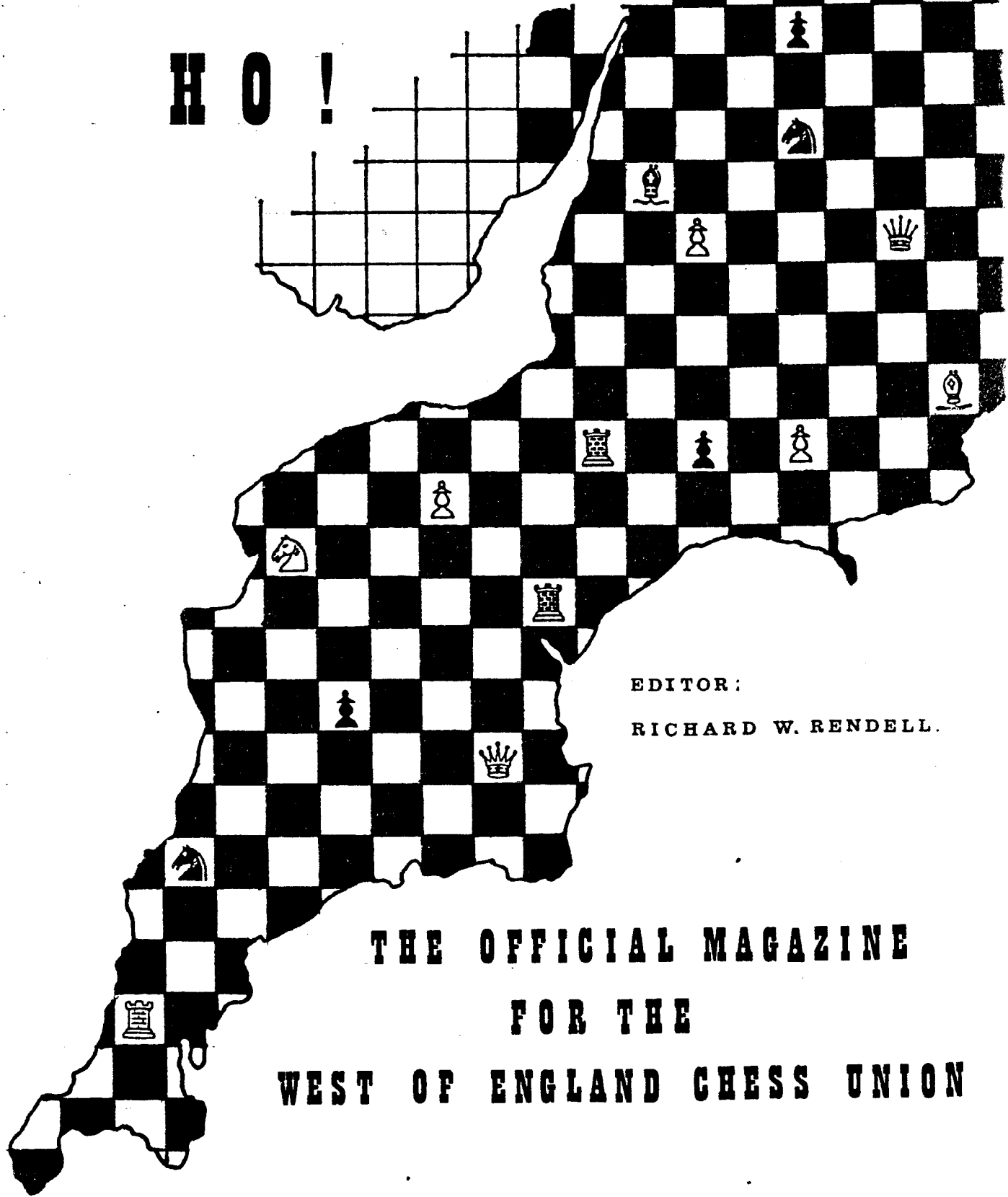


WESTWARD HO!



EDITOR:
RICHARD W. RENDELL.

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE
FOR THE
WEST OF ENGLAND CHESS UNION

JANUARY 1988



A Happy New Year to you all. Here we are again. The next Edition of the Westward Ho!, although I must admit it is slightly late. However, this has not really been totally my fault. As you will know, the BCF have had problems with the September 1987 Grading List. Well, at last, in December it arrived. However, they cocked-up the Bristol League Grades. It was returned and amended. It was returned to the West of England Chess Union Grading Officer within a fortnight and I started to prepare the West of England Grading List. I stopped writing the Westward Ho! (having written approximately half of it) as I considered the Grading List more important. However, I have been frustrated in my efforts to get it out as I am still awaiting some information from the BCF and Grading Officer before I can go ahead and print it. I have therefore been able to complete and send out this Edition.

Incidentally, I have just heard that many players who registered last year are quoted as Unregistered and as the WECU have a policy of not printing Unregistered players' grades it has been decided that all Unregistered players' grades will this year be quoted in the Grading List. Thus I have to start all over again.

By the way, many people have misunderstood my involvement with the Grading List, including, I must admit, several WECU Officers. I have therefore written a separate piece on the Grading List - see Page 4. I trust this report will clear up any misunderstandings.

I expect some of you will have already noticed that the typesetting of this edition is different from the previous two. This is because I have purchased an Electronic Typewriter, which has enabled me to type the magazine at home in my own time rather than during my lunch-hours at work, which I did on the two previous editions. I have also bought a photocopying machine to print the magazine. Thus you can see I am taking this very seriously and I hope that others will do so - I am experiencing difficulties in increasing my number of readers as many people still associate the Westward Ho! with the WECU, who as you will all know, let the magazine go to seed for over a year. The most doubting county is Cornwall from which county there are very few readers. I am advised that the "Doubting Thomases" don't believe that I will continue to get the quarterly editions out on time. Surely, three times in a row isn't a fluke! Anyway, you will be pleased to hear that the hundred mark has recently been reached.

I am pleased to say my request for comments, articles and suggestions in the last edition have borne fruits. "Attacking the King" on Pages 23 and 24 was submitted by Gary Lane and "The Moral Dimension" on Pages 21 and 22 by Steve Boniface. My thanks to them. Incidentally, Gary Lane has sent me another idea and this will appear in the next Edition. There is another "Leigh Strange Column", Pages 8 and 9, written by Leigh Strange. I must admit that I was surprised that her last column only prompted 4 responses. There were two praising and two critical. Perhaps her warped sense of humour might prompt more comment this quarter.

I must express my thanks to J.N.Walker from Oxford for allowing me to print my article called "The Dawning of the Rising Star", pages 12 and 13. J.N.Walker is an author of five or so Chess Books which were published by the Oxford University Press, two of which were called "Openings for Juniors" and "Attacking the King". In both these books "Bobby Blunder" and "Mr Woodpusher" figured regularly. Mr Walker owns the copyright on these characters. It is additionally pleasing that he has agreed to me using these characters as "Attacking the King" was one of the few books I read when I was initially learning to play serious chess. It is a book that I would recommend to any young player. Mr Walker advises me that two thousand copies were printed. I unfortunately lent my copy to someone who promptly lost it. Thus I would willingly pay "over the odds" for someone's copy if they were to offer it. Any offers?

The notation used in the two previous editions has prompted a lot of comments and on the whole people prefer it. I have therefore decided to continue with it. A lot more people responded to the Problem Competition and many more correct entries were received. Have I made it too easy? This quarter's edition includes a couple of problems made up by readers. However, I must admit, I personally, don't like these sort of problems as they seem totally false. Invariably, one side has so much more material that they are bound to win anyway. So what if a 2 or 3 move forced mate can be found, most players in these positions would have resigned long ago. I look

forward to receiving your comments on this subject.

Finally, I hope this edition will prompt more comments, articles, suggestions or at the very least, correspondence. I hope you will enjoy reading it as much as I have enjoyed writing it.

Richard Rendell
Editor.

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WEST OF ENGLAND CHESS UNION EASTER 1988 CONGRESS

To be held in the Town Hall, WESTON-SUPER-MARE from Thursday 31 March to Monday 4 April.

PRIZE FUND OF OVER £700

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I have received much correspondence from many people in this respect. The usual questions are: When is it going to be printed? Why hasn't it been printed? Why is it so late? Other questions are aimed more directly at me: Why haven't you printed it? You promised that I would get it in September but you have conned me! I want my money back. etc.

I think that an explanation is required.

Firstly, the delay is not my fault. I am just the printer. I do not even have any control over it, even in my role as Treasurer and Registration Officer of the WECU. It has been agreed by the WECU that as I have the facilities to print the List that I would do so but only that. I was to receive the Mastercopy from the Union, and then package the List and print it. It has of course been complicated as I am indeed one of the Union's Officers and therefore many people have assumed that I am acting in this capacity in respect of the print. I am not.

Secondly, many people have assumed that this edition (the December 1987 Edition) was to be the Grading Issue. Again, wrong. The Westward Ho! is owned solely by myself and the Grading List by the B.C.F. I have, however, obtained rights to sell copies of the Grading List to my subscribers. This is not a Copyright as the WECU does not hold Copyrights for it. However, it has been agreed that I can sell any number of lists at any price. Of course, I have undercut the Union, charging £1.00 per List to their price of £1.50 and out of this £1.00 I am to pay the BCF their copyright fee together with a fee to the Union. Hence, I am selling the Lists at a loss. It was intended to offer the Lists as a "Loss-Leader" to help the initial sales of the Magazine. It is unlikely that I will offer the List for sale next year. Hence, you can see that the Westward Ho! and the Grading list are totally separate.

Thirdly, who is to blame for its delay?

It would seem that this is an easy question to answer? Surely, someone must be accountable? Alas, this doesn't seem to be the case. Last year, the BCF decided to computerise the Gradings. They managed to miss out the Bristol League Grades and didn't fair very well. This year the results were sent to the BCF on time by the WECU Grading Officer, Bob Luffman. However, the BCF has experienced problems with the Computer program. I must admit I know very little about computers but I understand that the program has had to be changed 9 times. I understand these have been fairly lengthy changes.

I wrote to the BCF as Editor of the Magazine airing my views, complaining about the delays. I had a nice reply from Greta White, the Office Manager, advising me that they were making sure that next year's list would be out on time! She mentioned, that this year's list had been delayed by various problems (she didn't however specify them) and that she understood my frustrations but they (the BCF) were in the same boat. I must say that I was surprised by this. If the BCF haven't got control over it, who has? She didn't advise me who was to blame.

Finally, when will it come out?

The answer to this is - fairly soon.

On December 9 Bob Luffman received the Mastercopy from the BCF. However, most of the Dorset Grades were not quoted (Mr Bond, Grading Officer, Dorset C.C.A.'s fault for not getting his results to Bob Luffman quick enough last year) and that a lot of the Bristol League players' Grades were totally wrong. The Bristol League players' grades have been corrected and a new list printed. In fact I have received this. I am now awaiting a separate list of the Dorset Grades, an explanation from the BCF as to what the letters next to the Grades mean and an introduction from Bob Luffman. I have managed to get the actual list ready for printing but cannot print it until I know exactly what the first page will consist of. The list will be printed on A3 paper (half the size of this sheet) but you will get the option for it to be returned together with a stamped-addressed envelope for it to be printed on A4 paper if you find it too small.

By the way, those of you who were subscribers to the WECU's Westward Ho! last year who were promised Sept 1986 and Sept 1987 Grading Lists instead of quarterly Editions will need to write to me (in my post as Treasurer of the WECU) as I have still not received the Master List of Subscribers from the previous Treasurer, Robert Northage, or indeed any of the Treasurer's books and therefore unable to send you your list.

Counties Second Team Championship

Quarter Finals played on 25 April 1987

<u>Gloucestershire v Lancashire</u>			<u>Devon v Middlesex</u>		
1. P.F.Day	$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$	K.Hoadley	1. J. Hayward	$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$	R.J.Pearce
2. I.R.Pickup	1 - 0	R.Taylor	2. A. Osborne	1 - 0	S.V.Dickinson
3. I.R.White	0 - 1	S.Mulligan	3. J. Parker	0 - 1	A.O.Alabi
4. R.J.Johnson	0 - 1	P.Edwards	4. M. Tavener	0 - 1	A. Wheatley
5. J.J.Carr	$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$	L.Kay	5. Row.Bruce	0 - 1	C. Mackenzie
6. I.R.Furber	$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$	P.Seery	6. A. Pickering	1 - 0	S. Low
7. R. Smith	0 - 1	P.Taylor	7. A. Fayle	0 - 1	K.R.Barnes
8. A. Killey	0 - 1	J.Tennant-Smith	8. J. Ridolfo	$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$	M.F.Simmons
9. R.J.Dixon	0 - 1	J.Lyth	9. C. Deakin	$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$	M. Francois
10. M.R.Handley	$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$	S.Foulkes	10. E.G.Sparke	$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$	B.J.Benjamin
11. J. Knight	0 - 1	R.Newton	11. R.H.Jones	0 - 1	J.R.MacDonald
12. M. Crannidge	$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$	M.Lythgoe	12. D.V.Hutchinson	0 - 1	J. Grundy
13. G.S.Wilkinson	$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$	P.Furlong	13. J.F.Allen	1 - 0	M.A.Barkwill
14. C.R.Powney	1 - 0	M.Williams	14. R. Liggitt	0 - 1	J. McVicar
15. R.J.Selfe	0 - 1	P.Hughes	15. J. Thynne	0 - 1	J.C.Nyman
16. A.R.Bentley	1 - 0	C.Doran	16. J. Vasey	1 - 0	R. Jennings
	<u>6 - 10</u>			<u>6 - 10</u>	

Semi-Final Results: Warwickshire $9\frac{1}{2}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$ Middlesex
 Lancashire 11 - 9 Kent

Final: Lancashire 12 - 7 Warwickshire

Counties Third Team Championship

Quarter-Final played on 25 April 1987

Gloucestershire w/o 12 - 0 Kent

Semi-Final played on 6 June 1987

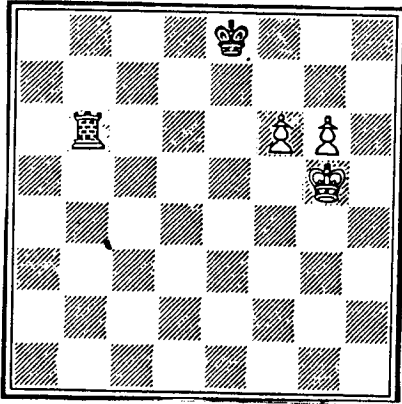
<u>Lancashire v Gloucestershire</u>		
1. S.W.Berkeley	1 - 0	J.J.Carr
2. R. Newton	$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$	R.G.Dixon
3. P. Furlong	0 - 1	I.R.Furber
4. P.J.Jowett	1 - 0	S.W.Dilke
5. C. Reany	0 - 1	M. Crannidge
6. A. Bullen	1 - 0	S.W.Maggs
7. C.J.Jowett	$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$	J. Knight
8. G. Pennington	$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$	J.J.Wilkinson
9. D. Wolstencroft	$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$	A.R.Bentley
10. M.J.Ward	0 - 1	C.R.Powney
11. K.P.Jones	0 - 1	D.R.Markham
12. S. Woodcock	1 - 0	H.J.Draisey
13. K. McMahon	1 - 0	K. Markey
14. F.S.Rushworth	1 - 0	B. Fletcher
15. P.N.Thurston	$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$	M. Gingell
16. A.C.Fath	0 - 1	D.R.Foster
	<u>$8\frac{1}{2}$ - $7\frac{1}{2}$</u>	

Other Semi-Final Result: Warwickshire 9 - 7 Middlesex

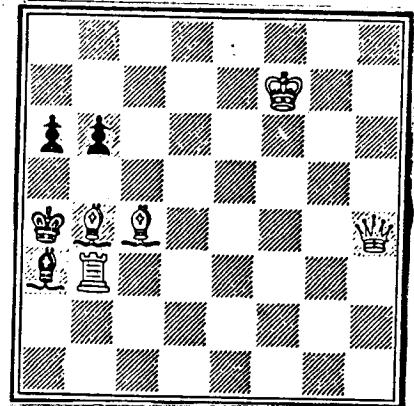
Final: Lancashire 12 - 4 Warwickshire

This quarter's problems include a couple made up by local players. I trust they are to your liking:

(a)



(b)

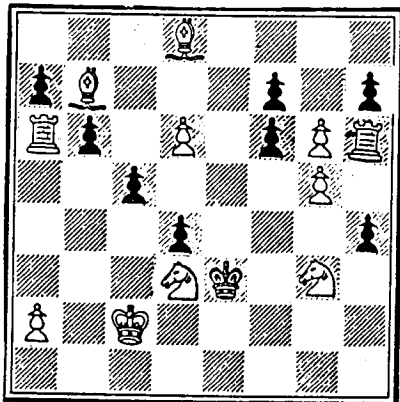


You are asked to participate in an adjudication on behalf of your team mate (Black). Unfortunately, both players have gone for the last train, omitting to mention whose move it is. The opponents suggest that this makes no difference. Do you agree? or disagree? And why?

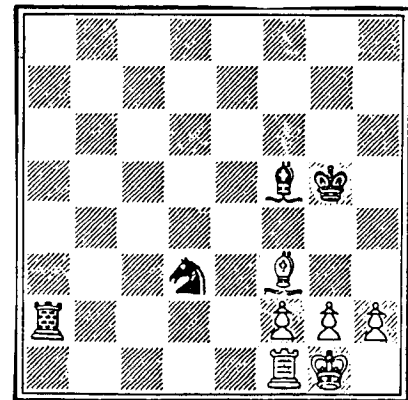
This problem was devised by D.J.SHIRE and was featured in the July 1987 edition of "The Problemist".

White to play and mate in 2.

(c)



(d)



This problem was devised by D.P.BONNER in 1955.

White to play and mate in 3.

Black, to move, offered a draw. White said: "I think my three joined pawns are better than the Knight. Who is right?"

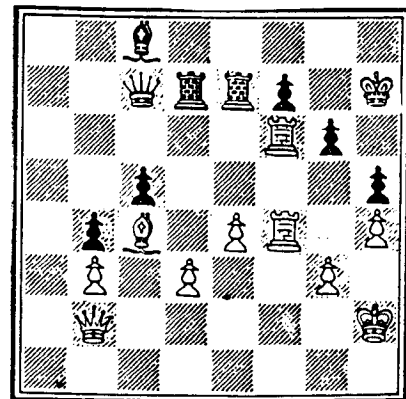
Solutions are on Page 28.

Finally here is this Quarter's Competition:

White to play. How can he turn his apparent advantage to victory?

Prize of £5 for the first correct solution out of the bag. Closing Date 1 April 1988.

Solution to last quarter's competition is on Page 28.



The struggle for ascendancy at the chessboard can only be augmented in a certain number of ways, most of them obvious: crushing the opponent's hand in a vice-like grip on being introduced, solving the Times crossword between moves with nonchalant ease, cultivating a variety of disturbing tics and twitches....

In Postal Chess, however, the tradition of accompanying the moves with a friendly correspondence affords considerable scope for the anarchically inclined. Even opponents who refrain from the committal step of sending an introductory note with their first move are not exempt, as an incident from the British Junior Championship demonstrates. Our hero, William Giblin, sent a friendly note of greeting to a Mr Alistair Telford and received no reply. A second and a third note similarly failed to elicit a response. As the game progressed, getting an answer from Mr Telford became an *idée fixe* with William Giblin. Letters addressed to "Alex Tolstoy" and "Alice Telstar" went unanswered. Next came:

"Dear Alex,

I'd be delighted to take you on with White after your suggested continuation. But can the Reversed Trompovsky really be sound?"

This received the rejoinder "?!", encouraging William Giblin to deliver the coup de grâce, consisting of a move posted in a Jif Lemon accompanied by the note, "Have run out of envelopes, hence the lemon."

Excuses tend to be more concise. The state of the art example occurred in a County Match: "Sorry about the delay. My house fell down."

Nevertheless, postal chess is a medium suited to the inventive and scrupulous player. The following Sicilian Najdorf was played in the 1985 Surrey Postal Championships and won the county's best game prize. The victor, Tony Corkett is a County standard OTB player establishing himself at Postal Master level, this game being part of a sequence of 100 games without defeat. White's plan is an excellent example of creativity in a heavily analysed system; the annotations suggest some other lines meriting the attention of innovators:

Tony Corkett v Dr.A.K.May

Najdorf Sicilian

(Notes based on those of Tony Corkett)

1.e2-e4 c7-c5; 2.Ng1-f3 d7-d6; 3.d2-d4 c5xd4; 4.Nf3xd4 ...

Sharp play ensues when White's attempt to establish a bind is countered energetically: 4...Qd1xd4 Nb8-c6; 5.Bf1-b5 Bc8-d7; 6.Bb5xc6 Bd7xc6; 7.c2-c4 f7-f5!?!;

4...Ng8-f6; 5.Nb1-c3 a7-a6; 6.Bc1-g5 e7-e6; 7.f2-f4 Bf8-e7; 8.Qd1-f3 Qd8-c7; 9. 0-0-0 Nb8-d7; 10.g2-g4...

After 10.Bf1-d3 h7-h6; (Browne System), the sober Bg5-h4 should be preferred to the crazed gambit 11.h2-h4?! Nd7-c5; 12.f4-f5 h6xg5; 13.h4xg5 Rh8xh1; 14.Rd1xh1 Nf6-g8!; 15.f5-f6 Ng8xf6; 16.Rh1-h8+ Ke8-d7; 17.g5xf6 Be7xf6; 18.e4-e5 Nc5xd3+; 19.c2xd3 d6xe5; 20.Nd4-c2 Kd7-e7; 21.Nc3-e4 b7-b5!; ♣

Black can also consider... 10.Bf1-d3 Nd7-c5!?!; e.g. 11.Qf3-g3 h7-h6; 12.Bg5-h4 0-0; 13.Rh1-e1 b7-b5!?

10...b7-b5; 11.Bg5xf6 Nd7xf6; 12.g4-g5 Nf6-d7; 15.f4-f5 Nd7-c5; 14.f5-f6 g7xf6; 15.g5xf6 Be7-f8; 16.a2-a3...

Preparing to dislodge the knight on c5. 16.Rh1-g1... annexing the g-file is another promising idea, forcing Black to respond vigorously...16...Bc8-d7;

17.Rg1-g7 b5-b4; 18.Nc3-d5 e6xd5; 19.e4xd5 0-0-0; 20.Rg7xf7 Bf8-h6+;
21.Kc1-b1 Rd8-f8; =

16...Ra8-b8; 17.b2-b4 Nc5-a4;

Rerouting via d7 and e5 risks decisively weakening e6 but appears more promising than the game continuation.

18.Nc3xa4 b5xa4; 19.Rh1-g1! e6-e5;

Berg - Zinman (Correspondence 1982/83) continued 19...a6-a5; 20.Qf3-h5!
Bc8-d7; 21.Rg1-g7! Bf8xg7; 22.f6xg7 Rh8-g8; 23.Nd4-b5! Rb8xb5; 24.Qh5xh7
Rg8xg7; 25.Qh7xg7 Rb5-e5; 26.Rd1-d3 Ke8-e7; 27.Rd3-h3 Bd7-e8; 28.Rh3-h8
Ke7-d8; 29.b4-b5! Qc7-e7; 30.b5-b6... 1-0.

20.Nd4-f5 Bc8xf5; 21.Qf3xf5 a6-a5; 22.b4-b5 Bf8-h6+; 23.Kc1-b2 Bh6-e3;
24.Rg1-g3 Rb8-c8; 25.c2-c4 Be3-d4+; 26.Rd1xd4! e5xd4; 27.Bf1-h3 Rc8-d8;

27...Rc8-b8; 28.Qf5xh7! Rh8-f8; 29.Rg3-g8 Rb8xb5+; 30.Kb2-a1! Rb5-g5;
31.Rg8xf8+ Ke8xf8; 32.Qh7-h6+... and mate in 3.
However, 27...Rc8-d8; quickens the end...

28.Qf5xh7 Rh8-f8;(Rh8xh7?; 29.Rg3-g8 mate) 29.Rg3-g8... Black resigns.

Leigh Strange

COUNTY CORRESPONDENCE CHESS 1987 REPORT

This year's Championship was won by Berkshire which the Controller, Trevor Thomas, found extremely pleasing, mainly because Berkshire is his own County. The last occasion Berkshire won the Championship was founded on Somerset's misfortunes. This year, despite lagging behind both Somerset and Essex in terms of finished games, Berkshire gained $3\frac{1}{2}$ points from 4 adjudications and won by a half point from Essex who, together with Merseyside, also merit particular commendation. The former, runners-up in the Championship were also winners and runners-up in Division 3 and the latter won Division 2 with the tremendous, and record, score of $24\frac{1}{2}$ points!

The final tables were as follows:

<u>Championship</u>	(Max. 30)	<u>Division 2</u>	(Max. 30)
1. Berkshire	20	1. Merseyside	$24\frac{1}{2}$
2. Essex	$19\frac{1}{2}$	2. Suffolk	20
3. Somerset	19	3. Wiltshire	19
4. Devon	17	4. Leicestershire	17
Sussex	17	5. Bedfordshire	$16\frac{1}{2}$
6. Surrey	$16\frac{1}{2}$	Greater Manchester	$16\frac{1}{2}$
Warwickshire	$16\frac{1}{2}$	7. Yorkshire	15
8. Gloucestershire	$15\frac{1}{2}$	8. Lincolnshire	14
9. Worcestershire	15	9. Buckinghamshire	13
10. Dorset	$14\frac{1}{2}$	10. Hertfordshire	$12\frac{1}{2}$
Nottinghamshire	$14\frac{1}{2}$	11. Durham	12
12. Lancashire	13	Staffordshire	12
Middlesex	13	13. Cumbria	$10\frac{1}{2}$
14. Kent	$12\frac{1}{2}$	14. Cornwall	$8\frac{1}{2}$
15. Northamptonshire	9	15. Northumberland	8
16. Cheshire & N Wales	$7\frac{1}{2}$		

Division 3	(Max. 20)	Division 4	(Max. 20)
1. Essex 2	14	1. Devon 2	15
2. Essex 3	13½	2. Warwickshire 3	12
3. Kent 2	13	3. Yorkshire 2	12
4. Lancashire 2	11½	4. Somerset 4	10½
Somerset 2	11½	5. Gloucestershire 2	10
6. Surrey 2	11	6. Kent 4	9½
Warwickshire 2	11	Lancashire 3	9½
8. Kent 3	10½	8. Greater Manchester 2	9
9. Merseyside 2	7	9. Merseyside 3	7½
10. Somerset 3	6½	Surrey 3	7½
11. Buckinghamshire 2	4½	11. Cornwall 2	5½
Worcestershire 2	4½		

Finally, there has been a change in the rules for this year's rules. It has been decided to quicken up play to 12 moves in 20 days (as opposed to 10 in 20) with posting on same day as receipt counting as 0 days instead of ½. The adjudication day has also been changed to 31 July as opposed to 31 August. These changes have been made in order that the results can in future be published in the British Chess Federation Year Book.

My thanks to the Controller, Trevor Thomas, for the help in compiling this report.

Games from this year's competitions have been hard to come by, so instead I quote a Correspondence Game from the British Correspondence Chess Association 1987 Division 1 between Kevern Verney (The Knights of the Square Table) and G.E.Beales (Nottingham Mechanics), Board 1 of their respective teams:

Kevern Verney v G.E.Beales

Ruy Lopez, Schliemann Defence

1. e2-e4 e7-e5; 2.Ng1-f3 Nb8-c6; 3.Bf1-b5 f7-f5; 4.Nb1-c3 Qd8-e7?!;
5. d2-d4 e5xd4; 6.Nf3xd4 f5xe4; 7. 0-0 Qe7-e5; 8.Rf1-e1 Ng8-f6; 9.Nd4-f3
Qe5-f5; 10.Bc1-g5 Bf8-b4; 11.Bg5xf6...

Both players have ensured by their play that this game is to be very sharp. Although I know very little about the Ruy Lopez, having never played either for or against it, I would have thought the game has long come out of the book (I stand to be corrected). Although Black is a pawn up, it looks as though White will soon get it back but if not he has ample compensation for it. We now get a phase in the game which I find hard to follow and even harder to understand.

11... 0-0!;

Although he has not recaptured the piece, Black will recover it fairly soon as White has 2 pieces en prise. Black has managed in the meanwhile to get his King out of the centre and out of harm's way. However, he has to give back the pawn and White keeps the upperhand.

12.Bb5xc6 b7xc6; 13.Bf6xg7 Kg8xg7; 14.Qd1-d4+ Qf5-f6; 15.Qd4xe4?!...

This move wins a pawn and threatens the Bishop on b4. However, Black can now recover it by 15...Bb4xc3; 16.b2xc3 Qf6xc3; although this leaves him open to mating possibilities through Qe4-e7+ Rf8-f7; Qe7-g5+ Kg7-f8; Nf3-e5... Black, however, steers clear of this...

15...Ra8-b8; 16.Qe4-d4...

I must say I cannot really understand why White wishes to swop the Queens off now. True, he is a pawn up and Black's position is a mess but Black has a bishop pair against the two knights. Perhaps he felt he had no other choice...

16...Qf6xd4; 17.Nf3xd4 Bb4-c5; 18.Nd4-f3 Rb8xb2;

Recovering the pawn. As I mentioned before, Black has the bishop pair against the two knights and seems to be better. White also has two isolated pawns now...

19.Re1-e2 Bc8-a6; 20.Re2-d2 d7-d5;

Black is at last getting his pieces to work for him. However, his rook on b2 is a bit lost and the next move seems fairly obvious...

21.Nc3-a4 Rb2-b5; 22.Nf3-e5...

Suddenly White's pieces are rejuvenated.

22...Rf8xf2?;

As it proves, this move loses the exchange. However, what other options has he? 22...Ba6-b7; loses a piece to 23.Ne5-d7; 22...Bc5-b4; 23.c2-c3 Bba-a5; Ne5xc6... loses at least a pawn; 22...Rf8-f6; 23.Ne5-d7... again wins a piece. Perhaps, 22...Rb5-a5; 23.Na4-c3... is best but this leaves his rook rather ill at ease and may soon be trapped.

At least the way he plays gives him some traps and chances...

23.Rd2xf2 Bc4-d5; 24.Ra1-e1 Bd4xe5; 25.Na4-c5...

Not 25.Re1xe5?? Rb5-b1+; 26.Rf2-f1 Rb1xf1++;

25...Be5-c3; 26.Re1-e7+ Kg7-g6; 27.Re7-e6+ Kg6-g7; 28.Nc5-b3...

This move blocks the b-file stopping the mating threats.

28...Bc3-d4; 29.Re6xc6; Bd4-b6; 30.a2-a4 Rb5-b4; 31.a4-a5 Rb4-e4;

Black doesn't give in easily. This move again threatens mate.

32.g2-g3 Re4-e1+; 33.Kg1-g2 Ba6-b7; 34.a5xb6 Bb7xc6; 35.Nb3-a5...

White has gone for simplifications knowing now that he is close to adjudication time and that he has a won game. Black must give up the bishop otherwise the pawn will queen (either by b6xa7, b6xc7 or b6-b7) and Black cannot defend all three.

35...c7xb6; 36.Na5xc6 a7-a5; 37.Rf2-d2 Resigns.

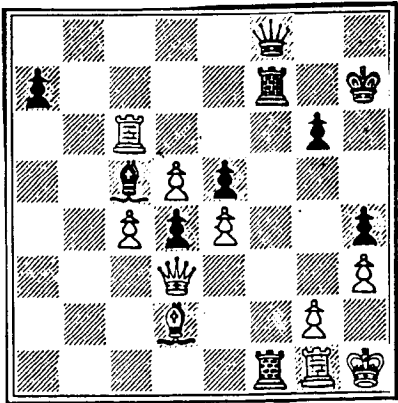
This may seem rather premature but as mentioned above it is close to adjudication time and Black has no reasonable readily accessible traps to set.

My thanks to Nick Down for sending me this game.

Since writing this report and game I have received correspondence from Trevor Thomas advising me of the game which won the Best Game award with analysis from both players and I will endeavour to put this game in the next Edition as the game and analysis are first class.

Richard Rendell

Bobby Blunder sat over the board, thinking extremely quickly, summing up the position. Here he was, only 11, playing in his first Club Championship with a great chance of winning it with a round to spare. He knew at the start of the game that 2 draws in the last 2 rounds would win the Championship for him. Thus he had played much against his natural instincts a very negative game. He had matched his opponent's thrusts, blocking the position as often as he could. But now after nearly 50 moves it seemed to him that he had a chance to win outright. He looked up from the board, surveying the room for his teacher and coach, Mr



Woodpusher, to attract his attention in order that he would be there when he made his great sacrifice. Alas, he could not do so as Mr Woodpusher was deep in conversation with the Club's captain, who he was due to meet in the last round. Oh well, that's his bad luck thought Bobby, I will play it anyway...

50...Rf7-f3!!; Yes this move deserves two exclamation marks, thought Bobby. His opponent's mouth dropped open and shut again extremely quickly. Ha Ha! thought Bobby, he hadn't thought of that. Where will be the best place in the house for my Cup? In the sitting-room over the fireplace or on my bookcase in my bedroom? His mind was doing

overtime. His old opponent stroked his beard, Bobby perked up as he knew this heralded a move from his opponent. That is an annoying habit he has. Why must he keep doing that? Anyway, who cares, I've won anyway. His opponent stretched out his hand and took the offered piece as expected.

51.g2xf3 Rf1xf3; 52.Rc6-c7+ Kh7-h8; Bobby quickly played these moves as he had expected them.

53.Bd2-h6... What's this, thought Bobby, he can't play that. He had to move the Queen either to the Queenside whereupon I play 53...Rf3xh3+; 54.Kh1-g2 Qf8-f3 mate, or to e2, which loses to 53...Rf3xh3+; 54.Kh1-g2 Rh3-g3+; 55.Kg2-h1 Rg3xg1+; 56.Kh1xg1 d4-d3+; winning the Queen.

How am I going to show this is wrong? If I take the bishop, he takes my rook and threatens Q-f8 or f6 winning. No I can't do that. Where can I move the Queen defending the rook and bishop at the same time? I can't!! I'll have to take the Queen...

53...Rf3xd3; 54.Bh6xf8 Rd3xh3+; 55.Kh1-g2 Rh3-g3+; Now I've got him. King moves to h1 or h2 and I play 56...Rg3xg1; 57.Kxg1... and d4-d3+ wins as he can't stop the advancing pawn.

56.Kg2-h2 Rg3xg1; 57.Bf8xc5... WHAT??? He didn't take take the rook. Now what do I do now? 57...d4-d3. Oh no, he's not going to take the rook but play Bc5-e3. I can't face that. **BLACK RESIGNS.**

So near and yet...so far. I don't suppose Mr Woodpusher is going to be very pleased with me. I don't blame him either. My opponent was beginning to repeat the position giving me a draw if I had really wanted it. What a fool I've been.....

The following week Mr Woodpusher and Bobby arrived at the club a quarter an hour early. They sit together, waiting for Bobby's opponent to arrive. "Well Bobby," said Mr Woodpusher, "How are you going to play this one then?" Bobby thought for a moment. How was he going to play it? As if Mr Woodpusher knew what he was going to say, he beat him to his response. "You are going to have to win, therefore you will come out with all guns blazing; a sharp line in the opening with a gambit somewhere in the early stages. But Bobby, you are playing the Club's Captain who only needs a draw from the game to win the Championship himself. Surely, he will be expecting you to do this?" Bobby looked a bit glum. He had prepared several openings all with gambits or sacrifices. He had played them over and over again in his head during the past week and yet he still didn't know which one to play.

His thoughts were broken into. Mr Woodpusher was talking again. "...try doing something he is not expecting." "Like what?" said Bobby. He didn't understand what Mr Woodpusher meant. Suddenly a thought occurred to him. A smile broke out across his face, "Perhaps I should try a slow long drawn out game. He won't be expecting that. I will not swop off the pieces as I normally do. I will make the game as complicated as possible, there will be no sacrifices. I will make him fight for his draw." Mr Woodpusher smiled. Just then his opponent turned up and very soon they were ready to start, Bobby having the White pieces.

1.c2-c4 e7-e6; 2.Ng1-f3 Ng8-f6; 3.g2-g3 d7-d5; 4.b2-b3 Bf8-e7; 5.Bf1-g2 O-O; 6. O-O b7-b6; 7.Bc1-b2 Bc8-b7; 8.e2-e3 Nb8-d7; 9.Nb1-c3 Nf6-e4; 10.Nc3-e2 a7-a5; 11.d2-d3 Be7-f6; 12.Qd1-c2 Bf6xb2; 13.Qc2xb2 Ne4-d6; 14.c4xd5 Bb7xd5; 15.d3-d4 c7-c5; 16.Rf1-d1 Ra8-c8; 17.Ne2-f4 Bd5xf3; 18.Bg2xf3 Qd8-e7; 19.Ra1-c1 Rf8-d8;

It was time for a review of the position and the game so far. 19 moves played. We are out of the opening and in the middle game. I have played fairly quickly as usual yet my opponent has used a lot of time up and could be put in time trouble if I keep the position complicated. I have a very small advantage. His pieces are very Queenside-minded and his pawns could be easy to attack if I swop off the d and c pawn. Yes I'll play for this.

20.d4xc5 Nd7xc5; 21.b3-b4 a5xb4; 22.Qb2xb4 Qe7-a7; 23.a2-a3 Nd6-f5; 24.Rc1-b1 Rd8xd1+; 25.Rb1xd1 Qa7-c7; 26.Nf4-d3 h7-h6; 27.Rd1-c1 Nf5-e7; 28.Qb4-b5 Ne7-f5; 29.a3-a4 Nf5-d6;

My opponent is getting rather short on time and still has another 11 moves before the time control. We have been just moving the pieces round and round for a while and perhaps now is the time to try a sacrifice in order to tie him up and make him blunder, otherwise the game could easily drift on for a draw. Perhaps, I can give up the a-pawn and create a lot of space for my pieces. Yes this the best plan.

30.Qb5-b1 Qc7-a7; 31.Nd3-e5 Nc5xa4; 32.Rc1xc8+ Nd6xc8; 33.Qb1-d1 Nc8-e7; 34.Qd1-d8+ Kg8-h7; 35.Ne5xf7 Ne7-g6; 36.Qd8-e8 Qa7-e7; 37.Qe8xa4 Qe7xf7; 38.Bf3-e4 Kh7-g8; 39.Qa4-b5 Ng6-f8; 40.Qb5xb6 Qf7-f6;

Well, we have reached the time control and indeed the lack of time has resulted in Black from being a pawn up to a pawn down. Now I have got to force a win from this position. Not easy but perhaps if I keep the pieces on I can still make it very difficult for Black and keep him in time trouble.

41.Qb6-b5 Qf6-e7; 42.Kg1-g2 g7-g6; 43.Qb5-a5 Qe7-g7; 44.Qa5-c5 Qg7-f7; 45.h2-h4 h6-h5; 46.Qc5-c6 Qf7-e7; 47.Be4-d3 Qe7-f7; 48.Qc6-d6 Kg8-g7; 49.e3-e4 Kg7-g8; 50.Bd3-c4 Kg8-g7; 51.Qd6-e5+ Kg7-g8; 52.Qe5-d6 Kg8-g7; 53.Bc4-b5 Kg7-g8; 54.Bb5-c6 Qf7-a7; 55.Qd6-b4 Qa7-c7; 56.Qb4-b7 Qc7-d8; 57.e4-e5 Qd8-a5; 58.Bc6-e8 Qa5-c5; 59.Qb7-f7+ Kg8-h8; 60.Be8-a4 Qc5-d5+; 61.Kg2-h2 Qd5-c5; 62.Ba4-b3 Qc5-c8; 63.Bb3-d1 Qc8-c5;

Black has been very close to losing each time the game got to the time control on the last 3 occasions. However, now he has less than 2 minutes for his next 7 moves. It therefore came as no surprise he resigned after White's next move.

64.Kh2-g2... Black Resigns.

What can he do?

Bobby's opponent turned his King over, smiled at Bobby and offered his hand. Bobby was most surprised. His opponent had fought tooth and nail for the last 20 odd moves and although the position was almost hopeless he was surprised his opponent had resigned. He wouldn't have done if it was him. He shook his opponent's hand. What a strange feeling. He felt he should have been rejoicing at his win at the last hour but he felt tired and just wanted to get home to bed. The game had taken an awful lot out of him. This was the first time he felt physically as well as mentally exhausted.

This time he had not even thought of the Cup. He had grown up.

The rising star had dawned.

I list below the County Match results that I have received from the Fixture Secretary. Unfortunately, I have not received the results from all the matches played from the Match Captains but have quoted the Final Match Score and will print the individual scores in the next edition - provided that I receive them by then. It has been suggested to me that I obtain a Match Captain's Report for each game. I have written to all the Match Captains requesting this but unfortunately several have not replied to my letter. I have therefore been unable to print the Match Captain's thoughts in these instances and have printed the results only because the Match Results Report in March will otherwise be extremely long, using up a lot of space.

I apologise if any names are spelt incorrectly but these are direct copies from the Match Captain's Results and the spelling is taken from your own Match Captain's report. The grades quoted are those of 1986/7. The team listed first had White on the odd numbered boards between 1 and 16 and Black between 17 and 32.

Dorset v Somerset

Played at Yeovil on 17 October 1987.

1.R.M.PEGG (170) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ J.K.WHITCUTT (170) 2.M.J.SIMONS (182) 1 - 0 C.J.WEEKS (173) 3.M.R.CHARTER (-) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ D.LITTLEJOHNS (172) 4.S.C.ROBINSON (185) 1 - 0 M.WHEELER (-) 5.C.W.JOHNS (-) 0 - 1 D.PUGH (-) 6.I.C.CLARK (174) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ A.L.HILL (169) 7.A.J.PLEASANTS (-) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ M.J.STEADMAN (158) 8.M.P.WADDINGTON (149) 0 - 1 R.W.GREGORY (165) 9.M.J.ROTH (167) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ S.R.BONIFACE (158) 10.R.VALENTINE (170) 1 - 0 G.N.JEPPI (150) 11.J.ANDERSON (167) 1 - 0 D.A.JONES (147) 12.T.E.SIMMS (162) 1 - 0 L.J.CUTTING (156) 13.F.C.KINGDON (153) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ C.E.WINCH (154) 14.J.C.ROWLEY (158) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ J.E.FEWKES (155) 15.S.A.CRANE (-) 0 - 1 R.J.TABOR (154) 16.P.C.COLMER $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ D.C.WOOD (160)

DORSET I 9 - 7 SOMERSET I

17.R.K.LOWEN (149) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ G.I.MILLER (167) 18.A.MILLERS (-) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ H.G.THOMAS (142) 19.M.W.ADAMS (132) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ E.W.COLE (145) 20.P.BRACKNER (133) 0 - 1 B.J.FRANCIS (141) 21.J.A.BASSETT (144) 0 - 1 R.H.FARMER (142) 22.P.FOSTER (135) 0 - 1 B.K.TOWERS (142) 23.D.J.CANNINGS (127) 0 - 1 T.A.WALLIS (142) 24.M.G.BOND (136) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ C.T.J.MCKINLEY (140) 25.A.D.PRIMETT (135) 1 - 0 R.MAISHMAN (132) 26.W.J.KELLY (116) 1 - 0 S.DORLEY-BROWN (117) 27.A.C.BULLOCK (120) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ R.J.BAGSHAW (126) 28.D.G.BINDON (-) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ R.J.HIRONS (124) 29.C.J.F.AMBROSE (114) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ D.J.BOWEN (117) 30.W.G.PAGE (109) 0 - 1 P.UNDERWOOD (132) 31.C.H.DAVIS (114) 0 - 1 C.J.FRANCIS (113J) 32.L.D.MCKINLEY (108J) 1 - 0 M.R.FRANCIS (100J)

DORSET II 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ SOMERSET II

Wiltshire v Gloucestershire

Played at Devizes on 17 October 1987

1.M.C.TRURAN (210) 1 - 0 D.C.OSBOURNE (197) 2.R.HAYDON (195) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ A.P.ASHBY 3.T.HEADLONG (192) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ J.R.BOYCE (187) 4.Miss Jane GARWELL (-) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ C.J.A.JONES (191) 5.S.ZEIDLER (189) 1 - 0 A.EASTON. (181) 6.I.BANKS (165) 0 - 1 J.J.M.THOMSON 7.A.W.CHAMPION (157) 0 - 1 E.NEWMAN (160J) 8.D.E.WARD (157) 0 - 1 G.S.WILKINSON (135J) 9.R.WALKER (149) 0 - 1 R.O.POWIS (169) 10.T.WOODWARD (142) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ J.J.CARR (159) 11.M.WEBB (150) 1 - 0 G.D.NEVILLE (167) 12.R.WORTLEY (139) 0 - 1 P.DENISON (169) 13.P.GILL (140) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ M.CRANIDGE (-) 14.R.W.RENDELL (165) 0 - 1 I.WHITTE (165) 15.M.J.STRANGE (149) 0 - 1 P.MARKHAM (-) 16.A.PONTING (108J) 0 - 1 I.FURBER (157)

WILTSHIRE I 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ GLOUCESTERSHIRE I

17.D.BETHELL (138) 0 - 1 R.J.DIXON (149) 18.R.F.WARDELL 0 - 1 S.W.DILKE (146) 19.J.E.MILWARD (129) 0 - 1 MISS J HARWAR (121J) 20.D.E.POTT (126) 0 - 1 J.KNIGHT (145) 21.N.G.ASHBY (117J) 0 - 1 A.R.BENTLEY (136) 22.S.BROOK (-) 0 - 1 C.R.FOWNEY (142) 23.R.CARVER (139) 0 - 1 M.J.WOOD (140) 24.A.HURST (108) 1 - 0 B.FLETCHER (-) 25.H.LIGHT (-) 0 - 1 M.GINGELL (-) 26.M.TOMALIN 1 - 0 DEFAULT (T.N.MARKE) 27.H.S.BAHIA (121) 0 - 1 C.T.W.BEVERIDGE (137) 28.G.S.ASHBY (107) 0 - 1 G.B.JAMES (128) 29.P.HILLIER (80J) 0 - 1 D.R.FOSTER (-) 30.A.DUNCAN (-) 0 - 1 J.C.B.DATE (114) 31. P.SMITH (-) 0 - 1 T.NEWMAN (118) 32.DEFAULT 0 - 0 DEFAULT

WILTSHIRE II 2 - 13 GLOUCESTERSHIRE II

MATCH CAPTAIN'S REPORTS

Gloucestershire (C.J.A.JONES)

Gloucestershire entered this match with some trepidations, particularly on the higher boards, where Wiltshire looked if anything the stronger. Lower down the order, prospects looked much brighter for Gloucestershire: regular county players all the way down (with one or two welcome new faces, notably Geoff James (Bd 28), more often associated with his efforts in the junior chess world), although sadly failures in communication caused us to default two boards.

In the event, my pessimistic prognostication of a 9-7 win for Wiltshire in the first team match was quickly dispelled. Jeremy Thomson's quick win on Board 6 caused me to feel more optimistic and, with Graham Wilkinson also exploiting his move up the board order, the match position quickly looked good for Glos.

If my impressions of the course of the match sound somewhat vague, I must apologise: my own game went right through to adjudication and I'm not one of those very talented Captain's who can keep an eye on the match position while still concentrating on their own game! In the end, the contests on the top 5 boards finished pretty even, although Wilts won $3\frac{1}{2} - 1\frac{1}{2}$, boards 1, 4 and 5 going to adjudications, Wiltshire obtaining what they claimed. The three unfinished games were all sufficiently complicated and unclear that adjudication was the "only way out". However, Glos cruised to victory in both matches, the results never in doubt. A confidence boosting start for Glos, but I have some misgivings about the season to come. It should be a tough season ahead!

Wiltshire (R.W.RENDELL)

Wiltshire looked forward to the start of this year's season. The draw had meant that they would play the other Counties in the order of strength (in my view), first Glos, then Devon, Hampshire, Somerset, Dorset and lastly Cornwall. Last year was our first for some time that we fielded two teams, although it was hard to get 32 players to play on the same day, especially away. It looked that we wouldn't win a game last year, after only drawing against Cornwall I's and losing against their Second team when really we should have won both. However, much to everyone's surprise (especially my own) we beat Somerset I and drew against their Second team. Hence, our renewed interest.

We knew that we didn't really stand a chance beating Glos. I considered that a 10-6 defeat would be an extremely good result. We knew the Second team would get thrashed as Glos have strength in depth - with players of much experience in the second team and of course most of my players being out-graded.

Like Chris, I too was not able to spend much time looking at the other boards. But for a completely different reason. I had spent the previous week lapping up the sun in Majorca, returning home at 12 noon on the day of the Match, having left the Hotel at 5 in the morning. I turned up at just after 3 p.m. to watch only to find one of my players (Board 14) had failed to turn up. I therefore stepped in and having lost half an hour of my time and still having my mind on Sunny Majorca (especially the topless female bathers on the beach) took ages to see anything on that chequered Board only to play like a demented moron and lost horribly. And yet this was my well rehearsed Dragon Sicilian, which I can normally play with my eyes shut.

By the end of the match I was happy to get home to bed, but on hindsight was overjoyed to lose $10\frac{1}{2} - 5\frac{1}{2}$. The second team lost 13-2 with Glos defaulting 1 of these points. I however, felt that if we could beat Glos $3\frac{1}{2} - 1\frac{1}{2}$ over the top 5 boards then we really stood a good chance against the weaker counties.

(2 points to mention from these reports.

(i) Chris Jones has since resigned from Glos Match Captain although he still playing for them.

(ii) What a surprise to hear that he thought Wiltshire had a chance of winning! This surely gives the other counties some hope!?)

The Hampshire v Cornwall Match was postponed due to the terrible wind and storms of the previous day.

Cornwall v Somerset

Played on 31 October 1987.

Somerset I 12 - 4 Cornwall I

Somerset II $12\frac{1}{2} - 3\frac{1}{2}$ Cornwall II

Unfortunately, I know no more details other than these results about this match. Perhaps George Miller (Somerset Captain) and Tony Meakes (Cornwall Captain) will fill me in before the writing of the March Edition, in order that I may report it better.

Hampshire v Dorset

Played at Minstead on 31 October 1987.

1. J. CORFIELD (194) 1 - 0 S. J. SHUTLER (200) 2. G. H. BENNETT (-) 1 - 0 R. M. PEGG (183) 3. A. FALLER (184) 1 - 0 M. J. SIMONS (-) 4. M. L. NEWBURY (172) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ M. R. CHARTER (185) 5. J. H. JONES (175) 1 - 0 M. J. FREEMAN (196) 6. S. DEAN (172) 0 - 1 S. C. E. ROBINSON (167) 7. E. GODBER (164J) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ I. C. CLARK (173) 8. S. W. KNOX (170) 0 - 1 J. F. CATCHPOLE (167) 9. S. P. PEZET (168) 0 - 1 M. J. ROTH (166) 10. E. HOLLAND (163J) 0 - 1 A. J. PLEASANTS (160) 11. J. R. FOULTON (152J) 1 - 0 M. P. WADDINGTON (165) 12. I. A. STENHOUSE (164) 1 - 0 R. BURTON (155) 13. J. R. NEIL (138J) 1 - 0 T. E. SIMMS (159) 14. J. HOPKINS (165) 1 - 0 R. K. LOWEN (154) 15. T. I. COWLING (160) 0 - 1 J. C. ROWLEY (154) 16. P. MILLER 1 - 0 H. D. NEEDHAM (151)

HAMPSHIRE I 10 - 6 DORSET I

17. K. CORNELIUS (-J) 0 - 1 D. K. BEVIS (150) 18. M. R. BAKER (146) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ M. W. ADAMS (149) 19. L. C. WALTERS (152) 0 - 1 A. MILLERS 20. M. C. HAGAN (151) 0 - 1 J. F. TILNEY - BASSETT (144) 21. P. C. SYMINGTON (-) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ P. BRACKNER (141) 22. D. CULLIFORD (140) 1 - 0 J. OUNSTED (133) 23. D. F. THOMPSON (139) 1 - 0 D. J. CANNINGS (133) 24. J. M. D. GOULD (-) 0 - 1 S. A. CRANE (122) 25. P. J. HEBBLETHWAITE (-) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ P. FOSTER (134) 26. M. CONNER (139) 1 - 0 M. J. SALES (130) 27. A. D. SMITH (138) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ D. G. RAPKINS (126) 28. A. N. MILLS (136) 0 - 1 G. A. HUNWICKS (126) 29. S. D. Le FEVRE (116) 0 - 1 M. G. BOND (125) 30. H. GOLDING (117) 0 - 1 A. D. PRIMEETT (125) 31. J. STEWARD (-) 0 - 1 W. J. KELLY (124) 32. Q. WINCH (107) 0 - 1 C. AMBROSE (108)

HAMPSHIRE II 5 - 11 DORSET II

MATCH CAPTAINS REPORTS

Hampshire (P. L. MARSHALL)

Surprisingly, in view of the close gradings between both first and second team opponents, both matches were won decisively - by Hampshire in the first team match and Dorset in the second team match. A further coincidence was that both winning teams scored most of their points on the upper and lower boards, whilst the losers on the middle boards.

There was a marked contrast in the Hampshire wins on the top two boards. On Board 1, Julian Corfield rapidly established a dominating position which he duly pressed home. On board 2, Gerald Bennett made a complete blunder with an unsound Queen sacrifice. If Gerald was temporarily shattered, his opponent must have been even more affected because he soon went wrong himself and proceeded to pluck defeat from the jaws of victory.

Hampshire are reaping the benefit of their junior chess development with four juniors in the first team match. The two youngest players, James Poulton, aged 13, and David Neil, 15, both won their games in good style.

Dorset (R. A. G. MARPLES)

Despite the close gradings, we have always considered Hampshire as a much stronger county than ourselves, with many more players to choose from. It was therefore no surprise to us that they won by such a large margin in the first team. On the contrary, we were surprised to win the second team so easily, with again the grades being extremely close. It was noticeable that our experienced both 5 boards all won and this made the difference.

We were surprised to lose 4 of the top 5 boards, drawing the other, especially as we outgraded them on all 5. These adverse went a long way to us losing the first team match.

Wiltshire v Devon

Played at Ilminster on 31 October 1987

1. M. C. TRURAN (210) 1 - 0 G. LANE (213) 2. R. HAYDON (195) 0 - 1 G. W. WHEELER (192) 3. T. HEADLONG (192) 1 - 0 J. F. WHEELER 4. D. PERRETT (182) 1 - 0 J. M. HUTCHINGS (189J) 5. R. F. BRADLEY (-) 0 - 1 B. W. R. HEWSON 6. D. E. WARD (157) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ T. F. THYNNE 7. R. W. RENDELL (165) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ R. H. LINGHAM (172) 8. M. WEBB (150) 0 - 1 N. A. DOWN (170) 9. M. J. STRANGE (149) 1 - 0 MISS JANE ANSON (162) 10. M. J. MORTON (-) 0 - 1 R. C. LUFFMAN (161) 11. R. CARVER (138) 0 - 1 J. A. GILBERT (161) 12. MRS ELAINE HARTFORD (126) 0 - 1 B. H. BOOMSMA (156) 13. J. E. MILWARD (129) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ J. PARKER (155) 14. M. CROASDALE (-) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ R. M. BRUCE (154) 15. R. MILLINER (-) 0 - 1 A. W. BRUSEY (153) 16. D. E. POTT (126) 0 - 1 A. BOYNE (-)

WILTSHIRE I 6 - 10 DEVON I

17. M. FLANAGAN (-) 0 - 1 K. J. BLOODWORTH (152) 18. D. HEYWOOD (131) 1 - 0 J. WALKER (151) 19. H. LIGHT (-) 0 - 1 J. HAYWARD (151) 20. M. TOMALIN (-) 0 - 1 J. E. JONES (-) 21. C. HEIDRICK (-J) 0 - 1 J. RIDOLFO (148) 22. N. G. ASHBY (117J) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ R. N. J. PHILLIPS (145J) 23. G. ASHBY (107) 0 - 1 B. J. PENALIGON (145) 24. J. MILWARD (-J) 0 - 1 Mrs J. THYNNE 25. A. DUNCAN (-J) 0 - 1 E. G. SPARKE (141) 26. A. TURRELL (-J) 0 - 1 M. S. TAVERNER (139J) 27. J. SYMONS (-J) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ Mrs R. M. BRUCE (138) 28. D. HUGHES (-J) 0 - 1 A. PICKERING (138J) 29. B. MITCHELL (-J) 0 - 1 J. GORODI (134) 30. J. PETTY (-J) 0 - 1 C. DEAKIN (128) 31. B. HUGHES (-J) 0 - 1 C. COLLINS (124) 32. DEFAULT 0 - 1 R. V. CROSS (126)

WILTSHIRE II 2 - 14 DEVON II

MATCH CAPTAINS REPORTS

Devon (R.V.CROSS)

I must admit to being rather nervous about this fixture as it was my first as Captain after Ron Bruce's long reign. How was I going to live up to his record as Match Captain? I was however extremely happy to field such a strong side and felt that it wasn't a matter of whether we would win but by how much. This was further fuelled by the fact that Richard Rendell phoned me the Wednesday before the match saying he was having trouble raising a side. Thus it was no surprise we won the Second team so convincingly. However, they did run us close in the first team, but we won the game over the bottom 6 boards. I was therefore extremely happy that my first game of Captaincy went so easily, what with me not having to play and there were no games outstanding at the end to worry about.

Wiltshire (R.W.RENDELL)

Yet again we had trouble raising a side for an away fixture. I knew when the fixture were agreed at the start of the season that this would be the case. The last Saturday in October is always used for Weddings, Cricket Dinner & Dances etc and so it proved. On the Wednesday before we were 10 players short. I managed to fill 9 of them with players aged between 8 and 14 (mainly from Salisbury Junior Chess Club). Why is it that kids will travel anywhere but not adults?

Anyway, I was pleased in the end to lose only 6-10 in the first team. In fact over the top 9 boards we led 5-4 and what a top 9 boards they had. We were extremely pleased that Mike Truran beat Gary Lane even though he did have the White pieces.

Although the second team got humiliated 2-14 there were 3 good results for us: David Heywood's win on Board 18 on this his return to the County side after 6 year's absence; Nicholas Ashby's draw against one of Devon's best juniors. Nicholas only being 12 and having only played 2 year's of serious chess; and young Jon Symons' draw against Rowena Bruce. Jon (aged 9) was several pieces down and in a hopeless position but he didn't give up and he snatched a draw by a perpetual check much to his opponent's dismay. I had a funny feeling Rowena had given him the chance and mentioned this to her, but no, she said, he had created the chance.

Devon v Dorset

Played at Ilminster on 14 November 1987.

1.G.W.LANE (213) 1 - 0 M.J.SIMONS (182) 2.G.W.WHEELER (192) 1 - 0 R.M.PEGG (170) 3.J.F.WHEELER (186) 1 - 0 M.R.CHARTER (-) 4.J.M.HUTCHINGS (189J) 1 - 0 S.C.E.ROBINSON (185) 5.B.W.R.HEWSON (179) 0 - 1 I.C.CLARK (174) 6.T.F.THYNNE (178) 0 - 1 C.W.JOHN (176) 7.R.H.LINGHAM (172) 1 - 0 J.F.CATCHPOLE (168) 8.N.A.DOWN (170) 1 - 0 M.J.ROTH (167) 9.Miss Jane ANSON (162) 0 - 1 A.J.PLEASANTS (-) 10.J.A.GILBERT (161) 0 - 1 M.P.WADDINGTON (149) 11.B.H.BOOMSMA (156) 0 - 1 R.VALENTINE (170) 12.S.A.WILKS (155) 0 - 1 J.ANDERSON (167) 13.A.W.BRUSEY (153) 1 - 0 T.E.SIMS (162) 14.A.K.BOYNE (184) 1 - 0 R.BURTON (180) 15.J.PARKER (155) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ F.C.KINGDON (153) 16.R.M.BRUCE (154) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ J.C.ROWLEY (158)

DEVON I 9 - 7 DORSET I

17.K.J.BLOODWORTH (152) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ H.D.NEEDHAM (158) 18.J.WALKER (151) 1 - 0 D.K.BEVIS (154) 19.J.H.HAYWARD (151) 1 - 0 M.W.ADAMS (132) 20.J.RIDOLFO (148) 0 - 1 A.MILLERS (-) 21.B.J.PENALIGON (145) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ P.BRACKNER (133) 22.R.N.J.PHILLIPS (145J) 1 - 0 S.A.CRANE (-) 23.Mrs J THYNNE (142) 1 - 0 P.FOSTER (135) 24.E.HORN (-) 1 - 0 M.J.SALES (-) 25.E.G.SPARKER (141) 1 - 0 J.A.BASSETT (144) 26.Mrs R.M.BRUCE (138) 1 - 0 M.G.BOND (136) 27.D.R.GEDDIS (-) 0 - 1 A.D.PRIMETT (135) 28.A.PICKERING (148J) 1 - 0 G.A.HUNWICKS (112) 29.R.H.JONES (132) 1 - 0 W.J.KELLY (116) 30.R.V.CROSS (130) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ C.P.JARRETT (120J) 31.C.DEAKIN (128) 0 - 1 A.C.BULLOCK (120) 32.A.CRICKMORE (124) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ C.H.DAVIS (114)

DEVON II 11 - 5 DORSET II

Again I have not received a report from either Match Captain.

Gloucestershire v Cornwall

Played at Exeter on 14 November 1987. Gloucestershire I 12 - 4 Cornwall I

Gloucestershire II $7\frac{1}{2}$ - $8\frac{1}{2}$ Cornwall II

Yet again I have received nothing from either Match Captain, which is a great pity as Cornwall II's win must be the biggest surprise of the season. I am hoping that both Captain's will send me a report for the next Edition.

Wiltshire v Hampshire

Played at Devizes on 14 November 1987.

1. R. HAYDON (195) 0 - 1 M. J. YEO (198) 2. T. HEADLONG (195) 1 - 0 J. H. JONES (175) 3. Miss Jane GARWELL (192) 1 - 0 M. I. WALKER (163J) 4. S. KYRIAKIDES (204) 0 - 1 M. L. NEWBURY (172) 5. D. PERRETT (182) 1 - 0 S. DEAN (172) 6. D. L. O'BYRNE (157) 0 - 1 J. HOPKINS (165J) 7. A. W. CHAMPION (157) 0 - 1 I. A. STENHOUSE (164) 8. D. E. WARD (157) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ A. D. CROSSIN (172) 9. R. W. RENDELL (165) 0 - 1 S. W. KNOX (170) 10. A. D. PONTING (108J) 0 - 1 J. R. POULTON (152J) 11. M. J. STRANGE $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ S. P. PEZET (168) 12. R. WALKER (-) 1 - 0 P. MILLER (-) 13. M. WEBB (150) 1 - 0 T. I. COWLING (157) 14. P. GILL (140) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ D. R. NEIL (138J) 15. E. T. BROMILOW (149) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ L. C. WALTERS (152) 16. M. CROASDALE (-) 0 - 1 M. R. BAKER (146)

WILTSHIRE I 7 - 9 HAMPSHIRE I

17. M. C. LOVELL (135) 0 - 1 M. C. HAGAN (151) 18. R. J. A. WORTLEY (140) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ B. P. SWEENEY (-) 19. J. E. MILWARD (129) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ S. J. KENT (144) 20. Mrs Elaine HARTFORD (126) 0 - 1 J. MONK (131J) 21. D. HEYWOOD (131) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ K. R. NOYCE (-) 22. R. F. WARDELL (146) 1 - 0 D. CULLIFORD (140) 23. A. HURST (108) 0 - 1 D. F. THOMPSON (139) 24. T. M. FLANAGAN (-) 0 - 1 K. CORNELIUS (-J) 25. H. S. BAHIA (121) 0 - 1 A. N. MILLS (138) 26. R. CARVER (138) 0 - 1 A. D. MILLS (138) 27. N. G. ASHBY (117J) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ P. J. HEBBLETHWAITE (-) 28. H. LIGHT (-) 0 - 1 C. BLAKE (88J) 29. M. P. TOMALIN (-) 0 - 1 H. PRIOR (-) 30. D. E. POTT (126) 1 - 0 C. W. LAXTON (122) 31. G. S. ASHBY (107) 1 - 0 Q. WINCH (107) 32. S. R. CONNER (-) 1 - 0 R. M. PRINCE (104)

WILTSHIRE II 6 - 10 HAMPSHIRE II

MATCH CAPTAINS REPORTS

Hampshire (P. L. MARSHALL)

Hampshire entered this match without several first team players, all from Southampton University, who were playing in a tournament in London. However, we were able to field quite a strong team but on the day the teams were fairly well matched. This was reflected in the scores. We won both matches simply because we were slightly stronger than Wiltshire but our Matches against Wiltshire are getting closer as Richard Rendell digs up more unknown players from the depths of Wiltshire.

Wiltshire (R. W. RENDELL)

Wiltshire entered this match with one of its strongest teams ever. We were missing Mike Truran, which was a great pity but were still able to boast 4 players over 190. Savvas Kyriakides played for the first time but unfortunately was still very rusty and lost. We are hopeful that he will be available for the rest of the season. Dave Perrett continued his 100% record for us since transferring to us from the Berkshire team. Unfortunately, we were again beaten by our opponents' strength in depth. The second team would have lost heavily but for the bottom 3 boards all winning, Steve Conner making his debut on the bottom board.

Devon v Cornwall

Played on 28 November 1987 Devon I 10 - 5 Cornwall (+1 adjudication, Cornwall claiming a win)
Devon II 16 - 0 Cornwall II

Again no match scores or reports received from either counties. It looks as though Cornwall II got its comeuppance after beating Glos IIs. And yet this was a local match for them.

Gloucestershire v Dorset

Played at Frome on 5 December 1987.

1. D. O. COLLIER (190) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ M. R. CHARTER (-) 2. N. HOSKEN (191) 1 - 0 R. M. PEGG (170) 3. J. R. BOYCE (187) 0 - 1 S. C. E. ROBINSON (185) 4. G. POPELAND (183) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ I. C. CLARK (174) 5. C. J. A. JONES (191) 1 - 0 J. F. CATCHPOLE (168) 6. A. EASTON (181) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ R. VALENTINE (170) 7. P. J. MEADE (174) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ J. ANDERSON (167) 8. R. O. POWIS (169) 0 - 1 M. J. ROTH (167) 9. J. J. CARR (159) 0 - 1 A. J. PLEASANTS (-) 10. I. R. WHITE (165) A - A T. E. SIMMS (162) 11. I. R. PICKUP (167) 0 - 1 M. P. WADDINGTON (149) 12. I. FURBER (157) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ R. K. LOWEN (149) 13. R. W. SMITH (-) A - A J. C. ROWLEY (158) 14. A. GILMORE (-) 1 - 0 M. W. ADAMS (132) 15. J. J. M. THOMSON (135) 1 - 0 A. MILLERS (-) 16. M. CRANNIDGE (-) 1 - 0 J. OUNSIED (142)

DORSET I 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ GLOUCESTERSHIRE I (+2 adjudications, each county claiming 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ points. This guarantees Glos at least a draw in the match score)

17. P. HENDRICK (-) 1 - 0 P. EDGINGTON (-) 18. A. KILLEY (153) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ S. A. CRANE (-) 19. R. J. DIXON (149) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ P. BRACKNER (133) 20. J. KNIGHT (145) A - A D. J. CANNINGS (127) 21. R. J. M. SELFE (142) 1 - 0 M. J. SALES (-)

22.C.R.POWNEY (142) 1 - 0 B.M.SHEINBAUM (-) 23.M.J.WOOD (140) 1 - 0 M.G.BOND (136) 24.C.M.OLIVER (129) 0 - 1 A.D.PRIMETT (135) 25.P.TAYLOR (-) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ D.G.E.RAPKINS (133) 26.C.T.W.BEVERIDGE (137) 0 - 1 C.P.JARRETT (120J) 27.H.J.DRAISEY (134) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ A.C.BULLOCK (120) 28.H.PARKER (-) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ W.J.KELLY (116) 29.M.GINGELL (-) 1 - 0 P.FAMANT (115) 30.DEFAULT 0 - 1 A.J.STOUT (78J) 31.J.C.B.DATE (114) 0 - 1 C.H.DAVIS (114) 32.A.GITTINGS (100J) 1 - 0 C.J.F.AMBROSE (114)

GLOUCESTERSHIRE II 9 - 6 DORSET II (+1 adjudication)

Again I have received no match report from either Captains although I understand from Greville Marples (Dorset Captain) that Dorset are very confident that they will get $1\frac{1}{2}$ points from the 2 adjudications, giving them a match point.

Somerset v Wiltshire

Played at Devizes on 5 December 1987.

1.C.J.WEEKS (173) 1 - 0 M.C.TRURAN (210) 2.D.LITTLEJOHNS (172) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ T.HEADLONG (195) 3.D.PUGH (-) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ R.HAYDON (195) 4.A.L.HILL (169) 1 - 0 Miss Jane GARWELL (188) 5.J.A.BORKOWSKI (156) 0 - 1 S.ZEIDLER (188) 6.M.J.STEADMAN (158) 0 - 1 D.PERREIT (182) 7.R.W.GREGORY (165) 1 - 0 I.GREEN (165) 8.S.R.BONIFACE (158) 1 - 0 A.W.CHAMPION (157) 9.G.N.JEPPS (150) 1 - 0 D.E.WARD (157) 10.R.J.TABOR (154) 0 - 1 D.L.O'BYRNE (157) 11.J.E.FEMKES (155) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ R.WALKER (-) 12.D.C.WOOD (160) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ M.J.STRANGE (149) 13.D.G.WOODRUFF (153) 1 - 0 T.WOODWARD (142) 14.D.A.JONES (147) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ P.GILL (140) 15.M.EASTWOOD (131J) 0 - 1 E.T.BROMILOW (140) 16.G.MILLER (167) 1 - 0 A.D.PONTING (108J)

SOMERSET I $9\frac{1}{2}$ - $6\frac{1}{2}$ WILTSHIRE I

17.T.WALLIS (142) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ M.WEBB (150) 18.C.MCKINLEY (140) 1 - 0 M.J.MORTON (140) 19.Miss Jane EASTWOOD (112J) 0 - 1 J.E.MILWARD (129) 20.R.HIRONS (124) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ M.CROASDALE (-) 21.N.A.JOHNSON (145) 1 - 0 Mrs Elaine HARIFORD (126) 22.R.MAISHMAN (132) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ R.F.WARDELL (146) 23.S.DORLEY-BROWN (117) 0 - 1 T.M.FLANAGAN (-) 24.R.J.BAGSHAW 0 - 1 H.S.BAHIA (121) 25.P.UNDERWOOD (132) 0 - 1 R.CARVER (138) 26.C.STANFORD (110) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ H.LIGHT (-) 27.C.J.FRANCIS (103J) 1 - 0 N.G.ASHBY (117J) 28.P.WOOD (-J) $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ M.TOMALIN (-) 29.C.PRICE (99J) 0 - 1 D.E.POTT (126) 30.M.FRANCIS (90J) 0 - 1 S.CONNER (-) 31.J.TOWNSEND (-) 0 - 1 D.HUGHES (-J) 32.R.WINSON (-J) 1 - 0 J.SYMONS (-J)

SOMERSET II $6\frac{1}{2}$ - $9\frac{1}{2}$ WILTSHIRE II

MATCH CAPTAINS REPORTS

Somerset (G.I.MILLER)

This was an extremely close match but we managed to avenge our first team defeat of last year. However, we lost the second team match, taking our unbeaten record away. We were extremely pleased to win the first team match, especially as we were well out-graded on the top boards, but managed to take 3 out of the top 4 points. Chris Weeks was a worthy winner on the top board against Mike Truran who never looked happy and had to give his Queen up for a rook to stop mate and lost soon afterwards. Alan Hill was also pleased to beat Jane Garwell as this avenged his defeat to her last year. In the second team match, we seemed to lose it on the lower boards and the score would have been more conclusive but 3 players managed to get a result from either a drawn or lost position.

Wiltshire (R.W.RENDELL)

We were extremely disappointed to lose the first team after we won last year and our team this year was stronger. However, it was very close and we had a great chance of at least drawing but Jane Garwell moved her King to the wrong square the move before adjudication which resulted in a loss and Andrew Ponting lost a won game to George Miller. This was very disappointing, as at the start of the Match I asked George if he was playing because I was tempted to play myself and drop one of the lower board players out of the Match. He said no and therefore I felt I couldn't really do this. However, his board 16 (graded 129) failed to turn up and he played instead. To make matters worst he was totally outplayed by Andrew but because he was the Captain (I suppose) he continued to play on in a totally lost position. Alas, Andrew showed his inexperience and lost.

We were pleased to win the second team but I really felt let-down that we didn't win both Matches. For once, we were let-down by the top boards.

Tables to Date

First Team

Second Team

Devon	6 out of 6	Devon	6 out of 6
Gloucestershire	5+ out of 6	Gloucestershire	4 out of 6
Hampshire	4 out of 4	Somerset	4 out of 6
Somerset	4 out of 6	Hampshire	2 out of 4

	<u>First Team (Cont)</u>		<u>Second Team (Cont)</u>
Dorset	2+ out of 8	Cornwall	2 out of 6
Cornwall	0 out of 6	Dorset	2 out of 8
Wiltshire	0 out of 8	Wiltshire	2 out of 8

N.B All but Devon Gloucestershire and Hampshire are designated as Minor Counties.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARIES

<u>DATE</u> (1988)	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>CONTACT NUMBER</u>
16 January	Dorset v Wiltshire Hampshire v Devon Somerset v Gloucestershire	
5 February to 7 February	Portsmouth Congress	(0705) 388341
6 February to 7 February	The 11th Kidlington Chess Tournament	(0865) 57428
7 February	Basingstoke Quickplay	(0256) 478753
6 February	Junior Jamboree	at the County Ground, Taunton
20 February	Cornwall v Wiltshire Devon v Somerset Gloucestershire v Hampshire	
26 February to 28 February	East Devon Chess Congress	at Exeter (0272) 515869
6 March	Basingstoke Quickplay	(0256) 478753
12 March	Cornwall v Dorset Gloucestershire v Devon Somerset v Hampshire	
20 March	St Neot's One Day Chess Congress	(0480) 75149
31 March to 4 April	West of England Chess Congress	at Weston-Super-Mare (0272) 515869
9 April	Basingstoke Quickplay	(0256) 478753
23 April	Preliminary Round for County Championship Finals	
14 May	County Championship Quarter-Finals	
4 June	County Championship Semi-Finals	
2 July	County Championship Finals	
16 July	Peterborough Software National Club Finals	
15 August to 18 August	British Speed Chess Championship	(01) 3879494 xt 5237
20 August to 29 August	Lloyds Bank Masters	(01) 8066518
4 September to 10 September	38th Annual Paignton Congress	(0803) 23345

Is there a moral dimension to chess and how does it manifest itself? Bill Hartston's excellent books on the subject expose some of the more unlikely coups that can take place on and around the chessboard, but outright cheating is comparatively rare, certainly at the ordinary club level.

Everyone discusses their games in broad terms at some time, but in most cases this is harmless and overlooked. Suggesting or asking for moves is a different matter and should be rightly punished. In a match between a West of England county and a Midland county several years ago a team-mate of mine was concerned that his opponent disappeared every time he was due to move, into the company of a much stronger player who was making some unsubtle gesticulations towards the board. A complaint was made to the opposing captain and for a while it stopped. Then a list of moves was found written down on a newspaper which had an uncanny relevance to the game in question. This time the player was rightly given a public dressing-down by his own captain.

There are a number of scandalous stories concerning pocket sets and lavatories, the most renowned of which resulted in an American Grandmaster being defaulted. That excellent arbiter Jack Speigel was once told by a player that his opponent was analyzing his game in a locked cubicle and that all he had to do was to look over the top of the door to catch him red-handed. Jack weighed up the moral and legal issues and wisely decided to take no direct action.

Large money prizes have led to players being approached in order that an equitable result should be achieved for all parties, the famous quadruple tie at Hastings being an alleged example. Yet is it immoral for two friends to agree NOT to draw in order that one should have chances of a prize?

Aside from actual cheating, there are many grey areas of doubtful sportsmanship. Incidents with the clock concern many of these. At the East Devon Congress one year a young player facing inevitable mate on the move let his opponent's clock run out for something like twelve minutes. He won his game, of course, but was strongly advised to examine his conscience.

I could never win on time myself in this way, but HAVE 'stolen' ten minutes back on the clock myself when in time trouble when I thought my opponent could afford it. The most unfortunate experience I had was when playing a very good sport in Newton Abbott who decided to visit the toilet with one move to make and three minutes left on the clock. Whether or not he had a pocket set hidden away will never be known, but he arrived back just in time to see his flag fall.

Players who complain about conditions generally fall into two categories; those who genuinely feel that things are not good enough and those prima donnas who want preferential treatment just for themselves. Organizers will gladly fix a squeaky door which is driving everybody crazy, but find it hard to do anything about a Salvation Army Band which just happens to be passing.

An unfortunate habit is creeping into Congresses today which is hard to control and devastating in its effect. This is the annoying practice of players withdrawing from tournaments when it is clear that they have no chance of winning a prize. I quote two recent incidents in contrast. In one a grandmaster lost in the second round of a regional congress he might have been expected to win, but not only stayed on to congratulate his opponent and analyze with him although naturally disappointed, but played on in the lower reaches of the tournament until the end without hope of what to him was earned income. And this was from a player well known to be abrasive. The contrary attitude came from a local player of uncertain talent who threatened to withdraw from a Congress if he lost his first-round game because "I'm only here for the money and have better things to do." The same person later offered to continue in the section if his entry fee was returned, but this was not surprisingly rejected. The player proceeded to lose his second game and did indeed withdraw, leaving another competitor without a game in the third round. Such appalling cynicism is fortunately rare.

Death over the chessboard is thankfully even scarcer, though I have come across three incidents in recent years. Seventeen years ago a team-mate of mine suffered a heart-attack and died on the spot despite resuscitation by our team captain. The match was abandoned, in spite of the fact that we were

material up on every board! When replayed, the result went against us 6-0. Is there justice? Certainly not in Wiltshire where the same thing happened. Not only did other teams not stop playing, but those giving first aid were told to keep quiet. Unbelievable.

However, I am firmly of the opinion that in general the level of sportsmanship is on the increase. Players missing moves on the scoresheet are helped willingly by opponents; no bad temper is shown on losing and our Grandmasters happily mix with us lesser mortals.

One final tale which will always reinforce my belief in good sportsmanship. I was playing an opponent of similar strength who had been trying for years to beat me. I had no reason to expect any favours from him, especially as this was a vital match for both clubs. We had been playing a bishop ending where I had been manoeuvring for some moves to outflank his King. At close of play the Captains came along and declared the game a draw, without consulting either of us. My opponent immediately pointed out that I had winning chances. I'm not sure what his Captain thought, but I'd still call him a gentleman.

Steve Boniface

OBITUARY George William KILMISTER M.B.E.

By R.A.G.MARPLES

George William Kilmister MBE, a life member of the BCF from 1963, died peacefully at his Christchurch home on 24 November 1985 at the age on 80. Born on 2 August 1905 at Holdenhurst, a suburb of Bournemouth, he was educated at Cliff House School, Southbourne, Wellington College, Somerset and Bournemouth Municipal College, the Cricket Club of which he formed in 1925. A Radio Operator by profession he started work in 1925 with the Marconi Company and in 1928 joined the Union-Castle Steamship Company. Later he became Senior Radio Officer until he retired in 1967. From 1957 to 1967 he was the Chairman of the Radio Officers' Union.

He was honoured with the M.B.E. in 1957 for his bravery and help in the rescue of passengers and crew of the Dutch vessel "Klipfontein", which ran aground on rocks off the Mozambique coast of East Africa. In the Second World War he was commended by General Lord Auchlinlech for a Secret Service mission. While on board his various ships he used to play with and teach Chess and Bridge to the various passengers and crews.

He married in 1931 to live in Christchurch, so when on leave he used to play Chess at the Christchurch Chess Club, which was formed in 1948, and on his retirement was elected as Hon. Secretary until 1972 after which he turned his time and energies to Bridge at the Christchurch Bridge Club until the day he died.

He became a Vice-President of the Hampshire Chess Association in 1962, and was elected Publicity Officer and Editor of the Southern Counties Chess Union and Hampshire C.C.A. with effect from 1968. He produced the Bulletins of the S.C.C.U. and H.C.C.A. until 1972 when H.C.C.A. transferred to the West of England Chess Union. Then, on boundary changes which resulted in Christchurch being in Dorset, he became a Vice-President of that county in 1975. In 1981, he became an Hon. Life Vice-President. He was Editor of the WECU's "Westward Ho!" from 1972 to 1975. He founded the Southbourne Chess Club with 5 other members in September 1974 and, owing primarily to his efforts, membership gradually increase, until in 1975 the Club was able to enter a team in the Bournemouth & District Chess League. On becoming a non-active player he was elected an Honorary Life Member. In Sptember 1984 he was able to attend a Celebratory Supper to mark the Club's 10th anniversary together with some of the original 6 members. He will always be remembered by the Club.

In 1968 he won a Tournament/Championship at the Brighton Congress.

I used to call on George regularly, initially to collect his VP's Subs for Dorset in my role as Treasurer and later to deliver his BCF Year Books as Trading Officer and was always greeted with enthusiasm and made most welcome. He once told me that he supervised some of the Zone F (SouthEast England) games of the British Championship Qualification Competitions.

He was much liked by all members of his Clubs and Unions and was always willing to help and organise for them. He will be sorely missed.

Everyone loves to attack his opponent's King but it often requires a lot of nerve, especially when one's opponent can counter-attack on the opposite wing. Some players play as though you were not there at all; they throw their pieces at the opposing King in a desperate bid to hunt it down, bold sacrifice after bold sacrifice. Sometimes this results in a dramatic victory or mate. However, on many occasions the end result is a depressing loss as the opponent soaks up the pressure, collecting the offered pieces one by one and sitting pretty until the hurricane blows itself out. Invariably, the attacker runs out of pieces and resigns rather than having to face the music against the opponent's additional material. In these cases, neither player really benefits. Sure, the defender wins the game; but he does not derive full enjoyment from it. He has some extremely worrying moments during the game; he lives on his nerves, never sure that he has seen everything, believing his opponent has seen something that he has not, despite the fact that he has looked deeply into the position. And, finally, when he has survived the onslaught and can then look forward to using his additional material to his advantage, his opponent promptly resigns. His opponent, meanwhile, also lives on his nerves, desperately hoping that his opponent will not have seen something he hasn't. As his initial sacrifice fails he seeks to complicate the position further. He changes to "Kamikaze" mode, following one sacrifice with another and another. When these don't work, he changes again, this time to the "Swindle" mode. Finally, when this fails he finds that he has insufficient material to either win or even draw and at this point, loses interest in the game and immediately resigns. He leaves the board feeling a little self-conscious, rather stupid and very depressed.

On the other hand, both players can derive pleasure from a game where a sacrifice succeeds. Of course, the defender feels rather sick when he loses, but providing he has not made any grave errors or blunders and is a good sport, who appreciates good attacking play, he will temper his disappointment with the knowledge that he has simply been beaten by a better player who has been prepared to take risks in order that he may win. If the game has been an exciting one he will rejoice in the beauty of it. The winner will know that he has taken risks but this will make the victory all the more sweeter. He will therefore feel extremely elated. It is these occasions that spur players into making sacrifices. They will remember these games and blot out in their minds the failures. They will continue to make sacrifices and be better for it.

The following game, played between two Devon players in the recent 1987 Torbay Championship, is an example of the latter case, in which White adopts a keen attacking stance with sufficient restraint to secure the full point:

Paul ASTON v Alan BRUSEY

French Defence

1. e2-e4 e7-e6; 2.Qd1-e2...

An idea of Chigorin's to steer clear of established theory.

2...Bf8-e7; 3.g2-g3 d7-d5; 4.d2-d3 c7-c5; 5. f2-f4 Nb8-c6; 6.Ng1-f3 Ng8-f6;
7.c2-c3 d5-d4; 8.Bf1-g2 0-0; 9. 0-0 d4xc3?!

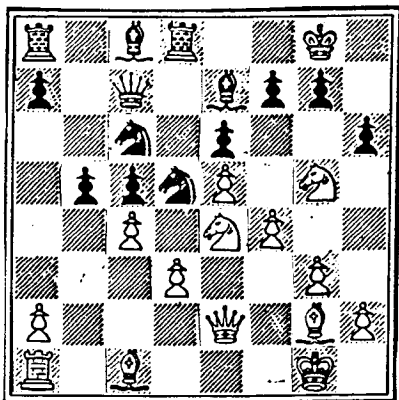
Black has released the tension in the centre with no clear plan in mind, whereas White can confidently continue his development.

10.b2xc3 Qd8-c7; 11.Nb1-d2 Rf8-d8; 12.e4-e5 Nf6-d5; 13.Nd2-e4...

The knight looms menacingly within striking distance of the King.

13...b7-b5; 14.Nf3-g5 h7-h6; 15.c3-c4!!...

A neat in-between move designed to divert black's most active piece. The best response would be to accept the sacrifice on g5 and return the material by not moving the knight on d5.



Black, however, plays the natural move.

15...b5xc4; 16.d3xc4 Nd5-b6; 17.Qe2-h5
h6xg5; 18.f4xg5...

Opening up an attack on f7.

18...Nc6xe5; 19.Bc1-b2 Rd8-f8; 20.Ne4-f6+...

A well timed sacrifice that leads to a
quick finish.

20...Be7xf6; 21.g5xf6 Ne5-g6;
22.f6xg7 Bc8-b7; 23.Qh5-h8+ Resigns.

A final Queen sacrifice leads to mate.
A classic finish.

Gary Lane.

CONGRESS ROUND-UP

There have been many Congresses and Union Events since the last Westward Ho! and this report covers these various events. I am sorry if some are not reported as well as others but I received some very poor reports from some of the Organisers. I really don't think that they can complain if their events are badly reported and advertised if they do not send me a decent report. Just to say Bloggs won with 5½ points from 6; Smith was second with 5 etc... is not good enough. I have made an effort to go to as many events as I can but I am at present extremely busy and unable to cover all of them. I must say it doesn't help when two or more tournaments are played on the same day/weekend or on days when there are County Matches as well. I must admit to never having played in a tournament outside Wiltshire ever before but hope to correct this this season. Anyway, let's go through them in date order:

Saturday 5th September 1987 Wiltshire Quickplay.

This was the first of its kind in Wiltshire. It was reasonably supported by the Wiltshire players but not many other players played. It was felt that it was a bit early in the season by most players. The facilities were good and easily accessible, being just off the centre of Swindon. Unfortunately, I personally was unable to go as I had an emergency WECU meeting to go to, however, I understand it was enjoyed by all who went. The Open was won by Peter Richmond with Robert Lynn runner-up and Richard Haydon, third. The Intermediary was won by M.K.Li with Gordon Chapman runner-up and Adrian Champion third. The U140 was won jointly by Mark Strange and Andrew Ponting.

Paignton Chess Congress

(Report by Ken Bloodworth)

So keenly fought were all tournaments at the Devon Chess Congress at Oldway Mansion, Paignton, that the winner of no tournament was decided until the final round. With fine wins over International Masters, Keith and Susan Arkell, the winner of the Premier tournament was Tyson Mordue (Clevedon) who scored 5½ points from the seven rounds. Four players were only a half point behind. Namely, Keith Arkell (Droitwich), K.D.Gregory (Porchester) Tim Headlong (Swindon) and A.H.Thompson (Hampstead). Professor D.B.Scott gained the Veterans' prize whilst grading awards went to Dave Collier and D.O.Vaughan.

The Challengers' tournament ended in a triple tie between T.E.Geoghegan (Bristol) C.Peters (Babbacombe) and J.Walker (Teignmouth) all with a score of 5½. Equal fourth on 5 were L.R.Ainsworth (Preston), A.Brusey (Newton Abbot) and M.Page (Waltham Forest).

After winning his first round game, Peter Terry from Wimbledon was taken ill suddenly and rushed to hospital. All players were stunned to learn of his death a few days later. This tragedy was the only sad moment in what was one of the most successful Paignton Congresses, which started in 1951.

The Mayor of Torbay, Councillor Mrs Eloise Armes received all competitors at a midweek reception and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor L.L.Cook attended the Prize Giving at which the Deputy Mayoress presented the prizes.

The American "A" tournament was won by E.B.Sandercock (Chalfont St Giles) and D.Miller (Crowborough) with K.A.J.francis (West Bromwich) tied in the "B" Section, with C.S.Greaves and J.F.Chambers sharing first prize in the "C" Section.

The Graded Swiss Tournament ended in a tie between A.C.Bullock (Poole) and P.J.Northcutt (Parr) with both scored 6 points, the highest in any Section. In this tournament the hard-working Congress Secretary, Lewis Moate, gained a half share of the Veteran's Prize.

The Lightning tournament was won by Keith Arkell with 7 points out of 7, with his wife, Susan, and Ken Norman runners-up with 5½.

The Congress was quietly but most competantly controlled by Paggy Clarke (B.C.F. Arbiter) ably assisted by John Vasey. Mr B.Tarr of F.D.Browning of Torquay announced that they would only be too pleased to again sponsor the Congress next year when Oldway Mansion will once more be the venue.

The WECU Inter-County Jamboree Played at the County Ground, Taunton on 19 Sept 1987

This year's Senior Jamboree was a very close run affair with Gloucestershire winning on the tie-break after both they and Devon finished on 7½ points. Dorset were a close third half a point behind.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	TOTAL
Cornwall	1	1	½	½	0	0	½	0	½	0	0	½	4½
Devon	½	1	1	½	½	1	1	0	1	½	½	0	7½
Dorset	½	½	0	½	1	½	1	1	½	1	0	½	7
Gloucestershire	0	1	0	0	½	½	½	1	1	1	1	1	7½
Hampshire	0	½	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	0	½	½	5½
Somerset	0	0	1	1	1	1	0	½	0	0	1	1	6½
Wiltshire	1	0	0	1	0	0	½	0	0	½	½	0	3½

The Graded Jamboree was won by Torbay, a point and a half ahead of Exeter. Wiltshire created a new record - failing to score! But all the same, it was the first time ever that they have fielded two teams. The Second team was extremely inexperienced.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	TOTAL
Cornwall	½	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	½	0	0	4
East Dorset	½	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	½	1	0	0	6
West Dorset	½	1	½	1	1	0	½	0	1	½	0	1	7
Exeter	½	0	0	1	0	1	½	1	1	1	1	1	8
Somerset	1	0	1	0	1	1	½	1	0	0	1	1	7½
Torbay	1	0	½	1	1	1	1	½	1	½	1	1	9½
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Hanham Congress Friday 6 November to Sunday 8 November 1987.

This was the first such Congress to be held at Hanham. However, it was fairly popular, with 33 Competitors in the Open, 40 in the Major and 40 in the Minor. The Organisers were extremely pleased that the Congress attracted 5 players of grades over 200 and 22 over 170. The Open was won by Gary Lane (Palace) with 4½ points out of 5, who after 4 successive wins agreed a 9 move draw in the last round with C.N.Dunworth (Warwick) who came equal second on 4 points with D.Lynch

(Hendon) and Dave Osborne (Grendel). Ian White (Gloucester) won the Grading Prize.

The Major was won by Dave Woodruff (Keynsham) on $4\frac{1}{2}$ points with a four-way tie for second place on 4 points by J.Foxall (Dudley), R.Johnson (Grendel), M.Newman (Jersey) and M.Priest (Bristol University).

There was a tie for first place in the Minor with R.C.Burroughs (Metropolitan) and Andrew Gettings (Sir Thomas Rich School). They scored $4\frac{1}{2}$ points. There were 3 players tie in second place on 4, namely, D.Beckwith (Exeter), M.N.Pollett (Downend & Fishponds) and E.D.Thompson (Civil Service).

The Organisers found the venue ideal and will repeat the Congress on the same weekend next year.

Weston Printing Open Junior Chess Championships Friday 6 November to Sunday 8 November 1987

This tournament was played at Southampton and was controlled by Laurie Walker. In the Under 18 Championship there were only 6 entries. It was an all play all which Malker Walker (Laurie's son) (Southampton) won with a score of 5 out of 5. Second was Oliver Worsfold (Basingstoke) with $3\frac{1}{2}$.

The Under 16's had 14 entries and was won by Mark Herion (Southampton ($4\frac{1}{2}$)) with Adam Crocker (Waterlooville) second (4).

The Under 14's had 25 entries and there was a threeway tie for first place: Adam Chandler (Fareham), Matthew Crocker (Waterlooville) and Andrew Eyton (Barnet Knights) all scoring 4 points out of 5.

There were 26 entries in the Under 12 competition and it was won by Simon Longley (Southampton) with $5\frac{1}{2}$ from 6; second was David Dobbs (London) with 5.

The Under 10 competition attracted the most entries, 45, and was won by Arif Jamal (Waterlooville) with $5\frac{1}{2}$ out of 6. Daniel Clifton (Hackney London) and Charles Cobb (Swindon) were equal second on 5.

The Under 8 competition was won by Rohan Churm (Waterlooville) with $5\frac{1}{2}$ out of 6 with Peter Hammans (C.Y.M.C.A London) second with 5. There were 17 entries.

Torbay Congress Friday 20 November to Sunday 22 November 1987 (Ken Bloodworth)

This year's Congress was adversely effected by the BCF's inability to get the Grading List out in time. It seemed that several players were playing in Competitions far below their strength, but of course being able to quote last year's grades were able to legitimately do so.

There were 48 entries in the Open in which there were few upsets but in general the gradings proved their accuracy. Michael Adams (Truro) and Chris Baker (Nuneaton) both won their first four games to meet in the final round and a two minute draw assured them of first prize, but allowed M.J.Franklin (Richmond) to draw level by winning his game.

In the Major (Grades up to 155), S.Kelly of Derby correctly submitted his 1986 Grade of 143J, but that grade was based on games, some of which were played over 2 years ago, and teenagers make tremendous strides in that period. Kelly dropped only half a point and 170+ looked nearer the mark for his current grade. Plymouth College boy, Tony Starkie, finished third and in his club he is rated far above the qualifying grade.

A.Hunt (Weymouth), another young player, returned a maximum score in the Intermediate (up to 125) but here notice should be made of the excellent score of a real veteran, S.L.Russell (Cheltenham), who was runner-up.

J.Ainsworth (Worthing), ungraded in 1986, made mincemeat of the opposition in the Minor Section (under 98) with Jonathan Fathers (Plymouth College) second. With another College boy, Ian Miller, gaining a grading prize, the Plymouth College boys ran away with the team prize as all were playing to a far higher standard than their obsolete grades.

The Templestowe Hotel, Torquay, again proved an ideal venue for a most enjoyable Congress but the B.C.F. must put their Computer Organisation in order to ensure that the annual gradings are available at the beginning of the season, not only to protect their own competitions, but also to see that Congresses are never again faced with graded tournaments the composition of which they are unable to make as fair as possible.

The Stroud Quickplay Congress was played on Sunday 6 December 1987 and was won jointly by Richard Haydon (Swindon) and Simon Le Blanq (London). However, I have run out of space and have received a lengthy report from the Congress Secretary Cyril Breach. I will therefore print this in the next Edition.

GEMS OF THE CHESS BOARD

This quarter's game is again a very old game, played at Havana in March 1900. Like the September's game it is one of H.N.Pillsbury's games, this time played with one other game, blindfold of course!

A. IGLESIAS v H.N. PILLSBURY

Ruy Lopez

1.e2-e4 e7-e5; 2.Ng1-f3 Nb8-c6; 3.Bf1-b5 Ng8-f6; 4.d2-d3 Bf8-c5; 5.c2-c3 Qd8-e7;

A good move preventing 6. d2-d4. However, 5.c2-c3... seems a bit slow and gives away White's advantage as he is using 3 moves to establish his pawn on d4.

6. 0-0 0-0; 7.Bc1-g5 h7-h6; 8.Bg5-h4 d7-d6; 9.Nb1-d2 Kg8-h8; 10.Qd1-c2...

if Bb5xc6 ... then ...b7xc6; 11.d3-d4 Bc5-b6; gives Black a good position.

10...g7-g5; 11.Bb5xc6...

This faulty moves gives Pillsbury the chance of a winning attack. Better was 11.Bh4-g3 Nf6-h5; but this brings about a strong Kingside attack... f7-f5 or Nh5-f4 surely follows.

11...g5xh4; 12.Bc6-a4 Rf8-g8; 13.Kg1-h1...

Better was 13.Nf3xh4 Nf6-h5; 14.Nd2-f3... which gives White good chances to stop Black's attack. It would also have complicated the position which would have been in his favour - his opponent playing blindfold.

13...Nf6-h4; 14.d3-d4 Bc5-b6; 15.Nd2-c4Bc8-f5; 16.Nf3-e1 Qe7-g5;

Black nows takes the opportunity to line his pieces up on the g-file, mounting an attack on g2 and the White King's fortress. If 17.f2-f3? Nh5-g3+!; mates. 18.h2xg3 h4xg3; and White cannot stop Qg5-h4-h2.

17.Nc4xb6 a7xb6; 18.Ba4-b3 Rg8-g7; 19.Bb3-c4...

Quite useless, but the game is already loss in any case.

19...Ra8-g8; 20.Qc2-c1 Nh5-f4; 21.Qc1-e3 Bg4-h3!;

A very pretty final combination. Threatening ...Bh3xg2+; Nelxg2 Qg5xg2++;

22.Rf1-g1...

This move allows a pretty mate. But what else is there for White to obtain any enjoyment from this game?

22...Bh3xg2+; 23.Nelxg2 h4-h3; 24.Resigns.

There is no reply.

A typical Pillsbury attack.

WINNER OF LAST EDITION'S COMPETITION

N.B. For solution to the Competition, please see the following page.

WINNER: R.J.A.FOX of 'Points North', Firs Road, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire.

For the problems - see page 7.

- (a) You are right to agree with your opponents, though not for the reason that they probably entertain. The fact is that, whoever has the move, this is a win for Black. But it is not the easiest of wins as there is much scope for error.

Thus, if it is Black to move, he plays:

1...Ke8-f8; then after 2.Kg5-h6..., Black must not capture the pawn on f5 as 3.Kh6-h7... forces a draw. However, he plays instead...

2...Rb6-b4!; White is now perplexed with threats of mate and must lose. If 3.f6-f7... then ...Rb4-b1; wins.

If it is White's move, 1.Kg5-h6... must not be met by Ke8-f8, because 2.Kh6-h7 then forces 2...Rb6-b8; in order to save the game, and White, with Kh7-h8 and Kh8-h7 etc, holds Black helpless, though he himself dare not move a pawn.

Paradoxically, Black's best after 1.Kg5-h6 is Rb6xf6 which is exactly what he couldn't do with his King on f8. The play is:

1.Kg5-h6 Rb6xf6; 2.Kh6-h7 Rf6-f1; 3.g6-g7 Rf1-h1+;

If now, 4.Kh7-g8 Rh1-g1 wins. If instead, 4.Kh7-g6 Rh1-g1+; 5.Kg6-f6 Rg1-g2; and the White King must abandon its guard.

If White plays 1.Kg5-f5..., or if, it being Black's move, White answers 1...Ke8-f8; with 2.Kg5-f5..., Black's easiest process is Rb6-b1 and play along the files, forcing the White King away from its guard. Thus:

1.Kg5-f5 Rb6-b1; 2.Kf5-e6 Rb1-g1; If now, 3.Ke6-f5... Rg1-g2; If instead, 3.g6-g7... Rook checks and there follows Ke8-f7.

If instead of 2.Kf5-e6, White plays 2.Kf5-g5 Rb1-f1 wins.

Not often does a Rook defeat joined Pawns on the 6th rank.

- (b) The Key is 1.Bc4-e6 waiting!

If 1...Ka4-b5; 2.Be6-d7++

If 1... a6-a5; 2.Bb4xa3++

If 1... b6-b5; 2.Rb3xa3++

If 1...Ba3xb4; 2.Qh4xb4++

If 1...Ba3-b2; 2.Bb4-c3++

If 1...Ba3-c1; 2.Bb4-d2++

- (c) The Key is 1.Bd8xb6 waiting.

If 1...a7xb6; 2.Ra6-a8...

followed by Ra8-e8++

If 1...f6-f5 or f6xg5; 2.g6xf7...

followed by Rh6-e6++

If 1...f7xg6; 2.Rh6xh7...

followed by Rh7-e7++

If 1...h7xg6; 2.Rh6-h8...

followed by Rh8-e8++

If 1...h4xg3; 2.Rh6-h1...

followed by Rh1-e1++

If 1...h4-h3; 2.Bb6-a5!

followed by Ba5-d2++

If 1...c5-c4; 2.Bb6xd4+...

followed by Rh6xh4++

(N.B. If White tries 1.Bd8xf6?

Black replies 1...b6-b5! or

1.Rh6xh4? c5-c4! and stops the

mate).

- (d) They are both right! It is perfectly true that three joined pawns are better than a Knight. But that proposition is only useful if the endgame is likely to reduce itself to those constituents.

Black is also right, though the fact he wastes time offering a draw suggests that he doesn't know he's right! He can draw quickly with:

1...Nd3xf7; 2.Rf1xf2(There is nothing better)

2...Ra2-a1+; 3.Rf2-f1 Ralxf1+; 4.Kg1xf1 Bf5-h3;

bringing about an ending with King, Rook's Pawn and Bishop of the wrong field against a King comfortable in the corner.

ANSWER TO LAST QUARTER'S COMPETITION

May I first apologise for last quarter's position. Unfortunately, it transpires that there are two solutions to it, both of which gives a forced win! I have therefore accepted both solutions as being right.

I was, of course, looking for the beautiful: 1.Qb7-h1+ Bc2-h7; 2.Qh1xh7+! Kh8xh7; 3.g5-g6+ Kh7-h8; 4.g6-g7+ Kh8-h7; 5.Ng8-f6+ Kh7-h6; 6.g4-g5!+... whereupon 6...Kh6xg5; 7.Nf6-e4+... collects the Queen and the pawn queens or 6...Be3xg5; 7.g7-g8=N!! mates!

However, the simple 1.Ng8-f6!... wins as well as Black cannot stop both threats of Qb7 to h1 or a8, b8 or c8 mate. For the winner of the Prize, see Page 27 as I have run out of room!