

## Round 7 Kent Kestrels vs Rugeley

As soon as I saw the pairing I thought we were in for a rough game here. Kent Kestrels are a main 4NCL team. By that I mean this is a team that go to all 5 of the weekends the 4NCL organise for over the board chess. If nothing else they were a serious team. So, seeing the pairings I showed the team the statistics, the potential opponents and left them to it.

Then 6:30pm comes around and I see this:

	<b>Kent KJCA Kestrels D</b>	1555		<b>Rugeley</b>	1604
551	w Bansal, Saahil ( <i>TBEvEr</i> )	1745	-	Whatmore, Steve ( <i>SteveWhatmore</i> )	1817 c
552	b Moore, Eoin ( <i>sitsonthefence</i> )	1558	-	Carr, Matthew ( <i>mattcarr2600</i> )	1692
553	w Brightley-Davies, Ciaran ( <i>SharpElbow</i> )	1454	-	Sullivan, Luke ( <i>death2rooks93</i> )	1585 c
554	b Dorman, Orla ( <i>evertoncheck</i> )	1464	-	Wood, Ryan ( <i>RyanWood01</i> )	1322 c

That is pretty much a complete change of team. The board 4 was the opponent I was suspecting on 2! Board 2 should be on 1, board 3 usually plays on 2 and their weakest player dropped out. Looks like they got the strong players out today. Nice to know they're taking us seriously.

If nothing else this will be a good one.

Luke was the first to finish. He played his black lion to meet the enemies opening. Both sides developed their pieces naturally. White gets his pieces to target the centre, black starts to pull the pieces over to the kingside to attack the king that's castled there. White obliged in this game and by move 13 we had this position:



Best move here would be to move the knight to f4 and begin to break down the whites kingside with pawn pushes h5 and g4. Sadly, that was missed here as Luke started to attack on the queenside.

Playing b5 to push the enemy bishop back the attack on the kingside needs to come but white never gave Luke the chance. The knights began working together and smashed through the centre. White attack culminated in Luke having to choose whether to lose a Rook or knight. Luke chose the rook to setup a mate attack on the enemy king with a queen on f4 and bishop on d6. Whites attack never stopped attacking. The knight and queen came into Luke's position and continued to check the king and through these checks blocked out Luke's mating attack on the king with a pawn getting between the bishop and queen. Sadly, Luke was mated on the back rank a few moves later through a combination of the rook and queen. Bad luck Luke.

#### Rugeley 0 – 1 Kent Kestrels

Ryan was the next game to finish. My silicon friend informs me this is an Indian game, but this is far more of a London System setup with black attempting to sort out white's centre with a French defence setup without the pawn on e6. An early swap of queens gave Ryan a rook in the game and a slight advantage. The game continued and Ryan took excellent advantage of his open rook in this position.



Here Ryan played Ne5 ignoring the threat to the bishop. If the bishop were to be taken then Rook takes rook for free. So, black moves his rook across to protect the knight but this doesn't help either. Ryan takes the knight with his bishop and when the pawn takes back rook claims the a pawn and Ryan's rook looks far more deadly. Ryan isn't through yet. Bishop comes out to attack the knight and Ryan just plays Nxf7, if king takes bishop takes bishop and Ryan is a pawn up. Black opted for a more strategic solution. Black takes Ryan's bishop on f4 with his bishop and Ryan picks up the rook in the corner. Ryan is now the exchange up in the position but the knight is trapped. Ryan must get it out somehow, that I think is the key to winning the game.

The game continues with Black bringing his pieces back to defend the central king that can't castle anymore and preparing to strike out. Ryan brings his remaining pieces into the centre and starts to advance his pawns. Black decides to give up another piece to try and stop the pawn advance. This has little effect on Ryan as he brings his rook over to take a pawn and hit the Bishop. We're now here:



Black played Bxe2+ and Ryan takes back. Black tries h6 trying to save his pawn from the rook but this simply allows Ryan to play Rg8+ and when the king moves Rook takes rook and Ryan has two knight's vs a bishop and equal pawns. The pawns are on the wrong coloured square for the bishop to defend and with two knights and a king charging in to take them apart, black I assume mouse slipped. The bishop was left where the knight could take it for free. Once the central pawns came off the board a few moves later black resigned. Well done Ryan.

Rugeley 1-1 Kent Kestrels

Matt was the next game to finish and this one had Steve and Matt talking before the game. Matt had the idea of playing the London System on the opponent but Steve had noticed that he always plays the same thing against the French defence. Matt having learned the opening to stop people using it against him brushed up a little, found a variation he wanted to try and went with it. Thanks Steve.

Matts game was a French Defence: Tarrasch Variation. Makes things a little trickier for the opponents than the advance and less complicated than the Winawer, but quite tricky for both. Both sides developed their pieces quite naturally, matt was a little upset that his opponent didn't let him get an aggressive f4 in early, but you can't have everything. By move 10 the game had reached this position with black taking the pawn in the centre.



Standard French defence theory states that if they capture in the centre you need to be able to capture back, trouble is that pawn on h7 looks juicy. It looked a lovely attack and way to come back if needed. So Matt took the pawn and then recaptured in the centre with the e2 knight bringing it into the centre. If you can't block a pawn with a pawn block it with a knight. Black captured back on e5 and black had his own knight in the centre... but not for long. Matt finally played the move he wanted for so long, f4, kicking the knight away. Matt developed his bishop and planned to get his rooks into the game by defending the knight now on d4 and attempting a rook lift to f3 for an attack on the black king.



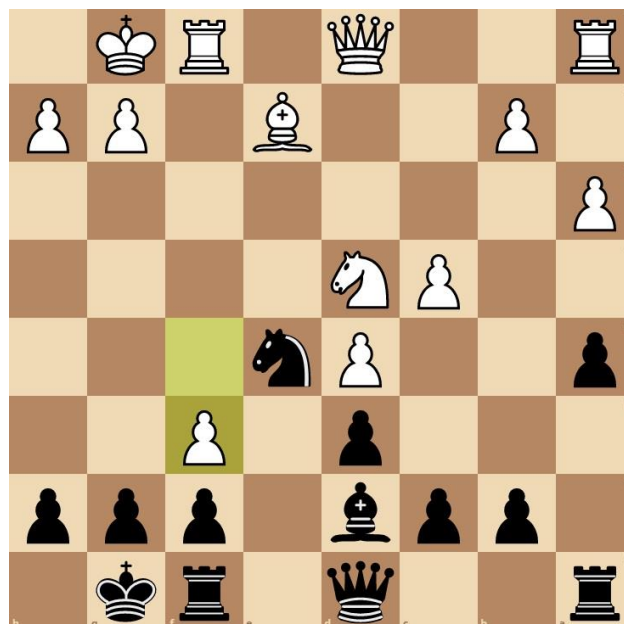
Black wriggled out of this attack with g6 but that wasn't stopping Matt, the action never seemed to stop in this game. The white squared bishops came off, the centre was locked up and Matt launched

an attack on the enemy king with his own Rook and Queen getting both to the 7<sup>th</sup> rank and making the black king feel very uncomfortable. The attack came to a stop with the threat of a queen exchange and Matt was offered a draw. Ryan and Luke had finished at this point and looking at Steve's game Matt had no idea how it was going to turn out. Feeling there was still something in the position Matt played on going for the win. Matt had a lone pawn advantage going into the endgame and it seems a little better endgame knowledge. Blacks pawns were gobbled up by Matt's rooks, blacks Rooks barely moving, trying to keep the enemy king out of the game. The black king was marched up the corner and mated with pawns and rooks.

### Rugeley 2 – 1 Kent Kestrels

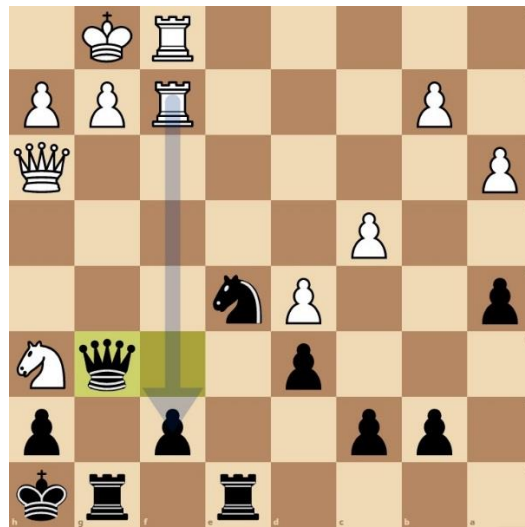
Steve's was the last game to start and finish. Their captain contacted us not long before start of play to say that their player was playing in the European event but due to their servers overloading the event didn't start until over an hour past start time. Consequently, their player would be a little late but the game was played.

The game was a Budapest Gambit... given the author of this paper likes to play it, an excellent choice Steve. Both sides opened the centre and Steve got his pieces on to nice squares and white kept his back but managed to get two pawns up the board towards Steve's position and then up comes the old f pawn again.

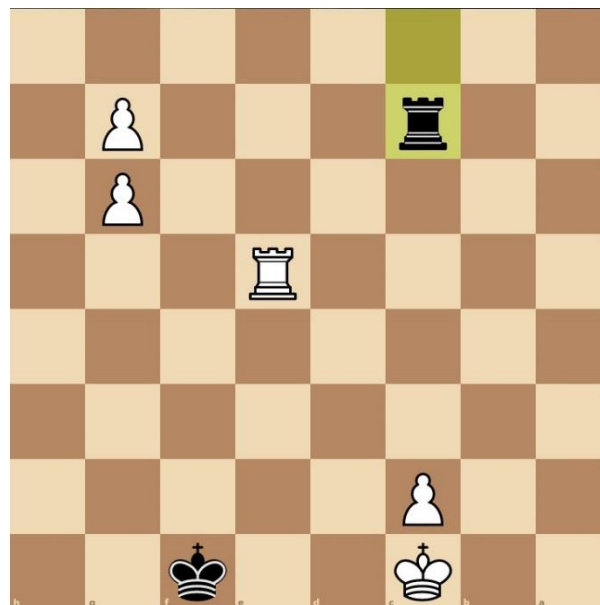


Steve quite rightly (according to my silicon friend) had to let that pawn get to that point, then took it back with the g-pawn. Things are still equal here. Best move is to get the king over one and bring a rook in line with the enemy king. That didn't happen sadly, Steve wanted rid of the doubled pawn so pushed it, allowing the enemy knight into the position. Things get complicated as white and black begin bringing their pieces over to the kingside to attack and defend the position. Every major piece ends up in the kingside in just a few moves.

White begins his attack and goes for f7 with the rooks and knight.



White's attack left him two pawns up against Steve and all Steve's pieces stuck up the corner. White exchanged queens and started a pawn push on the queenside. Steve's king has to stay on the queenside to stop the g pawns from racing down the field so the white king can come forward. A single passed pawn emerged on the queenside for white and we wind up in one of the key endgame positions. Lucina's position.



This is one of the most important positions in chess you'll need to remember for future games. Take it away, study it, learn it well. Have some fun, What's so special about this position?



The game ended when Steve ran out of time so the final score is:

Rugeley 2 – 2 Kent Kestrels

My thanks to all players who took part in tonight's game and well done to Ryan who beat a player graded 61 points higher than him. An amazing achievement. Not just that, the team took on a serious team in the national league and came out equal. I think we have good fighting chances if Rugeley ever decided to join 4NCL's over the board league.

Rugeley currently sit 12<sup>th</sup> in the league table. 3 more to go.

#### Division 5

		rd 1	rd 2	rd 3	rd 4	rd 5	rd 6	rd 7	P	W	D	L	GP	Pts	
1	Wirral League Wanderers	wlw	<a href="#">bln1</a> 4	<a href="#">dah</a> 2½	<a href="#">dod</a> 3	<a href="#">baw</a> 2½	<a href="#">her</a> 2½	<a href="#">nun2</a> 1½	<a href="#">csc5</a> 2	7	5	1	1	18	<b>11</b>
2	CSC 5	csc5	<a href="#">bau2</a> 4	<a href="#">kesd</a> 3½	<a href="#">her</a> 2	<a href="#">marb</a> 2	<a href="#">chw</a> 2½	<a href="#">gond</a> 2½	<a href="#">wlv</a> 2	7	4	3	0	18½	<b>11</b>
3	Hertford	her	<a href="#">wim3</a> 2½	<a href="#">bud</a> 3½	<a href="#">csc5</a> 2	<a href="#">bau1</a> 3½	<a href="#">wlv</a> 1½	<a href="#">mjub</a> 4	<a href="#">wesc</a> 2½	7	5	1	1	19½	<b>11</b>
4	Nottingham University 2	nun2	<a href="#">she</a> 4	<a href="#">bub</a> 2	<a href="#">mjub</a> 2	<a href="#">bud</a> 2½	<a href="#">kesd</a> 3	<a href="#">wlv</a> 2½		6	4	2	0	16	<b>10</b>
5	Temple Sutton	tps	<a href="#">sabc</a> 2½	<a href="#">uxb</a> 2½	<a href="#">bau1</a> 1	<a href="#">bub</a> 2½	<a href="#">mjub</a> 2	<a href="#">rgl</a> 2	<a href="#">warb</a> 2½	7	4	2	1	15	<b>10</b>
6	Bolton & Worsley	baw	<a href="#">shr4</a> 3	<a href="#">warb</a> 2½	<a href="#">chw</a> 3	<a href="#">wlv</a> 1½	<a href="#">marb</a> 3	<a href="#">wesc</a> 2		6	4	1	1	15	<b>9</b>
7	Chess Warriors	chw	<a href="#">grg</a> 3	<a href="#">bsp</a> 4	<a href="#">baw</a> 1	<a href="#">dah</a> 4	<a href="#">csc5</a> 1½	<a href="#">mcs</a> 2½	<a href="#">gond</a> 2	7	4	1	2	18	<b>9</b>
8	Gonzaga D	gond		<a href="#">ekb</a> 4	<a href="#">wim3</a> 3	<a href="#">mcs</a> 3	<a href="#">bub</a> 3	<a href="#">csc5</a> 1½	<a href="#">chw</a> 2	6	4	1	1	16½	<b>9</b>
9	Kent KJCA Kestrels D	kesd	<a href="#">wfja</a> 3½	<a href="#">csc5</a> ½	<a href="#">warb</a> 3½	<a href="#">sta2</a> 3	<a href="#">nun2</a> 1	<a href="#">bau1</a> 2½	<a href="#">rgl</a> 2	7	4	1	2	16	<b>9</b>
10	Manchester Juniors B	mjub	<a href="#">sta2</a> 2½	<a href="#">rgl</a> 2	<a href="#">nun2</a> 2	<a href="#">wfja</a> 3	<a href="#">tps</a> 2	<a href="#">her</a> 0	<a href="#">bsp</a> 4	7	3	3	1	15½	<b>9</b>
11	Maryport Assassins B	marb	<a href="#">sta3</a> 2	<a href="#">wig2</a> 2½	<a href="#">ydr</a> 3½	<a href="#">csc5</a> 2	<a href="#">baw</a> 1	<a href="#">ekb</a> 2	<a href="#">oxf4</a> 3½	7	3	3	1	16½	<b>9</b>
12	Rugeley	rgl	<a href="#">hatb</a> 3½	<a href="#">mjub</a> 2	<a href="#">bub</a> ½	<a href="#">bau2</a> 3½	<a href="#">brh1</a> 2½	<a href="#">tps</a> 2	<a href="#">kesd</a> 2	7	3	3	1	16	<b>9</b>
13	Watford Juniors A	wfja	<a href="#">kesd</a> ½	<a href="#">bau2</a> 2	<a href="#">bln2</a> 4	<a href="#">mjub</a> 1	<a href="#">har4</a> 4	<a href="#">brh1</a> 3	<a href="#">ecoc</a> 4	7	4	1	2	18½	<b>9</b>
14	Wessex Some Stars C	wesc		<a href="#">she</a> 3	<a href="#">uxb</a> 3	<a href="#">bsp</a> 4	<a href="#">bau1</a> 3	<a href="#">baw</a> 2	<a href="#">her</a> 1½	6	4	1	1	16½	<b>9</b>
15	4 Gems	4ge	<a href="#">wqb2</a> 2	<a href="#">bau1</a> 1½	<a href="#">brh1</a> ½	<a href="#">uxb</a> ½	<a href="#">sabc</a> 3	<a href="#">bau2</a> 3½	<a href="#">mcs</a> 3	7	4	0	3	14	<b>8</b>
16	Bristol University B	bub	<a href="#">bln2</a> 4	<a href="#">nun2</a> 2	<a href="#">rgl</a> 3½	<a href="#">tps</a> 1½	<a href="#">gond</a> 1	<a href="#">sta3</a> 3	<a href="#">ekb</a> 2	7	3	2	2	17	<b>8</b>
17	East Kilbride	ekb		<a href="#">gond</a> 0	<a href="#">brh3</a> 4	<a href="#">wat3</a> 3	<a href="#">sta2</a> 3	<a href="#">marb</a> 2	<a href="#">bub</a> 2	6	3	2	1	14	<b>8</b>
18	St Albans 2	sta2	<a href="#">mjub</a> 1½	<a href="#">hatb</a> 4	<a href="#">ecoc</a> 3	<a href="#">kesd</a> 1	<a href="#">ekb</a> 1	<a href="#">grg</a> 3	<a href="#">dah</a> 2½	7	4	0	3	16	<b>8</b>
19	Uxbridge Knights 1	uxb	<a href="#">wfjb</a> 3	<a href="#">tps</a> 1½	<a href="#">wesc</a> 1	<a href="#">4ge</a> 3½	<a href="#">mcs</a> 1½	<a href="#">sta4</a> 4	<a href="#">dod</a> 3	7	4	0	3	17½	<b>8</b>
20	Warwickshire Bears B	warb	<a href="#">mjuc</a> 3	<a href="#">baw</a> 1½	<a href="#">kesd</a> ½	<a href="#">sabc</a> 4	<a href="#">dah</a> 2½	<a href="#">dod</a> 2½	<a href="#">tps</a> 1½	7	4	0	3	15½	<b>8</b>

Full games can be found at:

Steve: <https://lichess.org/FuLZJvvW/black>

Matt: <https://lichess.org/OwBlnYcG>

Luke: <https://lichess.org/sjUgS187/black>

Ryan: <https://lichess.org/rSOUQGVY>