

Rugeley vs Manchester Juniors B

Round 2 of 4NCL online had Rugeley paired up with Manchester Juniors B. My first impression of this lot was: Interesting, they took on a team last weekend that out rated them on every board and won. We were in for some trouble.

Second thought when I found out who their captain (another arbiter who likes to cause trouble) was lets ave em.

Their team composition and ours was the same as last week. Steve Whatmore on 1, Matt Carr on 2, Luke Sullivan on 3 and Ryan Wood on 4. This was going to be a good one and it certainly was.

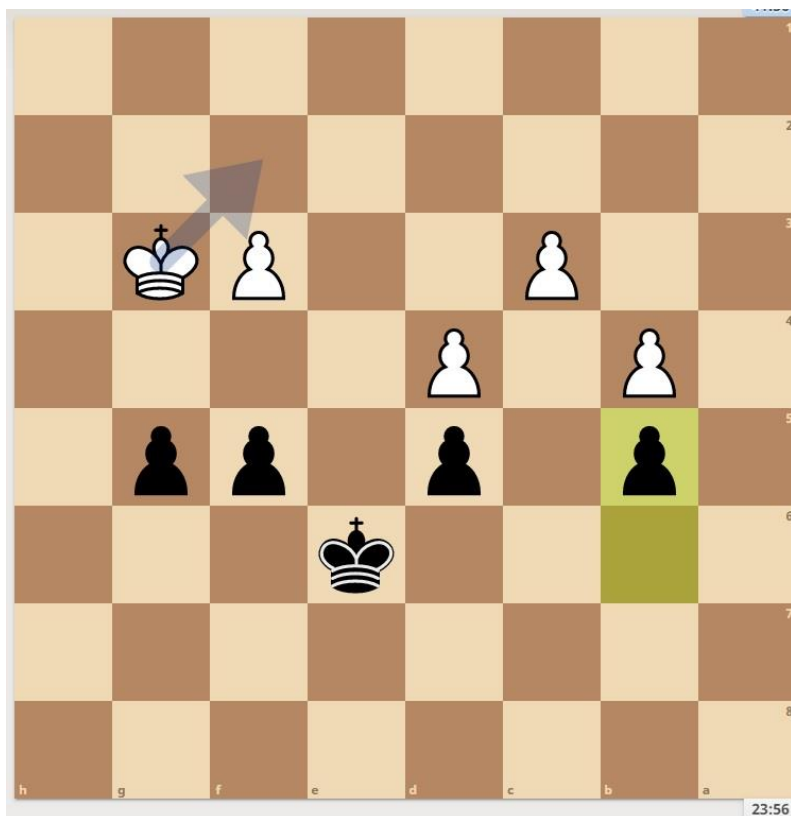
		Manchester Juniors B	1490		Rugeley	1604
601	w	Jackson, Edward (<i>EdJ_Chesss</i>)	1712 e	-	Whatmore, Steve (<i>SteveWhatmore</i>)	1817 c
602	b	Jayawarna, Tarini (<i>RookNN</i>)	1520	-	Carr, Matthew (<i>mattcarr2600</i>)	1692
603	w	Fairclough, William (<i>ChattyPeanut13</i>)	1412 c	-	Sullivan, Luke (<i>death2rooks93</i>)	1585 c
604	b	Jayawarna, Thisumi (<i>RookM</i>)	1316	-	Wood, Ryan (<i>RyanWood01</i>)	1322 c

Those ratings are a little deceptive from the opponents. The Jayawarna sisters are using FIDE ratings, the other two are using conversions. Matt's opponents ECF was 134 (the same grade as him) and Ryan's opponent is 125 and an England Junior for that matter. They're stronger than they look on paper, but then so are we.

Steve was the first game to finish. The game was over reasonably quickly and Steve chose to meet his opponents e4 starting move with the Caro-Kann: classical variation. Steve's opponent managed to exchange off the light squared bishop and advance his knights into the centre. Perhaps thinking that the bishop pair might be better in the endgame? Well we eventually would up in this position:

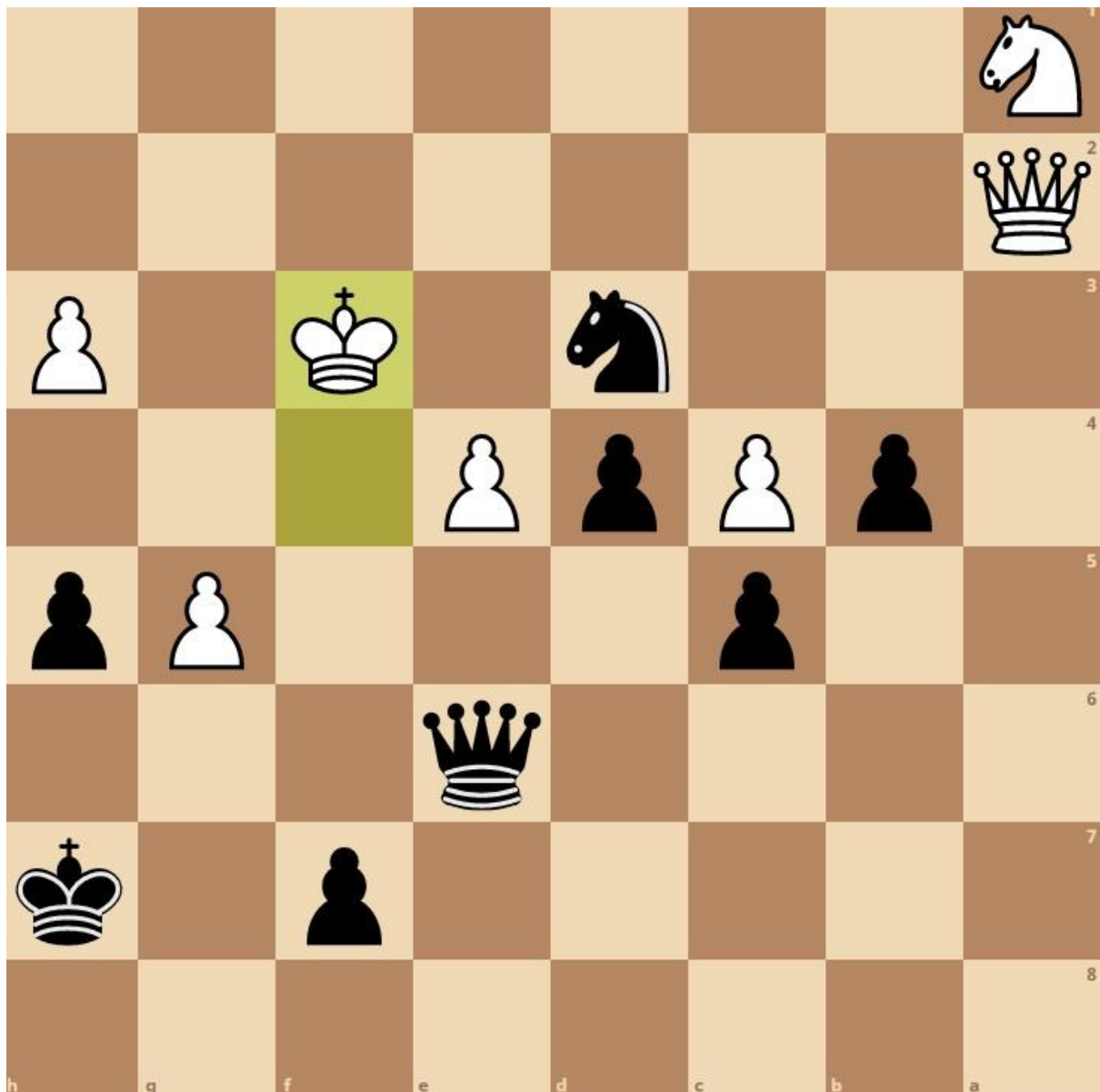


The game continued with both players swapping off the rooks and the kings coming into the game in the centre. White attempted to push his kingside pawns but the attack was successfully nullified. White then tried his luck on the queenside but no help there. Both sides were doing their best to make use of their pawn majorities. But both sides ran out of gas in this position and called it a draw.



Rugeley ½-½ Manchester Juniors B

Luke's game was the next to finish. He chose to use the Black Lion defence, his favourite weapon of choice these days and he did not disappoint. Luke went on a rampage of the queenside, opening lines for his rook, queen and bishop to get into the game and advance his pawns well into the enemy position. Only compensation the opponent managed to get was a passed pawn which he used to try and make Luke feel a little uncomfortable. The pawn made it all the way to a6 with two rooks backing it up but that was as far as it was going. After some positional jousting and jiggling of the position Luke removed the problem a pawn and went on a direct attack of the enemy king. The pressure proved a little too much for the opponent winding up in this position:



Puzzle time: How did Luke take advantage of his opponent? Solution at the end.

After this attack succeeded Luke went on to win a few moves later. Well done Luke

Rugeley 1½ - ½ Manchester Juniors B

Ryan was the next game to finish, bear in mind we had been going for about an hour and a half now.

This was a game and a half. This game was out of book by move 4! Started as a London System, moved to a Queens Gambit and the computer considers it an Indian game after that. Both sides were well developed by move 11 and then the fun begins.

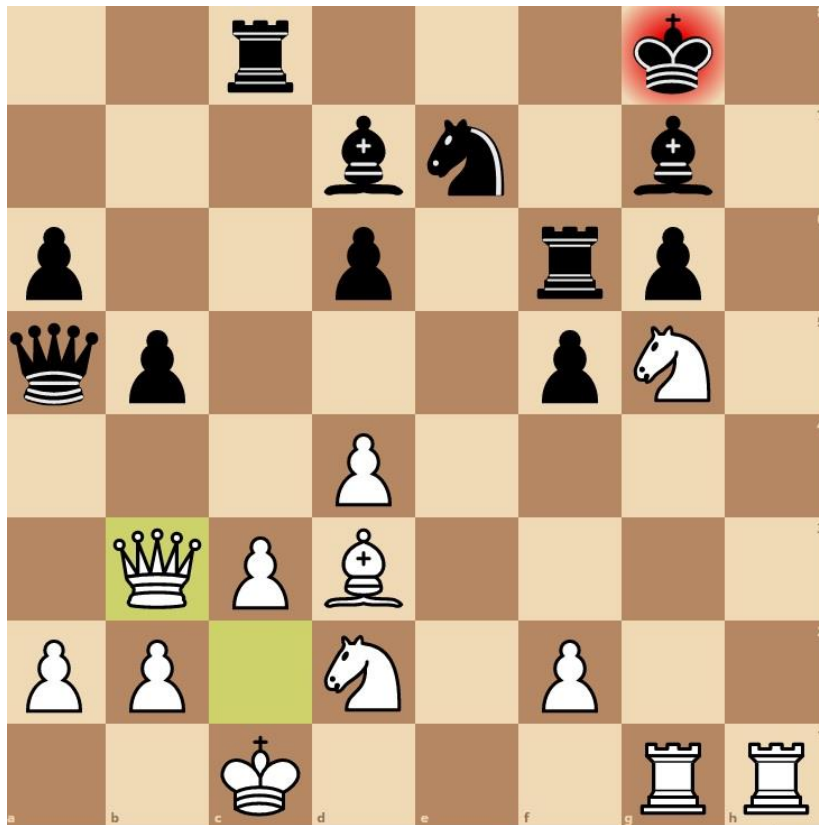


Both sides were fighting hard for a positional advantage, Ryan deciding to attack on the queenside black manipulating her pieces through the central dark squares. Sadly this manoeuvre was exactly what was needed as on move 21 that bishop on g7 managed to fork both of Ryan's rooks. Ryan kept the pressure hard on the opponent after that, getting his last rook into the position and his bishop to push the d pawn down to the queening square. The opponent persisted very well. Bringing her king into the position, one rook stopping the pawn and the other trying to attack other parts of the board. Once Ryan's last rook came off then it was trouble. The king stood next to the pawn making sure it couldn't go forward while their rook picked off Ryan's pawns one by one. Eventually there was no way to stop a pawn queening and Ryan resigned. Well fought Ryan, a very good game.

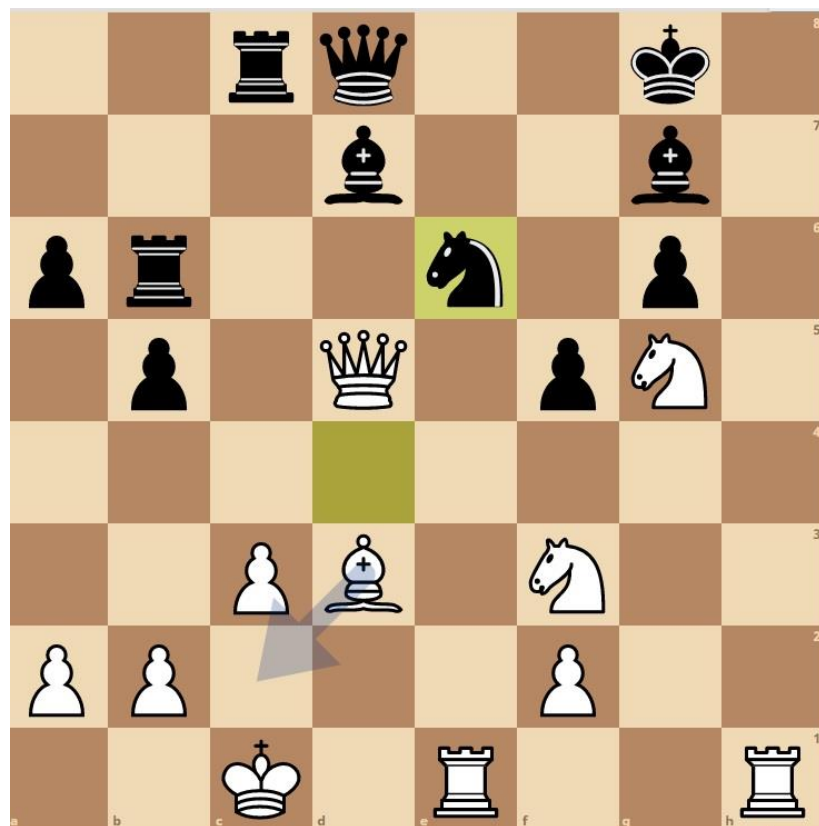
Rugeley 1½ - ½ Manchester Juniors B

Now it was down to Matt to find the win. This game was a London system, but don't roll your eyes just yet. This is Matt were talking about. The opponent decided to use a wait and see approach to decide how Matt was going to attack and break into the position. Matt chose a variant of the Hiley thrust and went h4 to break open the enemy position while the opponent tried to hold it off and

attack on whites' queenside after Matt castled that side. After Matt whipped off an annoying knight and got the pawn push in blacks' position started to become a little bit uncomfortable.



That attack was going very nicely until while trying to press the attack, Matt missed a trick.



Here he should have played Bc2, ready to add another piece into the attack, sadly that was missed. He played Nxe6 allowing the opponent to swap off into an ending they couldn't lose but at least could be made very difficult to win. It looked hard and probably felt hard but trust the arbiter to find the rule to exploit. The opponent whether she realised it or not had repeated the position 3 times. When the button came up to claim a draw, I have rarely seen the mouse move that fast to press something. Draw successfully claimed by 3x repetition and final score Rugeley 2 – 2 Manchester Juniors B.

My thanks to our opponents for a good evening.

Solution to the problem: 1.Qxh3+, Ke2 2.Qg2+ Kxd3 and 3.Qxa2 wins the queen.

Division 5

	P	W	D	L	GP	Pts
CSC 5	2	2	0	0	7½	4
Chess Warriors	2	2	0	0	7	4
Bishop Trojans	2	2	0	0	6½	4
Wirral League Wanderers	2	2	0	0	6½	4
Hertford	2	2	0	0	6	4
Bolton & Worsley	2	2	0	0	5½	4
Temple Sutton	2	2	0	0	5	4
Nottingham University 2	2	1	1	0	6	3
Bristol University B	2	1	1	0	6	3
Rugeley	2	1	1	0	5½	3
Doughnuts of Doom	2	1	1	0	5½	3
Young Dragons	2	1	1	0	5	3
Manchester Juniors B	2	1	1	0	4½	3
Maryport Assassins B	2	1	1	0	4½	3
St Albans 3	2	1	1	0	4	3
St Albans 2	2	1	0	1	5½	2
Shropshire 4	2	1	0	1	5	2
Uxbridge Knights	2	1	0	1	4½	2
Warwickshire Bears B	2	1	0	1	4½	2
Darnall & Handsworth	2	1	0	1	4½	2
MCS Oxford Juniors	2	1	0	1	4½	2
Gonzaga D	1	1	0	0	4	2
Watford 3	2	1	0	1	4	2
BBC Foxes	2	1	0	1	4	2
Kent KJCA Kestrels D	2	1	0	1	4	2
4 Gems	2	1	0	1	3½	2