

Round 6 Rugeley vs Temple Sutton

Tonight's round 6 battle sees Rugeley going up against a team called Temple Sutton. On paper our teams are very close in grade and side by side one another in the league table. I was going into this expecting a draw but as always this is chess. Anything can happen in the heat of battle.

	Rugeley	1604		Temple Sutton	1551
551	w: Whatmore, Steve (<i>SteveWhatmore</i>)	1817 c	-	Bensoussane, Riyad (<i>TheMagicNose17</i>)	1720 u
552	b: Carr, Matthew (<i>mattcarr2600</i>)	1692	-	Modhura, Urbi (<i>Natureu</i>)	1682 e
553	w: Sullivan, Luke (<i>death2rooks93</i>)	1585 c	-	Audhora, Purba (<i>Naturep</i>)	1577 e
554	b: Wood, Ryan (<i>RyanWood01</i>)	1322 c	-	Patey, Joe (<i>JoeP2020</i>)	1225 u

As usual the team captain wanted to instil in the team the usual bit of inspiration. Cath mentioned naming the team Rugeley Rhinos, so I thought this would help us make our opponents feel the force of our attack.



Ryan's was the first game to finish. Ryan got to be on the black side of the Queen's Gambit Declined which turned into a setup similar to the London System. Internally the captain smiled. Ryan knows this kind of position very well from the white side.



Here Ryan played cxd4 and making a grab for the centre. The queens were exchanged and things were swapped off throughout the centre. At the end of the exchange Ryan's pawns were in a mess, but his pieces were active and the white king had lost its right to castle thanks to a well-timed Bishop check. When white tried to open up in the centre Ryan saw a nice check and sent his rook down to attack the king and pick up the bishop on e2.

One old saying I remember from my training was if you make a mistake, take some time and clear your head for mistakes usually come in pairs. Sadly, for white it did. White tried to be too aggressive and attack with a rook missing that it could be forked with the king by the black knight. Again, he tried to bring his final rook into the game to try and back rank mate Ryan but there was little stopping him. Just casually bring the bishop back and the position holds nicely.



Well done Ryan.

Rugeley 1-0 Temple Sutton

Matt was the next game to finish. It was a Caro-Kann! I know, usually it's a French or something similar but Matt had managed to get chance to study his opponent. The opponent plays a variation of the French that is very complex and Matt decided to see if there was another option. It looked like the guy hasn't faced a Caro-Kann in any of his games. So having learned the Caro to help his partner in a pairs blitz, (she knows it far better than Matt) he tried it.

It worked out better than he thought possible.

It was a Caro-Kann advanced variation with Matt attacking the queenside to start with. The light squared bishop did come up and doubled the pawns but it let his kingside rook into the game.



This is where things started to get interesting. The knights were exchanged and the rook got to h4. After castling kingside the rooks were doubled and things started heading towards the enemy king who had castled on the queenside. The bishops were exchanged off on g5 and the Rook on h4 headed into the centre to try and penetrate the 2nd rank. We eventually reached the following position



Here the fork doesn't work. Queen simply heads into b5 and if the knight ever takes the rook checkmate.

So, the knight went straight back where it came from to protect the king and the rook gets to e2. Queen comes back to c1 to defend the pawn but Matt took the risk and played Rxb2+. When the queen didn't take the pawn, Matt was extremely pleased. Rook takes f2 and the knight tries to exchange off with its counterpart. Matt refused to let that happen so played Ne3 now the queen can't take it.

As the rook moves out of the way Matt brings the queen into d3, piling on as much pressure as possible on the opponent. Eventually white was tied up so much that if the game had continued Matt would have been a rook up going into an endgame. White resigns.

Rugeley 2-0 Temple Sutton

Steve was the next game to finish. He got to face a semi-slav defence with both players making claims in the centre with the pawns. Black managed to get control of the centre with pieces and everything was about to fly down it. Steve had the pawns there so as long as they held hopefully things would turn out alright.



My silicon friend gives this position roughly equal and a few moves later Steve could have taken the advantage but a mass trade off in the centre left black with a strong advantage.



Now it would be the case whoever got the opposition first would be the winner. Steve manoeuvred as best he could but black had an extra pawn move in reserve if needed. Rather than draw it out. Steve resigned.

Well fought battle Steve.

Rugeley 2-1 Temple Sutton

Interesting to note as soon as Steve had resigned, Luke offered his opponent a draw.

Luke played the English opening on his opponent. Luke got a solid centre and his opponent could only hold it with one pawn but developed a lot of his pieces over the kingside. Ironically my silicon friend informs me they were out of book/no games played by move 6.

Luke had to fend off an attack by his opponent but managed to hold the position, only trouble was the attack had managed to put Luke's queen out on the side of the board.



Black did several exchanges on e4 eventually managing to get a queen onto that square. Black then decided to go in for an attack on the kingside. Bringing a rook up to join the queen and in a rook lift manoeuvre was threatening Luke with checkmate.

Luke saw this threat off temporarily, but the pawns in front of black's king started to come forward. The h pawn got through and caused many problems, finally with the draws declined and black having the advantage Luke resigned.

Final score Rugeley 2 – 2 Temple Sutton.

My thanks to all the players tonight for their efforts. All games can be looked at directly at the following links:

Steve: <https://lichess.org/Ga5yloCA>

Matt: <https://lichess.org/edeyUthB/black>

Luke: <https://lichess.org/lVpfc9E/white>

Ryan: <https://lichess.org/vhe9qAZ3/black>

Division 5

			rd 1	rd 2	rd 3	rd 4	rd 5	rd 6	P	W	D	L	GP	Pts
1	Nottingham University 2	nun2	she 4	bub 2	mjub 2	bud 2½	kesd 3	wlw 2½	6	4	2	0	16	10
2	Wirral League Wanderers	wlw	bln1 4	dah 2½	dod 3	baw 2½	her 2½	nun2 1½	6	5	0	1	16	10
3	CSC 5	csc5	bau2 4	kesd 3½	her 2	marb 2	chw 2½	gond 2	6	4	2	0	16	10
4	Bolton & Worsley	baw	shr4 3	warb 2½	chw 3	wlw 1½	marb 3	wesc 2	6	4	1	1	15	9
5	Hertford	her	wim3 2½	bud 3½	csc5 2	bau1 3½	wlw 1½	mjub 4	6	4	1	1	17	9
6	Wessex Some Stars C	wesc		she 3	uxb 3	bsp 4	bau1 3	baw 2	5	4	1	0	15	9
7	Chess Warriors	chw	grg 3	bsp 4	baw 1	dah 4	csc5 1½	mcs 2½	6	4	0	2	16	8
8	Gonzaga D	gond		ekb 4	wim3 3	mcs 3	bub 3	csc5 1	5	4	0	1	14	8
9	Kent KJCA Kestrels D	kesd	wfja 3½	csc5 ½	warb 3½	sta2 3	nun2 1	bau1 2½	6	4	0	2	14	8
10	Rugeley	rgl	hatb 3½	mjub 2	bub ½	bau2 3½	brh1 2½	tps 2	6	3	2	1	14	8
11	Temple Sutton	tps	sabc 2½	uxb 2½	bau1 1	bub 2½	mjub 2	rgl 2	6	3	2	1	12½	8
12	Warwickshire Bears B	warb	mjuc 3	baw 1½	kesd ½	sabc 4	dah 2½	dod 2½	6	4	0	2	14	8
13	Battersea Pawnbreakers	bsp	wat3 2	chw 0	sta3 4	wesc 0	wqb2 2	ydr 2½	6	3	1	2	10½	7
14	Bristol University B	bub	bln2 4	nun2 2	rgl 3½	tps 1½	gond 1	sta3 3	6	3	1	2	15	7

Were still near the top. Look out Round 7 here we come.