down the a-file with queen and rook, just narrowly seeing some knight forks in time along the way, and with Tim tied down I could push my d-pawn towards the queening square, which proved enough.

Will – 1. b4!! The Orang-utang or Sokolov opening. I played with a QGD set-up to start with (e6 d5 Nf6) but wanted to avoid playing c5 and bxc5 as that is usually what white wants. After an e5 break Will pushed his f4 pawn to f5 instead of exchanging. This was very double-edged and after a bit of shuffling I thought I had gotten into the squares around his king with a good position. However, next thing I knew I had lost a piece on c6 to some uncovered attack by his queen on c1, after which the position was hopelessly lost. Simply a blunder! It was such an offbeat opening that I can't even begin to reconstruct the position, so no way to check how good (or bad possibly) my position was.

Mark – the only e4 d5 of the night. I should have played the Sicilian! Mark went for a less aggressive d3 rather than the usual d4, so both sides could develop in relative peace. I was getting ready to make a break in the centre when Mark launched his pawn to c4. After bxc4 bxc4 I had a complete oversight in the following position:-



For some reason I thought Nxc4 Bxc7 Nxd2 Bxd8 Rxd8 wins the exchange back and is close to winning (it is!), but....completely missed the simple Nxc4 dxc4 Rxd2 Bxc7 winning a piece. Maybe I thought my queen was protected.

Well, I lost the knight, lost another pawn and then lost on time!

Judith – and finally, ladies, erm, last. The other proper Sicilian of the night. The thing with the Sicilian is, unlike openings such as the Ruy Lopez, Caro-Kann etc. , if white plays passively they can get crushed. This is one very good reason why I switched from the French. Judith played all the correct general developing moves but as white you really need to be doing something – clamping down on d5, breaking with f4, attacking with h4 and g4 etc. - but if you don't, black gets his pieces into good spots, the c-file can become a good target and it is always a sign of black doing well if he plays d5. The moral of this story is that with h3, a3 and a couple of other moves you will be in trouble without seeming to have done anything wrong. This happened to Judith as first I probed down the c-file, then launched d5 and even got to d4. A couple of pawns were won and Judith resigned as she had had enough of her position!

Thanks for the games everyone!

Overall result **15 wins, 3 losses.**

Ievan Ward