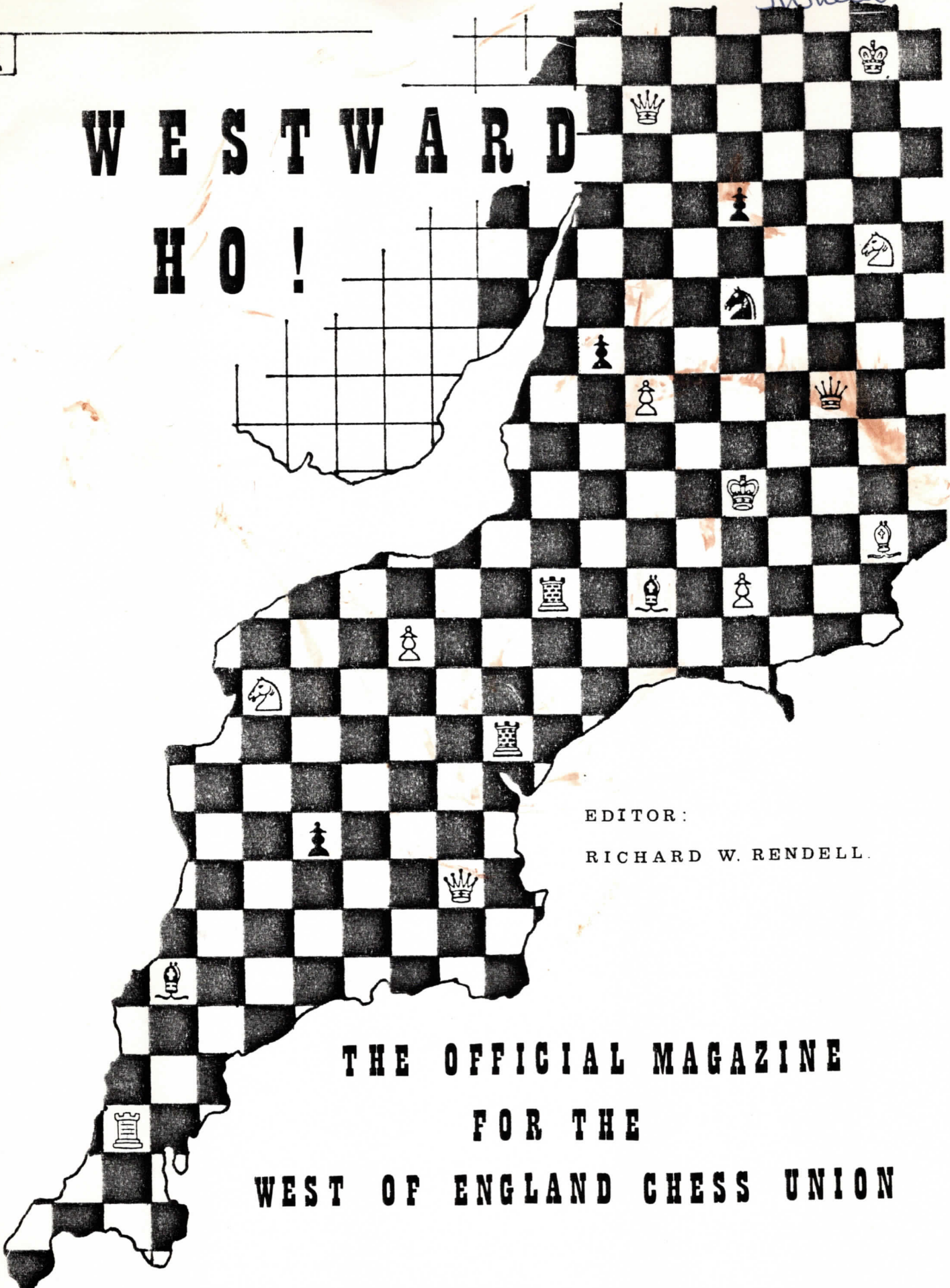


Dr. Steele

WESTWARD HO!



EDITOR:
RICHARD W. RENDELL.

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE
FOR THE
WEST OF ENGLAND CHESS UNION

AUGUST 1989



The last edition for this financial year and season. The new season is only a few weeks away, whilst for some, it never stops. Michael Adams, for one has not stopped this summer, in fact it would appear he has played more than ever. As I write this the British Championships are in their second week and I understand Michael is doing rather well. Congratulations to him for his recently obtained GM, the youngest British player to achieve it. Let's hope that he can win the Championship by the end of the week.

In this edition there are reports on the East Devon Congress and the West of England Championship, written in his imitable way by David Le Moir. Indeed there are no less than 35 games, easily a record for this magazine. What is more five of them involve Michael Adams in punishing form. Most of our other top players are also featured. There was a surprise to most in the West of England Championship and a new Champion.

There are also the usual features in this edition although inevitably with long reports on the two Congresses these are much shortened whilst other missing. Those included are: Letters from Readers; The Problem and Competition Page and a News Round-up which includes most of the remaining County Match Results together with reports from other Summer Congresses. I have again reduced down the County Match Results. This has enabled me to get them all in but I have still not totally mastered their setting and some of them aren't completely straight. My apologies. I am still working on this...

I regret that I have been unable to print the last part of the Latvian Gambit by David Shire as I simply haven't enough room but I promise this will figure in the next edition.

This last year has fairly shot by and now I find myself only a few weeks from Paignton. I regret that I have failed in my attempt to get the editions out on time but there again I have now caught up. I regret that I don't know exactly what the next year holds for me - but that is life and would be very boring if we knew exactly what is going to happen - and I cannot promise that next year's editions will be completely on time. I know that it is likely that I will remain in the West of England. Of course with a new job I am going to have to commit myself totally to it but am going to continue with this venture. I feel that it is not viable to resume with 4 editions but to remain with 3. This with the grading list is enough.

I regret, however, that due to an increase in costs I must increase the cost of the magazines. Last year, I charged £4.50 for the three editions - less a 50p discount if funds are sent before 15 September 1988, an offer which 95% of you took advantage of.

This year I intend to charge £6.00 for the 3 editions, less a discount of 50p if funds are received by 30 September 1989. I feel this a fair and realistic price and quite honestly for most this increase will not break the bank whilst for me it will be the difference of making a profit and paying the Inland Revenue, and making a loss. I enclose a separate sheet of paper for you to renew your subscription.

As far as I know the WECU and BCF Grading Lists will be on sale with effect from the 1st of September. The WECU list will be a subset of the BCF List, priced at £2.00 with the BCF List priced at £6.00 - as far as I know. I have not received the Masterlist for the WECU list yet but this is expected in the next couple of weeks. I will be on a course in Exeter for the week beginning 20 August but will be spending the following week printing the list in order that I will have a supply available at Paignton. However, anyone wishing for a copy of either list can obtain one (provided I get the masterlist from the BCF in time) from me from the 1st of September.

Finally, I hope you enjoy reading this edition as ever.

Richard Rendell
Editor

THE Devon County Chess Association 39th Annual PAIGNTON CONGRESS

To be held at Oldway Mansion, Paignton from Sunday 3 September to Saturday 9 September 1989 by courtesy of TORBAY BOROUGH COUNCIL.

- Premier (open to players graded over 159 or 144J)
Prizes £300, £150, £75, £50, £25, £20 Entry Fee: £16.00
- Challengers (open to players graded less than 170 or 155J)
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Prizes £50, £25, £15 per tournament Entry Fee: £11.00
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GRADING AND VETERAN PRIZES will be awarded according to entries in Swiss Tournaments.

TWO BEST GAME BOOK PRIZES donated by Hexagon - P.H.Clarke

Quick Play will be held on Friday 8th September at 7.30 pm. Open to all, playing in tournament or not.

Opening Ceremony: Sunday 3rd September at 5.15 pm.

Closing Date for Entries: Thursday 17th August 1989.

Entry Forms and further details are obtainable from the Tournament Secretary, LEWIS MOATE, Water's Edge, 46 Thatcher Avenue, Torquay, TQ1 2PO
Tel: Torquay (0803) 293345

The Premier and Challenger Tournaments qualify for Leigh Grand Prix.

BCF Grading Lists on sale, priced £6.00

WECU Grading Lists on sale, priced £2.00

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* Bob Luffman is acting as Grading and Records Officer as the WECU cannot find a successor to him. Anyone interested in this post please either contact Bob or Bob Jones (General Secretary).

WESTWARD HO!

The WESTWARD HO! is the Official Magazine for the West of England Chess Union but is solely owned by Richard William Rendell.

Please send any correspondence to: Richard W Rendell, Editor, 7 Wellesley Close,
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The 44th West of England Chess Union Congress took place this year at Weymouth over the Easter Weekend with a much reduced entry of 76 players. Indeed, the Championship was even weaker than last year's., since it lacked the Champion Chris Beaumont, Gary Lane, Paul House and George Wheeler as well as those who didn't play last year. Of the "big names", only Thompson returned from absence. In contrast to last year, however, play was generally lively and interesting. I have therefore opted this year to minimise the chat and concentrate on the chess.

Round 1

Top seeds Piper and Thompson both lost in a round where seedings were generally upset. Moore, whom many expected to be in at the death, lost to Dilleigh and Osborne to newcomer Jane Garwell.

Piper met Shire in an unusually steady mood. This did not stop Shire from being as impressive as ever with his pawn play.

D.Shire v M.Piper

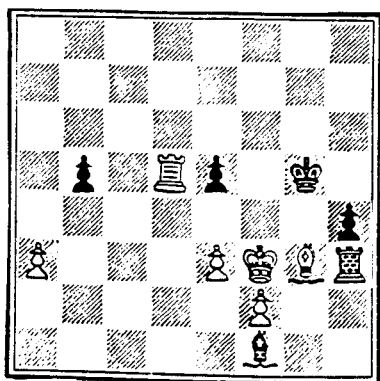
1.d2-d4 Ng8-f6; 2.Ng1-f3 e7-e6; 3.c2-c4 Bf8-b4+; 4.Bc1-d2 Qd8-e7; 5.Nb1-c3 0-0 ; 6.g2-g3 d7-d6; 7.Bf1-g2 Nb8-c6; 8. 0-0 Bb4xc3; 9.Bd2xc3 Nf6-e4; 10.Qd1-c2 Ne4xc3; 11.Qc2xc3 e6-e5; 12.d4-d5 Nc6-b8; 13.e2-e4 a7-a5; 14.Ra1-e1 c7-c6; 15.Nf3-d2 Bc8-d7; 16.f2-f4! f7-f6; 17.f4xe5 Qe7xe5; 18.Qc3xe5 f6xe5; 19.Rf1xf8+ Kg8xf8; 20.c4-c5! d6xc5; 21.Nd2-c4...

Shire now retrieves the pawn (made indefensible by his play since move 16) and wins with his passed pawn and better development:

21...b7-b5; 22.Nc4xe5 c6xd5; 23.e4xd5 Ra8-a6; 24.Bg2-e4 Kf8-g8; 25.Re1-c1 c5-c4; 26.b2-b3! c4xb3; 27.a2xb3 Bd7-h3; 28.g3-g4 Ra6-f6; 29.Rc1-c8+ Rf6-f8; 30.Be4xh7+! Resigns.

I.Thompson v R.Heasman

In a rook and opposite colour bishop ending, Thompson twice found Heasman uncorking unexpected moves that won material:



Thompson was relying on the counterattack:

1.Rd5-d1... to avoid losing the bishop on g3, but Heasman avoided 1...Bf1-c4; 2.Kf3-g2... walking instead into a self-pin with:

1.Rd5-d1 Rh3-h1!;

The threat of 2...Bf1-g2+!; 3.Kf3-e2 Bg2-f3+!; forced White to give up the piece and he proceeded to try to make life as difficult as possible for Black. After:

2.Bg3xh4+ Kg5xh4; 3.Rd1-d8 Kh4-g5; 4.Kf3-e4 Kg5-f6; 5.Rd8-f8+ Kf6-e6; 6.Rf8-e8+ Ke6-d6; 7.Re8-d8+ Kd6-e7; 8.Rd8-b8 Rh1-h5; 9.f2-f3 Bf1-e2; 10.a3-a4!?!...

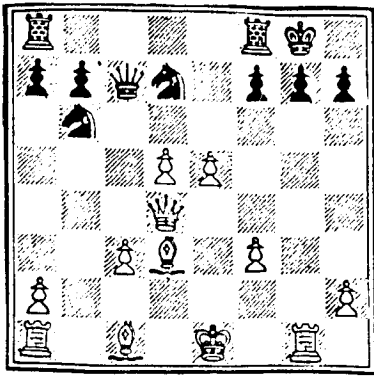
he hoped to trade the central pawns and the rooks, leaving Black with bishop and the wrong rook's pawn. This desperate throw was immediately refuted by:

10...Be2-d1!;

Now capture of the pawn leads to a similar finish as in the game.

11.Rb8-b7+ Ke7-d6; 12.Rb7-b6+ Kd6-c7; 13.a4-a5 Bd1-c2+; 14.Ke4-d5 e5-e4+; 15.Kd5-d4 e4xf3; 16.Rb6-f6 Rh5-f5; 17.Resigns.

The pawn queens.



Varley (White) finished spectacularly against Menadue who had just played ...Nb8-d7; not seeing the following:

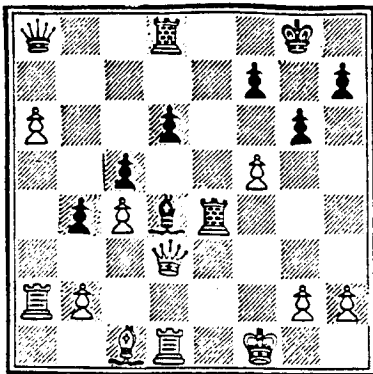
1.Bd3xh7+! Kg8xh7; 2.Qd4-h4+ Kh7-g8; 3.Rg1xg7+! Kg8xg7; 4.Bc1-h6+ Kg7-h7; 5.Bh6-e3+ Kh7-g7; 6.Qh4-h6+ Kg7-g8; 7.Ke1-f2 Nd7xe5; 8.Ra1-g1+ Ne5-g6; 9.Be3-d4 Resigns.

Mate is inevitable.

Round 2

Only Dilleigh (who beat Headlong) and Haydon (who beat Heasman) remained on 100%. Shire felt he should have converted his pawn advantage into a win against Varley, but could only draw.

Helbig (Black) saw a lovely idea in the following position against Boyce, but first needed to tempt the queen away from d3:



1...b4-b3!; 2.Qd3xb3...

2.Ra2-a3 was much better.

2...Re4-e2!!; 3.Qb3-g3...

3.Qb3-f3 Qa8xf3; 4.g2xf3 Re2-f2+ wins. or 3.Kf1xe2 Qa8xg2+; 4.Ke2-d3 Rd8-e8! threatens an unavoidable mate - a lovely conception.

3...Rd8-e8; 4.Bc1-f4 Qa8-e4; 5.Ra2-a1...

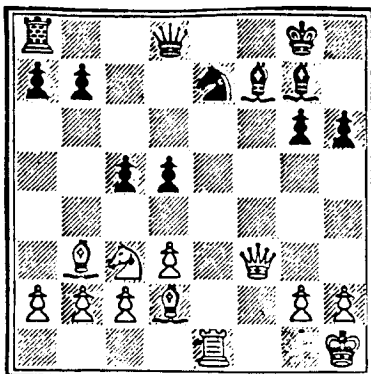
5.a6-a7 Re2-f2+; 6.Qg3xf2 Bd4xf2; 7.Kf1xf2 Qe4-e2+; wins the unprotected rook.

5...Re2-f2+;

5...Re2xg2!; 6.Qg3xg2 Qe4xf4 mates. But still, with the text move Black has a won game:

6.Qg3xf2 Bd4xf2; 7.Kf1xf2 Qe4xf4+; and Black won the ending.

In the next position, Ian Clark, who qualified for this year's Championship from his first equal in last year's Challengers, played Black against Dave Osborne. Clark's move looked like it won a piece, but it introduced complications which left both Kings in serious danger.



1...c5-c4; 2.Re1-f1...

2.d3xc4 d5xc4; leaves both bishops attacked.

2.Bb3-a4... also saves the piece, but leaves the pieces badly scattered and the bishop vulnerable to a later ...b7-b5.

2...Ne7-f5; 3.g2-g4 c4xb3; 4.g4xf5 Bg7xc3; 5.b2xc3...

5.Bd2xc3 d5-d4; threatens Bf7-d5

5...b3xa2; 6.f5xg6 Bf7xg6; 7.Bd2xh6 Qd8-d7; 8.Qf3-g3 Qd7-e6; 9.Qg3-c7 Bg6-f7; 10.Qc7xb7 Ra8-e8; 11.Qb7xa7 d5-d4!; 12.c3-c4...

12.c3xd4 Qe6-d5+; 13.Kh1-g1 Re8-a8; queens the pawn, as does 12.Qa7xd4 Qe6-d5+; 13.Qd4xd5 Bf7xd5+; 14.Kh1-g1 Re8-b8!;

12...Qe6-c6+; 13.Kh1-g1 Qc6-g6+; 14.Kg1-h1 Re8-e2!; 15.Qa7-a8+...

15.Rf1-g1 Qg6xg1+; 16.Kh1xg1 Re2-e1+; and a2-a1=Q.

15...Kg8-h7; 16.Bh6-f4 Bf7-e8!;

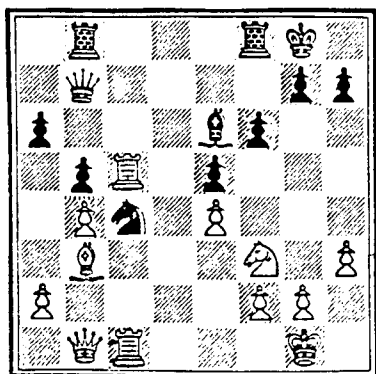
This move threatens ...Be8-c6+, White's roof falls in:

17.Qa8-b7+ Kh7-h8; 18.Qb7-a8 Qg6-c6+; 19.Resigns.

Round 3

Haydon remained on 100% with a dominant performance against Dilleigh. Behind, on 2½ points came Jane Garwell (who beat Varley in the ending), Ashby (who took the material Helbig gave him, survived the attack and won the ending) and Shire, who beat me with embarrassing ease.

Garwood (White) outplayed Menadue from early on and gained the advantage in the centre. In the diagrammed position, however, Black's occupation of c4 appeared to give him equalising chances, but his game was about to collapse alarmingly:



1.Nf3-d2! Rf8-c8;

1...Nc4xd2; 2.Bb3xe6+ Kg8-h8; 3.Qb1-b2 Nd2xe4?;
4.Be6-d5...

2.Qb1-c2 Rc8xc5; 3.b4xc5 Rb8-c8; 4.Nd2xc4 Rc8xc5;
5.Nc4-d6! Rc5xc2; 6.Bb3xe6+ Kg8-f8; 7.Rc1xc2
Qb7-b6; 8.Rc2-d2 Qb6-a5; 9.Rd2-d1 Kf8-e7; 10.Be6-g8
g7-g6; 11.Bg8xh7 Qa5xa2; 12.Bh7xg6 Qa2-a5; 13.Nd6-f5+
Ke7-f8; 14.Rd1-d6 Qa5-e1+; 15.Kg1-h2 Qe1-a5;
16.Rd6xf6+ Kf8-g8; 17.Rf6-f7 b5-b4; 18.Nf5-h6+
Resigns.

Its mate next move.

Both Moore and Thompson came to grief for a second time. Moore struck back in the centre against Clark's wing advance but got his pieces tangled up and allowed Clark to force a good ending:

I.Clark v G.Moore

1.e2-e4 c7-c5; 2.Ng1-f3 e7-e6; 3.d2-d4 c5xd4; 4.Nf3xd4 Ng8-f6; 5.Nb1-c3 d7-d6;
6.Bc1-e3 Bf8-e7; 7.Bf1-e2 O-O; 8.Qd1-d2 Nb8-c6; 9.g2-g4!? d6-d5; 10.e4xd5 e6xd5;
11. O-O-O Nc6-e5; 12.Nd4-f5 Be7-b4; 13.Be3-g5 Bc8xf5; 14.g4xf5 Ra8-c8;
15.Rh1-g1 Bb4xc3;

15...Rc8xc3; 16.b2xc3?? Bb4-a3+; 17.Kc1-b1 Qd8-b6+; mates but White can play
instead 16.Qd2-d4! Ne5-c4; 17.Bg5xf6... winning.

16.b2xc3 Rc8-c6; 17.Qd2-d4 Qd8-d6; 18.Bg5xf6! Qd6xf6; 19.f2-f4 Ne5-d7;
20.Be2-b5! Rc6-d6; 21.Bb5xd7 Qf6xd4; 22.Rd1xd4 Rd6xd7; 23.f5-f6!? g7-g6;
24.c3-c4...

This was the point of moves 18 to 22.

24...Rd7-d6; 25.c4xd5 Rd6xf6; 26.Rg1-e1 Rf8-d8; 27.Re1-e7 Rf6-b6; 28.Re7-c7!
Kg8-f8; 29.c2-c4 Rb6-b4; 30.Rd4-d2!...

Not 30.Rd4-e4? Rd8xd5; 31.Re4-e7 Rb4xc4+!;

30...Kf8-e8; 31.Rd2-e2+ Ke8-f8; 32.a2-a3 Rb4-a4; 33.Kc1-b2 b7-b5; 34.Re2-e7!
Ra4xc4; 35.Re7xf7+ Kf8-g8; 36.Rf7-g7+ Kg8-f8; 37.Rc7-f7+ Kf8-e8; 38.Rf7xa7
Rc4xf4; 39.d5-d6!...

The passed pawn at last has its say. If 39...Rd8xd6; either rook check to the
eighth - followed by the other - wins a rook.

39...Rf4-f6; 40.Rg7-g8+ Resigns.

40...Rf6-f8; 41.Ra7-e7 is mate.

Well played by Clark, who after losing to Headlong in the first round, was now
on 2 points.

I.Thompson v M.Simons

1.c2-c4 Ng8-f6; 2.Nb1-c3 c7-c5; 3.g2-g3 g7-g6; 4.Bf1-g2 Bf8-g7; 5.Ng1-f3 0-0; 6.d2-d4 d7-d6; 7. 0-0 Nb8-c6; 8.d4-d5 Nc6-a5; 9.Qd1-d3 a7-a6; 10.Bc1-g5 b7-b5!?!; 11.Nf3-d2...

This move bottles up his queen; Black now takes immediate advantage to exchange White's KB.

11...h7-h6; 12.Bg5-f4 Nf6-h5!; 13.Bf4-e3 Bc8-f5; 14.Bg2-e4 Bf5xe4; 15.Qd3xe4 Qd8-d7; 16.f2-f4 Nh5-f6; 17.Qe4-d3 Qd7-h3!; 18.c4xb5 Nf6-g4; 19.Nd2-f3 Na5-c4!; 20.Be3-f2...

Not 20.Qd3xc4?? Ng4xe3; which wins the queen or 20.Be3-c1 Bg7-d4+!; 21.Nf3xd4? Qh3xh2 mate.

20...Nc4xb2; 21.Qd3-c2 Nb2-c4 (threatening to go to e3); 22.Qc2-d3 a6xb5;

A pawn down and his position falling apart, Thompson gave up the exchange by 23.Nc3xb5, losing in 48 moves.

Round 4

Haydon's progress was slowed when Ashby drew with him, but he stayed in the lead, with 3½ points, as his other pursuers, Shire and Jane Garwell, also drew. This was a round of some lovely (even crazy) draws. In addition to these two games, Garwood just failed to beat Collier in a complex game - in fact this was a King's Indian in which Black sacrifices his Queen for 3 minor pieces, a repeat of Gary Lane's sacrifice against Collier at 1988 Paignton, see Feb 1989 edition Page 10. Alas Collier was no wiser than at Paignton and he played rather passively(RWR) - while Helbig only just got away with some fairly heavy sacrifices against Piper. A win by Varley over Clark left him with 2½ points, level with Simons, Collier, Dilleigh and Garwood.

Ashby gained the two bishops by agreeing to move his King in the opening. A game of violent attack and counterattack ended with Haydon (Black) giving perpetual check with the guillotine poised over his own King.

A.Ashby v R.Haydon

1.e2-e4 g7-g6; 2.d2-d4 Bf8-g7; 3.Ng1-e2 d7-d6; 4.g2-g3 Bc8-g4!?!; 5.Bf1-g2 Qd8-c8; 6.h2-h3 Bg4xe2; 7.Kelxe2...

White has compensation for his uncastlable King in his two bishops. Black proceeds logically to attack with pawns to open up the Kingside.

7...Nb8-c6; 8.Bc1-e3 e7-e5; 9.c2-c3 Ng8-e7; 10.d4-d5 Nc6-d8; 11.c3-c4 0-0; 12.Qd1-d2 f7-f5; 13.Nb1-c3 Nd8-f7; 14.h3-h4 c7-c6!?!;

Hoping for a queen check on c4. White's reply rules this out and leads to White's eventual domination of the c-file. He could have gone straight ahead with 14...f5-f4. If White plays Bg2-h3, then the Queen can emerge via e8 and h5 after a further pawn sacrifice by g6-g5. The knights can settle into e5 and g6, making life uncomfortable for the King.

15.Ra1-c1 f5-f4!?!; 16.g3xf4 e5xf4; 17.Be3xf4 c6xd5; 18.Nc3xd5 Ne7xd5; 19.c4xd5 Qc8-e8; 20.Rc1-c7 Qe8-b5+; 21.Ke2-f3 Qb5-b6;

Not 21...Nf7-e5+; 22.Kf3-g3 Ne5-d3; 22.Bg2-f1... pinning the knight.

22.Rh1-c1 Nf7-e5+; 23.Kf3-g3 Ne5-d3;

Ingenious... and incorrect. The simplest reply is 24.Rc7xg7+ Kg8xg7; 25.Be3-h6+ Kg7-g8; 26.Bh6xf8 Ra8xf8; 27.Qd2xd3... and the extra piece wins. This cuts out the variation: 24.Qd2xd3 Rf8xf4!; 25.Kg3xf4 Qb6xf2+; 26.Bg2-f3 Ra8-f8+; 27.Kf4-g4 h7-h5+; 28.Kg4-h3 Rf8xf3+.

White's reply allows the attack to continue.

24.Bf4-e3 Bg7-e5+; 25.Kg3-h3 Nd3xf2+;

25...Nd3-f4+; 26.Kh3-h2!? (26.Be3xf4 Rf8xf4; is equal) Nf4xd5+; 27.Kh2-h1 Nd5xe3 ; is still complicated, although the open situation of both Kings makes the draw a likely result.

26.Be3xf2 Rf8xf2?;

26...Qb6xf2!; holds easily, as 27.Qd2xf2 Rf8xf2; 28.Rc7xb7 Ra8-f8; threatens ...h7-h5 followed by Rf8-f3+!; Bg2xf3 Rf2-h2 mate. Although White can win a pawn on the queenside, the insecurity of his King and the hopeless passivity of his Bishop make it unlikely that he can win.

27.Qd2-h6 Ra8-e8; 28.Qh6xh7+ Kg8-f8; 29.Qh7-h6+ Kf8-g8; 30.Qh6xg6+ Kg8-f8; 31.Qg6-h6+ Kf8-g8; 32.Rc7-h7?...

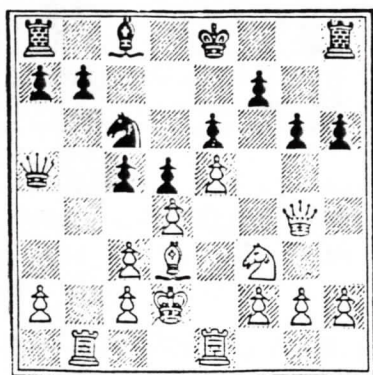
This draws. It is very difficult for White to find a win in view of the need for his queen to cover e3 and the threat of Qb6-b5-d3. In post mortem, the players agreed that this position is drawn, but the controller, Steve Boniface, demonstrated that he has other talents by pointing out 32.Rc7-c8!..., a change of tack that wins at once because 32...Qb6-b5; loses to 33.Qh6-e6+... and 32...Rf2-f8; to 33.Rc1-c7!...

32...Rf2xg2!; 33.Kh2xg2 Qb6xb2+; 34.Kg2-f3 Qb2-a3+;

Not 34...Re8-f8+?; 35.Qh6xf8+! Kg8xf8; 36.Rc1-c8 mate.

35.Kf3-e2 Qa3-a6+; 36.Ke2-e3 Qa6-a3+; 37.Ke3-e2 Qa3-a6+; Draw.

Jane Garwell (White) forced a very neat draw against Shire.



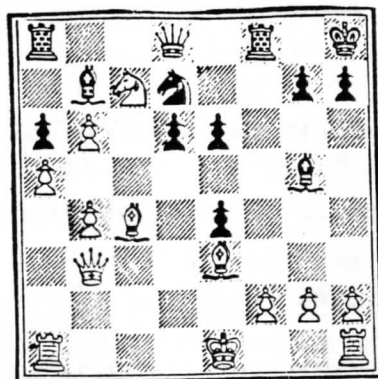
Threatened with Rb1-b5, Black played 1...c5-c4; 2.Bd3xg6 Rh8-g8!; apparently avoiding perpetual check.

3.Bg6xf7+ Ke8xf7; 4.Qg4-f4+ Kf7-g7;

This move avoids the loss of the third pawn for the piece.

5.Qf4-f6+ Kg7-h7; 6.Qf6-f7+ Rg8-g7; 7.Nf3-g5+! h6xg5; 8.Qf7-h5+... with perpetual check after all.

Aston found that he was unable to play on the Saturday due to work commitments and his opponent, Noble, did the noble thing by agreeing to play their game the night before in his hotel room. Unfortunately for Noble, his generosity backfired on him as Aston, faced with material loss, exploded into life:



1...Qd8-f6; 2.Ra1-c1 d6-d5; 3.Bc4-e2 d5-d4; 4.Be3xg5 Qf6xf2+!; 5.Ke1-d1 d4-d3; 6.Be2-f1 e4-e3!;

This beautiful move threatens several mates.

7.Qb3xd3 Nd7-e5; 8.Qd3-d4?...

Better was 8.Qd3-d6... The text move loses very quickly.

8...e3-e2+; 9.Resigns - the Queen is lost.

So at the end of Round 4, Haydon has a clear lead with 3½ points, followed by Ashby, Jane Garwell and Shire on 3 points. On 2½ points came Collier, Dilleigh Garwood, Simons and Varley. It was interesting to note that nobody had faith

in Haydon winning the Championship at this stage - in fact he wasn't even mentioned as a possibility. Most plumed for Ashby, Garwood or Collier.

Round 5

Jane Garwell brought Haydon's run to a halt with a smooth win, while Ashby joined her in the lead on 4 points with another complex game, beating Shire. Behind on 3½ points, came Haydon and Varley, who beat Simons quickly. Collier just held Dilleigh leaving both on 3 points and they were joined by Moore (who beat Helbig), Piper (who beat Heasman), Shire and Garwood (who drew with Clark).

D. Shire v A. Ashby

Shire allowed Ashby a lot of leeway on the queenside and his 18th move also allows the spectacular 18...Nf6xe4!., picking up a lot of material for the queen. Ashby misses this but Shire's pieces remain tangled up and, when the position finally opens up, Black's passed pawn forces the win:

1.d2-d4 Ng8-f6; 2.Ng1-f3 c7-c5; 3.d4-d5 e7-e6; 4.c2-c4 d7-d6; 5.Nb1-c3 g7-g6; 6.e2-e4 Bf8-g7; 7.Bc1-g5 h7-h6; 8.Bg5-h4 e6xd5; 9.c4xd5 a7-a6; 10.Nf3-d2?! b7-b5; 11.Bf1-e2 0-0; 12.Qd1-c2 Rf8-e8; 13. 0-0 Nb8-d7; 14.a2-a4 b5-b4; 15.Nc3-d1 Ra8-b8; 16.Nd1-e3 b4-b3!?!; 17.Qc2-b1 Rb8-b4; 18.f2-f3 Nd7-b6!?!; 19.a4-a5 Nb6-a8; 20.Bh4-e1 Na8-c7; 21.Be2-d1 Nf6-h5; 22.Nd2-c4 Rb4-b7; 23.Be1-c3 Bg7-d4; 24.Qb1-c1 Kg8-g7; 25.Be3xd4+ c5xd4; 26.Ne3-g4 Bc8xg4; 27.f3xg4 Nh5-f6; 28.Qc1-f4 Nc7-b5; 29.Bd1-f3 Rb7-c7; 30.Ral-c1 Qd8-e7; 31.Rf1-e1 Re8-c8; 32.Nc4-b6 Rc7xc1; 33.Relxc1 Rc8xc1+; 34.Qf4xc1 Nf6xe4; 35.Qc1-e1 f7-f5; 36.g4xf5 g6xf5; 37.g2-g4 Qe7-g5!; 38.Bf3xe4 f5xe4; 39.Qelxe4 Qg5-c1+; 40.Kg1-g2 Qc1xb2+; 41.Kg2-f1 Qb2-c1+; 42.Kf1-g2 Qc1-c2+; 43. Resigns

43.Qe4xc2 b3xc2; and White can't stop the pawn from queening.

R. Haydon v J. Garwell

1.Ng1-f3 d7-d5; 2.g2-g3 Nb8-c6; 3.c2-c4 d5-d4; 4.d2-d3 e7-e5; 5.Bf1-g2 Ng8-f6; 6. 0-0 Bf8-e7; 7.Nb1-a3 0-0; 8.Na3-c2 a7-a5; 9.e2-e3 d4xe3; 10.Nc2xe3 Be7-c5;

White has a backward d-pawn and Black concentrates all her efforts on making it as weak as possible.

11.b2-b3 Nc6-b4!; 12.Bc1-a3...

If 12.Nf3xe5 Bc5-d4;

12...Rf8-e8; 13.Rf1-e1 Nf6-g4!; 14.Ne3xg4 Bc8xg4; 15.h2-h3 Bg4-h5; 16.g3-g4 Bh5-g6; 17.d3-d4 e5xd4; 18.Relxe8+ Qd8xe8; 19.Ba3xb4 a5xb4; 20.Nf3-e1...

Threatening the b-pawn and intending Ne1-d3 to bottle up the black-squared bishop. Not wishing to lose the initiative, Black gives up her extra pawn to keep the position open.

20...d4-d3!?!; 21.Nelxd3! Bc5-d4;

If 21...Ra8-d8; 22.Nd3xc5! Rd8xd1+; 23.Ralxd1... and Black has serious technical difficulties to overcome. Now after 22.Ral-c1... not 22...Ra8xa2; 23.Rc1-c2... but 22...Ra8-d8!; with serious threats - e.g. 23...Bg6xd3; 24.Qd1xd3 Bd4xf2+. Haydon prefers to give up the exchange, but is soon hopelessly lost.

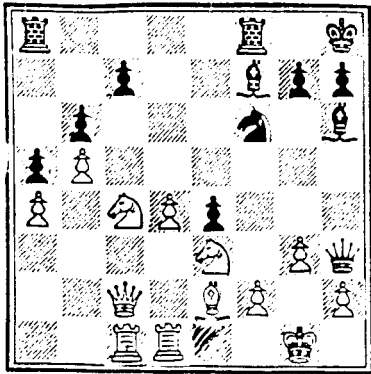
22.Nd3xb4? Bd4xa1; 23.Qd1xa1 c7-c6; 24.a2-a4 Qe8-e2; 25.Qal-c3 Ra8-d8; 26.a4-a5 Rd8-d1+; 27.Kg1-h2 Qe2xf2; 28.Qc3-f3 Qf2-g1+; 29.Kh2-g3 Qg1-e1+; 30.Kg3-h2 Rd1-d2; 31.a5-a6 b7xa6; 32.Nb4xc6? Bg6-d4; 33.Nc6-e7+ Kg8-f8; 34.Ne7-g6+ h7xg6; 35. Resigns.

Round 6

It was all change again at the top when Varley beat Ashby nicely to take the lead on 4½ points. Jane Garwell looked to be beating Garwood, but his defence and counterattack in a complex game carried him to victory and 4 points, level with Garwell herself, Ashby, Shire (who beat Collier), Piper (who beat Haydon)

and Dilleigh (who defended well to beat Menadue). A close finish was clearly in prospect.

Varley (Black) cleared the f-file for a decisive invasion against Ashby:



1...Bf7xc4!; 2.Rc1xc4...

2.Be2xc4 Nf6-g4 wins the exchange.

2...Bh6xe3!; 3.f2xe3 Nf6-d5;

4.Qb2-d2 Rf8-f2!; 5.Resigns

White is mated after 5.Kg1xf2 Qh3xh2+;

6.Kf2-e1 Qh2xg3+; 7.Ke1-f1 Ra8-f8+ etc and of course 5...Qh3xh2; is also threatened and White cannot defend both.

A charming companion-piece to Varley's spectacular finish against Menadue.

Andrews played an amusing, but highly effective, game against Clark. At the end he chose to capture the pawn whose defence he had loosened by his 16th move, rather than win a whole piece by 27.Rd4-c4!.

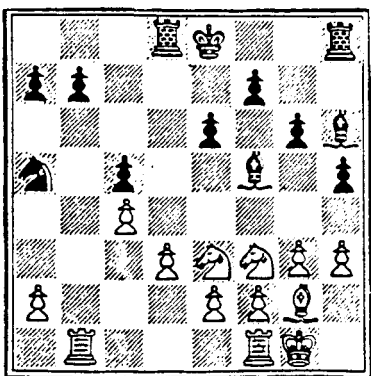
B.P.A.Andrews v I.C.Clark

1.Ng1-f3 g7-g6; 2.e2-e4 c7-c5; 3.c2-c3 Bf8-g7; 4.Bf1-c4 e7-e6; 5.Qd1-e2 Nb8-c6; 6. 0-0 Ng8-e7; 7.d2-d4!? c5xd4; 8.Rf1-d1 d4xc3; 9.Nb1xc3 a7-a6; 10.Bc1-f4 0-0; 11.e4-e5 b7-b5; 12.Bc4-d3 f7-f6; 13.e5xf6 Bg7xf6; 14.Bf4-h6 Bf6-g7; 15.Bh6xg7 Kg8xg7; 16.a2-a4 b5-b4; 17.Nc3-e4 Ne7-d5; 18.Ra1-c1 Nd5-f4; 19.Qe2-e3 Nc6-e7; 20.Qe3-d4+ Kg7-h6; 21.Nf3-e5 g6-g5; 22.Ne4-d6 Ne7-f5; 23.Ne5-f7+ Kh6-g6; 24.Nf7xd8 Nf4-e2+; 25.Bd3xe2 Nf5xd4; 26.Rd1xd4 Rf8xd8; 27.Rd4xb4 Resigns.

Yes indeed, Andrews missed 27.Rd4-c4!... but of course he is already a piece up and Clark's position is hopeless.

Helbig v R.Heasman

Heasman grabbed the advantage of the two bishops in the opening but fell behind in his development. Helbig exploited this in attractive fashion:



1.g3-g4! h5xg4; 2.h3xg4 Bh6xe3; 3.f2xe3 Bf5xg4; 4.Nf3-e5 Bg4xe2; 5.Rf1xf7 Rh8-h5;

This move appears to refute White's play and it looks as if Black will come out ahead on pawns.

6.Rb1xb7!...

Capturing of the Knight allows mate and in fact there is only one move which stops the mate:

6...Na5xb7; 7.Bg2-c6+ Rd8-d7; 8.Rf7xd7...

8.Bc6xd7+ Ke8-d8; 9.Ne5-c6+ Kd8-c7; 10.Nc6xa7... wins a pawn and threatens to win the knight.

8...Rh5xe5!; 9.Rd7xb7+!...

Of course 9.Rd7-d5+... loses to: 9...Ke8-e7; 10.Rd5xe5 Ke7-d6;

9...Ke8-f8; 10.Bc6-e4! a7-a5; 11.Rb7-a7... and White "only" ended up with the better ending, winning 14 moves later.

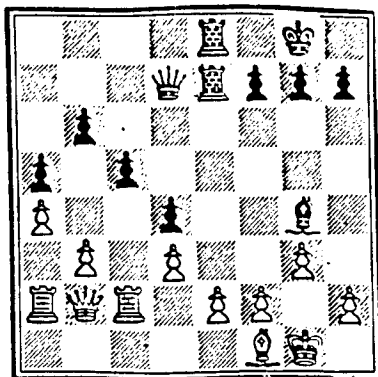
Round 7

Varley drew quickly with Piper, thereby guaranteeing at least a share of first place. Ashby quickly reduced Garwood to the defensive and delivered an effective mating attack while Jane Garwell, with a slight positional disadvantage against Dilleigh, struck back with such vigour that her normally unflappable opponent

fell apart. Thus Varley, Ashby and Garwell tied with 5 points. Piper finished on 4½ points, a good result after his loss in the first round while Andrews, in a storming finish, beat Shire to join him.

C.Garwood v A.Ashby

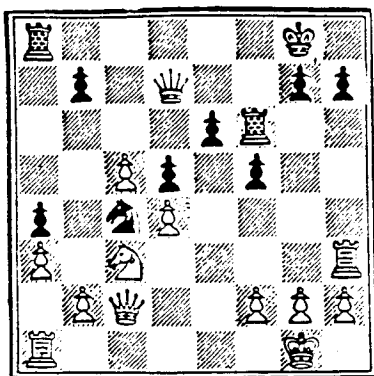
Ashby shifted his attention from the e-pawn a few inches to his left:



1...Re7-e5; 2.Qb2-c1 Qd7-f5; 3.Ra2-b2 Qf5-h5;
4.Qc1-d1 Re8-e6; 5.h2-h4 Re6-h6; 6.Bf1-g2
g7-g5; 7.h4xg5 Qh5-h2+; 8.Kg1-f1 Rh6-e6;
9.Rb2-a2 Bg4-h3; 10.Bg2xh3 Qh2-h1; mate.

S.Dilleigh v J.Garwell

Jane Garwell also charged down the Kingside:



1...g7-g5; 2.b2-b4 a4xb3; 3.Qc2xb3 g5-g4;
4.Rh3-h4...

White doesn't want to leave the h-file to Black, but the rook now gets into trouble.

4...Rf6-g6; 5.Nc3-b5 Qd7-g7; 6.Ra1-d1 Qg7-f6;
7.Rh4-h5 Rg6-g7; 8.f2-f4...

The threat was 8...Qf6-g6; 9.Rh5-h4 Qg6-g5;
10.g2-g3 f5-f4; and the pawn reaches f3.

8...g4xf3; 9.Qb3xf3 Qf6-g6; 10.Rd1-d3...

The threat now was 10...Nc4xa3; 11.Nb5xa3 Ra8xa3;
and of course the queen must defend the mate on g2.

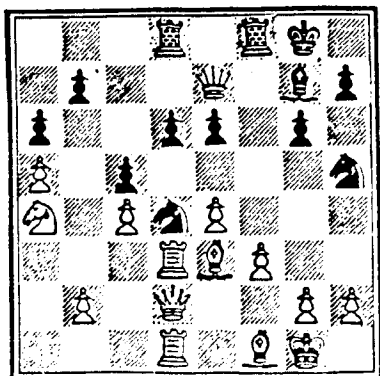
10...f5-f4!; 11.Qf3-e2 Nc4-e3; 12.Rd3xe3...

12.Rd3-d2 Qg6-b1+;

12...f4xe3; 13.Rh5-e5 Ra8-f8; 14.g2-g3 Qg6-b1+; 15.Resigns.

This was a frustrating tournament for Gerald Moore. On paper, he had a good chance of winning it, but he lost in rounds 1 and 3; just as he was recovering, he lost against me in the penultimate round. He ended win 4 wins and three losses and in the final round he at last showed his true quality, playing a fine King's Indian Defence against Fraser-Mitchell and gaining material prettily:

J.Fraser-Mitchell v G.Moore



1...Rf8xf3!; 2.Rd3xd4...

Of course, not 2.g2xf3?? Nd4xf3+; picking up the queen.

Now it looks as if Black will lose a piece.

2...Rf3xe3!; 3.Rd4xd6...

Again if 3.Qd2xe3 Bg7xd4; wins the exchange.

3...Qe7xd6; 4.Qd2xd6 Rd8xd6; 5.Rd1xd6 Bg7-d4!;

The door slams shut and Black threatens 6...Rd4-e1+; If 6.g2-g3(or g4) Re3xg3+ mates.

6.Rd6xd4... and Black won the ending.

So three players had finished first but there could only be one winner of the Championship who would receive the Championship Trophy and a paid entry into the British Championships. Sum of opponents scores resulted in Varley and Garwell still being tied with Ashby just $\frac{1}{2}$ a point behind. A second sum of opponents calculation - taking into account the games in which the players scored resulted in Jane Garwell coming first.

This was a great tournament for Jane who belaid her recent grading of just 176. It is interesting to note that she was a late entrant, phoning up the Controller the week before, to ask (a) whether she could play and (2) whether she was strong enough to play in the Championship! It was also a great comeback from her after her loss in Round 6 late at night when she lost a game she was clearly winning against Garwood. This must have been terribly disappointing.

In fact, Varley has taken advantage of the paid entry as Jane already has a paid entry.

In the other tournaments, the Open as usual was played in with the Challengers as there were only 4 entries. The Challengers was won by N.Jakubovics of Oxford, with J.Humphreys (Downend & Gloucester) second just half a point behind on $4\frac{1}{2}$. Third equal on $3\frac{1}{2}$ points were: R.Hardy (Nailsea), E.A.Horn (Penzance), T.O'Mahoney (Radstock), C.Peters (Paignton) and P.Chapman (Glacier Chard). The Open was won by M.C.Forster of Dorking with 5 points.

The Reserves was won with the best score of all the tournaments, $5\frac{1}{2}$ points, by I.S.Annetts of Teignmouth. A close second on 5 were D.Freeman of Yeovil, G.Reed of Tiverton and E.G.Sparke of Exmouth.

Finally, the Minor was won by W.G.Oliver of Cheltenham with 5 points, followed by R.E.Boxall of Basingstoke and E.W.Engert of Chandlers Ford, both on 4 points.

David Le Moir

It is hoped that David will comment on some of the games from the other tournaments and this article will figure in a future edition. However, I have yet to persuade David to do so....

(RWR)

LETTERS FROM READERS

Further to the article in the last edition, I have received a letter in reply from Steve Boniface in response to Peter Marshall's comments:

"It was almost exactly a year ago that I submitted my 'Legal Clinic' article, and little did I realise how much interest and controversy it would arouse (although the several months' interval between the issues reminds me of an argument between trappists monks!).

The comments made by Messrs Massey and Marshall led me to re-read the original piece, but without regret I claim the right of reply, after which hopefully we can lay the first Clinic to rest and have more new material.

At no point did I advocate waiving or amending rules, nor did I claim "carte-blanche authority for subjective Laws/rules amendments", nor was there any suggestion of "granting concessions" as alleged. Indeed the whole thesis was to stress the range of measures available from warnings to loss of game, with erring on the side of mercy. It is important to note that the arbiter is in control, and that the next infringement will have tangible dimensions.

The distinction to be made is between applying Laws strictly and applying them blindly - Malcolm Burn rightly draws attention to the lack of a FIXED penalty. In most cases the MAXIMUM sanction is loss of game, with lesser means available. I am afraid that Peter and Paul would soon become frustrated if their every minor omission or infraction were so punished. Have they ever omitted to write down a move immediately? Touch the rook before the King in castling? Offered a

draw incorrectly? Discussed their game with anyone during play? What, never?? Do we REALLY want to have arbiters of this kind? I am appalled at the thought of chess Shylocks baying for their pound of flesh at the slightest pretext.

I cannot believe that we want widespread defaulting of players for such offences. As for the statement that "it is not relevant that the breach is deliberate or malicious", I say that that is the crux of the matter. Of course at the higher levels of the game it is expected that the players are better versed with both Laws and etiquette.

Moreover, I refute Paul's analogy of the policeman and the tax disc - the better lawman at least seeks an explanation - he does not instantly impose the maximum penalty. However, the motorist who argues vehemently deserves and gets the wrath of the law. One option that the chess arbiter cannot exercise is to allow a scene in the tournament room. Hence the reason for refusing a potentially explosive situation. I suggest the heavy-handed controller will suffer many unnecessary disruptions. A quiet but firm warning is nearly always enough.

May I now deal with the example quoted by Peter Marshall. Players arriving late can normally expect no mercy - after all, the hour allowed is a form of grace. In the original article I did advocate the use of commonsense, and this is usually sufficient in such cases. Yes, it is possible to allow players to play AFTER the hour's grace, but ONLY where it makes NO DIFFERENCE. Where prizes are involved, the risks involved are just too great. But should two players arrive JUST after the hour in the first round, why default them both? Do I go on stretching the rules indefinitely asks Peter? No, and this is where judgment comes in.

The reference to different decisions in identical cases is also misleading. How I wish cases were identical! The trouble is, there is always a twist of some sort which introduces a new element. For example, there are laws concerning blind players, but none concerning deaf ones. Should the poor arbiter pair them together (as I once did), then what happens when one wishes to offer the other a draw? Or when an Englishman who understands only descriptive notation plays a Dutch Lady who uses only algebraic (and who is also blind!). A player desperately trying to record his pencil. Do I start defaulting? Of course not. These are unusual cases, but all have crossed my path in the last twelve months.

Two final situations. Several years ago I was asked for a ruling in a quick-play finish. One player was very agitated, and clearly needed careful handling. I explained that I would make a ruling and that I expected both players to accept. Player B - not surprisingly - demurred. He announced that he was not happy with my ruling. I let him know that if he wished he could take the matter further. He wanted to know more. I said he could appeal to the Chief Arbiter of the Congress, then to an Appeals Committee. If he was still not happy, he could take the case to the B.C.F. and finally to F.I.D.E. But as this might several months, I hoped he would accept my ruling. He got the message.

In the other case, a local League player was being rather noisy, but which I recognized was youthful over-enthusiasm rather than anything sinister. After a stern warning, I asked him to leave the playing hall until the next round. Probably embarrassed in front of his friends, he asked "What are you going to do about it?" This was an invitation to violence! I explained that if he felt that way he would be expelled from the tournament, and if necessary I would write to the local League Secretary and ask that he be barred from local events. As we all know, the threat is often stronger than the execution and I had a full apology before the next round.

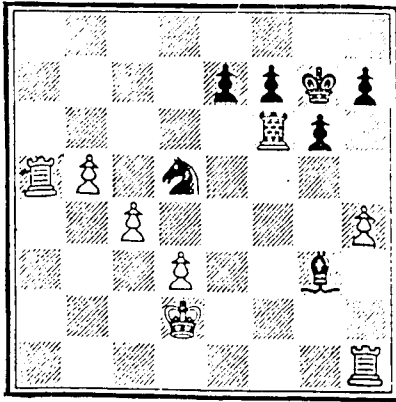
Here I rest my case. I repeat my original conclusion - the ultimate sanction is there, but one must rely on the skill of the Controller to apply it only when necessary.

Steve Boniface.

I think that Steve has answered his critics here, but if there is anything you wish to raise, please do not hesitate to contact me.

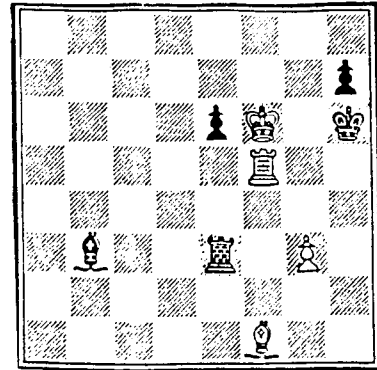
PROBLEM AND COMPETITION PAGE

(a)



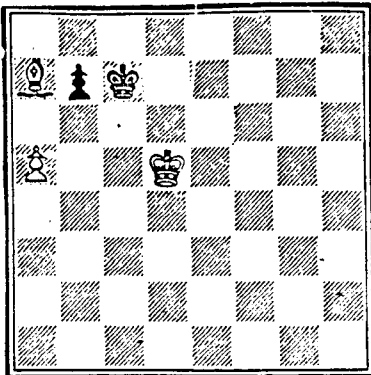
Black to play and win in 3.

(b)



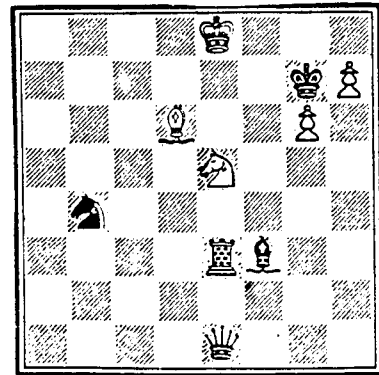
White to play and mate in 5.

(c)



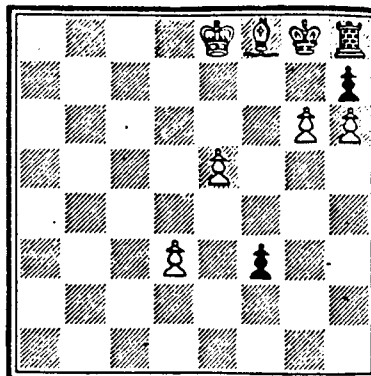
Adjudicate. Does the move make any difference?

(d)



White to play and draw in 5.

THIS EDITION'S COMPETITION



White to play and win in 5.

Prize of £5 for first correct solution out of the bag on Closing date:

15 September 1989

Solutions to above puzzles and last edition's competition are on pages 27 and 28.

NEWS ROUND-UP

Congratulations to Michael Adams on reaching his GM norm.

David Jarrett is to be succeeded by John Poole (currently Director of Home Chess and Services) as President of the British Chess Federation Council provided John is elected in the September meeting of the BCF. I understand David is to remain on the Council involved with the finances.

Trevor Thomas is to retire as Controller of the BCF County Correspondence Chess Championships after 14 years. Adrian Dawson, currently Yorkshire Correspondence Match Captain, is to take over from September. Trevor Thomas, meanwhile, is to concentrate on obtaining his Correspondence I.M. norm, which I understand he is well on his way of achieving.

There have been several changes to the Officers of the WECU - see Page 3 for complete details - with Jim Fewkes (Somerset) becoming Deputy President with Peter Marshall stepping down. Peter is to be able to spend his time captaining Hampshire and writing witty letters to the Westward Ho!

Incidentally, Jim Fewkes has succeeded George Miller as Match Captain of Somerset.

The WECU Senior Jamboree is to take place at Ladymead School, Taunton on 16th September 1989, controlled by Jim Fewkes (as usual), aided and abetted by yours truly. This year the rate of play will be slightly different than of past. The event will take the form of a 4 hour game, with both players being allotted with 2 hours on the clock. There will be no time control. Furthermore, this event will act as a "guinea pig" as it is intended that all next year's County Matches will take the same form. Obviously the WECU will wish to hear those taking part's views and thoughts on the new arrangement. All Match Captains are being circulated with the rules and regulations.

By the way, this year's County Championship Final Stages were governed by the BCF's rules, namely of having to play so many moves in an agreed period of time (usually 42 in $1\frac{3}{4}$ hours) and then turn the clock back 15 minutes and play until the flag falls. It is intended that this will happen next year and that in the near future the final stages will be a time game. Thus the WECU are trying to ensure they are up with the times.

I know that the WECU President would appreciate any comments you wish to make on this subject.

There is to be a new Congress at Frome in May of next year. The Controller is to be Steve Boniface and the Organiser, Leon York of Frome Chess Club. Further details will be available nearer the time.

The West of England Championship is to be at Paignton next Easter. It is intended that the Under 18's and Under 16's and perhaps the Under 14's Championships will occur at the same venue - Oldway Mansion. The Congress Secretary is Joan Parker with Ron Powis acting as one of the Committee members and Controller. Again, further details will be available (when decided - in September).

Talking of Paignton, the Paignton Congress is to occur from Sunday 3 September to Saturday 9 September 1989 at Oldway Mansion. BCF Grading Lists priced (as far as I know) £6.00 and WECU Grading Lists, priced £2.00, will be on sale. Both will be on sale on September 1st from me, but I will of course be away from the 3rd for the week - at Paignton.

There have been several County Matches since the last edition which I list below.

Alas, due to a mix-up, Somerset failed to play their Minor Counties quarter-final match against Northamptonshire and Northants were awarded the match.

Likewise, Gloucestershire III's failed to play against Nottinghamshire III's, this time because of Notts insistence of playing in Nottingham.

I regret I have not received the result of Hampshire I's quarter-final match.

However, Gloucestershire II's played Warwickshire II's, losing $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $11\frac{1}{2}$.

Unfortunately, John Carr can't remember the Warwickshire players' names, but

here is the Gloucestershire team:

Match played at Frampton Upon Severn

on 14 May 1989

Between Gloucestershire II (home team) and Warwickshire II (away team)

had White on the odd boards

Board	HOME TEAM		AWAY TEAM	
	Name of Player	Result	Name of Player	Result
1	DODWELL P	192	0	
2	CANNELL R	189	1	
3	HOSKEN N	173	½	
4	GREEN I	164	½	
5	PICKUP I R	159	½	
6	MARKHAM P	147	0	
7	CARR J J	162	½	
8	BENTLEY A R	148	0	
9	POWNEY C R	144	0	
10	KNIGHT J	141	0	
11	MARKEY K	138	0	
12	PRIDEAUX E J	134	0	
13	RICHARDS N	134	0	
14	LESNIOWSKI P	129	½	
15	DE PIRO T	J121	½	
16	PARKER H	126	½	
TOTAL			4½	11½

Here are the rest of the results:

Match played at Frampton Upon Severn

on 14 May 1989

Between Devon I (home team) and Warwickshire I (away team)

had White on the odd boards

Board	HOME TEAM		AWAY TEAM	
	Name of Player	Result	Name of Player	Result
1	LANE G	217	0	1
2	BEAKE B	201	½	½
3	WHEELER G W	186	½	½
4	WHEELER J F	189	0	1
5	DOWN N A	184	½	½
6	HEWSON B W F	179	½	½
7	HARRIS P	-	½	½
8	HUTCHINGS J	J178	1	0
9	HILLS K	171	½	½
10	LINGHAM R H	172	½	½
11	PICKERING A	J172	½	½
12	WATTS K	165	½	½
13	THORNE T F	160	½	½
14	BRUSEY A W	158	0	1
15	HUTCHINGS R	J159	0	1
16	PARKER J	147	1	0
TOTAL			7	9

Whilst the Devon 1st team was playing Warwickshire I's, their second team were playing Middlesex II's down the road in Bristol.

The below is the Match Score but to give you a taste of the Match here is one of the individual games:

Board 8 L.Fincham (Middlesex 162) v K.Bloodworth (Devon 144)

1.e2-e4 e7-e5; 2.Ng1-f3 Nb8-c6; 3.Bf1-b5 a7-a6; 4.Bb5-a4 Ng8-f6; 5. 0-0 Bf8-c5;

The game revolves around the g1-a7 diagonal and Black places his bishop on it with the intention of retreating it to a7 where it cannot be attacked.

6.c2-c3 Bc5-a7; 7.d2-d3 b7-b5; 8.Ba4-c2 d7-d6; 9.h2-h3 h7-h6; 10.Nb1-d2 Bc8-d7; 11.Rf1-e1 g7-g5;

The Kingside attack commences and the pawns quickly advance.

12.Nf3-h2 h6-h5; 13.Nd2-f1 g5-g4; 14.h3-h4 g4-g3; 15.Nflxg3 Nf6-g4; 16.Nh2xg4 Bd7xg4; 17.Qd1-d2 Qd8xh4; 18.Ng3-f1 0-0-0; 19.a2-a4 Rd8-g8; 20.Re1-e3 Bg4-h3; 21.g2-g3 Bh3xf1; 22.Kg1xf1 Qh4-h3+; 23.Kf1-e2 h5-h4; 24.d3-d4 e5xd4; 25.Re3-d3 h4xg3; 26.c3xd4 Qh3-h5+; 27.f2-f3 g3-g2; 28.Resigns.

Match played at Sea Mills, Bristol

on 14 May 1989

Between Devon II (home team) and Middlesex II (away team)

had White on the odd boards

Board	HOME TEAM		AWAY TEAM	
	Name of Player	Result	Name of Player	Result
1	LUFFMAN R C	149	0	1
2	WALKER J	152	½	½
3	CROSS R V (Sub)	139	0	1
4	BRUCE R M	151	1	0
5	BROOKS P	-	0	1
6	SHAPLAND R	141	1	0
7	JONES R H	139	0	1
8	BLOODWORTH K J	144	1	0
9	BRUCE R M (Mrs)	142	0	1
10	SMITH J T	138	1	0
11	HARWOOD R	139	0	1
12	VASEY J	138	0	1
13	HUTCHISON D V A	131	1	0
14	SIMONS C	J135	1	0
15	HAY T J	116	1	0
16	MASTERS C	J -	½	½
TOTAL			8	8

Middlesex won on board count after 4 of their players failed to turn up. Furthermore, they were fortunate to win, especially as R Harwood on board 11 had a won game but unfortunately lost on time.

MINOR COUNTIES PRELIMINARY ROUND

Match played at Basingstoke Chess Club, Hampshire

on 22 April 1989

Between BEDFORDSHIRE

(home team) and

DORSET

(away team)

DORSET

had White on the odd boards

HOME TEAM				AWAY TEAM			
Board	Name of Player	Result		Name of Player			
1	LEDGER A 199	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	FREEMAN M J		182	
2	BRYCE A 185	0	1	SHUTLER S J		190	
3	LEDGER D J 175	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	SIMONS M J		192	
4	LEDGER S C 176	1	0	DOMMETT A J		193	
5	FREEMAN E C F 183	0	1	ROBINSON S C E		183	
6	SMITH D G 173	0	1	JOHNS C W		181	
7	ROE P L 185	0	1	CHARTER M R		187	
8	HABERCHON P F 176	1	0	WINDEBANK G H		168	
9	WINGFIELD J N 188	0	1	WADDINGTON M P		177	
10	KENDALL P S N 182	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	CLARK I C		175	
11	ELWIN A G 168	0	1	PEGG R M		170	
12	MAHONY R J 166	0	1	PLEASANTS A J		169	
13	FRITCHARD P 164	0	1	ALDRIDGE D J	J162		
14	CLAFKE P C 164	1	0	VALENTINE R		162	
15	GILL P 149	0	1	CATCHPOLE J F		162	
16	THOMAS P 159	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	DAVIES J M		-	
TOTAL		5	11				

MINOR COUNTIES SEMI FINAL

Match played at Minstead Village Hall, Hampshire

on 3 June 1989

Between DORSET

(home team) and

SUSSEX

(away team)

SUSSEX

had White on the odd boards

HOME TEAM				AWAY TEAM			
Board	Name of Player	Result		Name of Player			
1	FREEMAN M J 182	0	1	DENMAN B J		207	
2	ROBINSON S C E 183	0	1	JONES G H		207	
3	SHUTLER S J 190	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	KWIATKOWSKI F J		196	
4	SIMONS M J 192	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	GRAHAM D B		201	
5	DOMMETT A J 193	0	1	RUTHERFORD L		193	
6	CHARTER M R 187	0	1	NEWMAN S J		192	
7	CLARK I C 175	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	RIVERS G		187	
8	WADDINGTON M P 177	0	1	SIMPOLE J I P		179	
9	PEGG R M 170	1	0	HAWES S O N		181	
10	PLEASANTS A J 169	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	NICHOLAS M D		176	
11	ROTH M J 167	0	1	KELLY I G		176	
12	ALDRIDGE D J J162	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	FARR P G		183	
13	CATCHPOLE J F 182	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	GRAHAM J		169	
14	KINGDON F C 159	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	SELBY P R		172	
15	SIMONS T E 158	1	0	HALL A		169	
16	DAVIES J M -	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	STOTT M R		152	
TOTAL		6	10				

The W.E.C.U. British Championship Qualifier, organised by the Hampshire Chess Association, was held at Applemore Recreation Centre in the New Forest on May 19 to 21. The tournament, in which 43 competitors took place, was generously sponsored by Forest Dry Cleaners. It took the form of a 6-round Swiss tournament which proved a triumph for local players over the 'foreigners' and also saw the young tigers eclipsed by their seniors.

First prize of £75 was won convincingly by Michael Yeo of Southampton with the perfect score of 6/6. Joint runners-up with 5/6 were Bill Purkiss of Eastleigh and Tony Corkett of Fareham. Tony's placing was no surprise as the highest graded player in the event, but Bill's performance was excellent since with a grade of 179 he was only equal 13th in the rankings. They shared second and third prize money with £45 each. Next were S.C.Robinson of Poole and K.I.Norman of Richmond with 4½ points. The best junior score was 3/6 by James Poulton (Fareham) and David Neil (Southampton), with the former winning the junior prize on tie-break.

The grading prize was shared by I.White of Gloucester and J.Robinson of Leicester the latter only after a nail-biting time scramble finish in the last round.

Unfortunately, neither Yeo or Purkiss will be able to take up the offer of a paid entry to the British Championship, leaving Tony Corkett as the Union Qualifier entry.

The below is Michael Yeo's last round game against S.C.Robinson. Analysis and above report by Peter Marshall.

M.Yeo v S.C.Robinson

1.e2-e4 g7-g6; 2.d2-d4 Bf8-g7; 3.Nb1-c3 c7-c5;

An uncommon line by Black. 3...d7-d6; is usually played here giving White the option of f2-f4, Ng1-f3 or Bc1-e3, often transferring into well-known lines of the Pirc.

4.Ng1-f3 b7-b6??;

4.d4-d5 is the book line, but the reply is an early blunder from which Black never recovers. 4...c5xd4; followed by 5...Nb8-c6; would lead to a Sicilian dragon type position with equality.

5.d4xc5 b6xc5; 6.Qd1-d5 (Of course!) Nb8-c6; 7.Bf1-c4! e7-e6;

Not only does Black lose a pawn but his development is severely cramped.

8.Qd5xc5 Qd8-a5; 9.Qc5xa5 Nc6xa5; 10.Bc4-d3 Bg7xc3+;

Black can now get in d7-d5 but his position is already lost. The remaining moves need little comment.

11.b2xc3 d7-d5; 12.e4xd5 e6xd5; 13. 0-0 Ke8-f8; (Avoiding the check but falling further behind in development) 14.Rf1-e1 Kf8-g7; 15.Re1-e5 Ng8-f6; 16.Bc1-g5 Rh8-d8; 17.Nf3-d4 h7-h6; 18.Bc1-d2 Rd8-d6; 19.Re5-e7 Na5-c6; 20.Bd2-f4!...

Simplifying the position further in White's favour.

20...Nc6xe7; 21.Bf4xd6 Ne7-f5; 22.Bd6-e5! Nf5-e7; 23.Ra1-b1 Ne7-g8; 24.Nc3-b5 Bc8-e6; (At last! Its first and only move) 25.Nb5-c7 Ra8-c8; 26.Nc7xe6+ f7xe6; 27.Rb1-b7+ Resigns.

Congratulations to the Hampshire Under 18 Girls who won the National U18 Final. Hampshire U18 Boys came second in their competition.

The Cotswold Congress took place over the following weekend, May 27 to 29 in the spacious main hall of the King's School, Gloucester and was controlled by Ron and Mike Powis. The total of 129 competitors was the highest since 1980.

Peter Wells (Oxford), a late entrant and at 220 the highest graded competitor, won first prize in the Open tournament. He made heavy weather of the early rounds, conceding a draw with the white pieces against Alex Easton (174) in round one and winning his next two games from level positions in desperate time-trouble, but thereafter found his true form and clinched first place with a good win with black against K.Milner (200) to total 5½ points. Chris Beaumont (Bristol) joint winner last year, conceded two draws and took second prize with 5 points. S.T.Ansell (Oxford Graded 151J) was the surprise winner of the third prize.

In the Major (155 & below), first place was shared by N.Beveridge (Hereford) and G.Marchant (Worcester) with 5 points. R.Barlow (Birmingham), D.Smith (London) D.Twine (Bristol) and R.Winson (Bridgwater) were equal third with 4½.

In the Minor tournament three of the prize-winners were lady players. Miss J.Carr (Huddersfield) won first prize with 5½/6 with Miss M.J.Goodwin (Poole) sharing second place with D.C.Hudson (Bristol) on 5 points. Doreen Helbig won the Grading B prize.

The below is the deciding game from the Open:

K. Milner v P.Wells

1.e2-e4 e7-e5; 2.Ng1-f3 Nb8-c6; 3.Bf1-b5 a7-a6; 4.Bb5-a4 Ng8-f6; 5. 0-0 Bf8-e7; 6.Rf1-e1 b7-b5; 7.Ba4-b3 d7-d6; 8.c2-c3 0-0; 9.h2-h3 Nc6-b8; 10.d2-d3 Bc8-b7; 11.Nb1-d2 Nb8-d7; 12.Nd2-f1 Nd7-c5; 13.Bb3-c2 Rf8-e8; 14.Nf1-g3 Be7-f8; 15.b2-b4 Nc5-d7; 16.a2-a3 g7-g6; 17.Ra1-b1 d6-d5; 18.e4xd5 Nf6xd5; 19.Ng3-e4 f7-f5; 20.Bc2-b3 Kg8-g7; 21.Bc1-g5 Bf8-e7; 22.Bg5xe7 Qd8xe7; 23.Bb3xd5 Bb7xd5; 24.Ne4-d2 Qe7-f6; 25.Qd1-c2 Ra8-d8; 26.Re1-e2 g6-g5; 27.Rb1-e1 h7-h5; 28.c3-c4 Bd5xf3; 29.Nd2xf3 g5-g4; 30.Nf3-d2 c7-c6; 31.Re1-c1 Nd7-f8; 32.c4xb5 c6xb5; 33.Nd2-b3 g4xh3; 34.g2-g3 Nf8-e6; 35.Qc2-c6 Re8-e7; 36.Qc6xa6 Rd8xd3; 37.Nb3-c5 Ne6-d4; 38.Qa6xf6+ Kg7xf6; 39.Re2-a2 Rd3-f3; 40.a3-a4 b5xa4; 41.Kg1-h2 a4-a3; 42.Kh2xh3 h5-h4; 43.Rc1-d1 Re7-g7; 44.Rd1-d3 h4xg3; 45.Rd3xf3 g3-g2!; 46.Resigns.

Portsmouth Chess Club is to run a Quickplay tournament to celebrate its centenary on Sunday 15 October 1989. Entry Fee £4. Entry Forms from Warren Laxton 12 Selsey Avenue, Southsea, Hants PO4 9QL, Tel: 0705 734609.

THE 1989 EAST DEVON CHESS CONGRESS

A Report by Richard Rendell.

The Fourteenth East Devon Chess Congress took place in Exeter on the first weekend of March 1989 with 162 players competing. Although smaller in numbers than last year's record entry, the Open attracted many of the West of England's big guns, in particular Michael Adams, Chris Beaumont and Gerald Moore.

Round 1

There were few shocks in the first round with only Mordue of the top 8 seeds failing to win. Indeed, Mordue had to take advantage of a perpetual check to gain his draw against K.Hills. The other seven top seeds were: Adams, Beaumont, Lewis, Moore, Garwood, Osborne and Copeland in that order. There were also wins for I.White, J.Menadue, S.Dilleigh, A.Gilmour, Aston and Clark together with G.Bolt who benefited from a 1 point bye.

P.Helbig v M.Adams

1.c2-c4 Ng8-f6; 2.g2-g3 e7-e5; 3.Bf1-g2 Nb8-c6; 4.Nb1-c3 Bf8-b4; 5.Nc3-d5 0-0; 6.Nd5xb4 Nc6xb4; 7.d2-d3 d7-d5;

An interesting start by Adams. His opponent has started with a very slow opening with the intention of playing a rather defensive game. Adams meanwhile does not spend his time pussyfooting around but rather attacks and takes hold of the centre. It is interesting that he is not scared to exchange his black squared bishop for the knight without doubling his opponent's queenside pawns.

8.Bc1-d2 Nb4-c6; 9.c4xd5 Nf6xd5; 10.Ng1-f3 Kg8-h8; 11.Ra1-c1 f7-f6; 12. 0-0 Bc8-e6; 13.Bd2-c3 Qd8-d7; 14.b2-b3 Ra8-d8;

Black has now completed his development in very quick time and has complete control. White's bishop on c3 looks rather lost whilst the knight on d5 is extremely powerful. It is now decision time for Black and he chooses to swap off his other bishop, thus depriving his opponent of his bishop pair.

15.Bc3-b2 Be6-h3; 16.Rc1-c4 Bh3xg2; 17.Kg1xg2 b7-b6; 18.Bb2-a3 Rf8-e8; 19.b3-b4 a7-a5; 20.b4xa5 Nc6xa5;; 21.Rc4-c1 c7-c5; 22.Nf3-d2 f6-f5;

White's attack on the queenside has been dispatched in extra quick time and it is Black who is in charge here. He has also complete control of the centre.

23.Nd2-c4 Na5xc4; 24.Rc1xc4...

Not 24.d3xc4? Nd5-e3+; 25.f2xe3 Qd7-b7+; winning the queen for the rook and piece.

24...Rd8-a8; 25.Qd1-b3 Qd7-a7; 26.Rc4-c2 Nd5-c7; 27.Ba3-c1 Nc7-e6;

Black has transferred his attack very quickly to the half open a-file whilst still keeping his grip on the centre. The bishop is still very weak and 28...Ne6-d4; is now threatened. Slowly Adams is turning the screw.

28.Qb3-b1 Qa7-b7+ 29.Kg2-g1 Ne6-d4; 30.Rc2-b2 f5-f4;

An interesting move. Taking the pawn on f4 will leave his pawns in disarray as well as losing the exchange. Taking the b-pawn allows 31...Nd4xe2mate. White has problems and now opts to stop the advance of the f-pawn but this leads to his downfall in the longterm.

31.f2-f3 Re8-e6;

Of course, White's last move blocks the long diagonal and gives his King a square - f2 - to escape to. He is also threatening 32.Rb2xb6... but Black stops this and continues his attack.

32.Rf1-e1 Ra8-f8; 33.g3-g4 h7-h5; 34.h2-h3 Re6-g6; 35.Kg1-f2 Qb7-e7; 36.Bc1-d2 Qe7-h4+;

The mistake Black was waiting for. He now finishes the game off very quickly.

37.Kf2-g2 Qh4-g3+; 38.Kg2-f1 Qg3xh3+; 39.Kf1-f2 Qh3-g3+; 40.Kf2-f1 Nd4xf3!;; 41.Resigns.

A neat ending. Mate on g1 is threatened. 41.e2-e4... loses the exchange whilst 41.e2xf3 Qg3xf3+; 42.Kf1-g1 Rg6xg4+; 43.Kg1-h2 Qf3-g2; is mate.

A.Spice v G.Moore

1.e2-e4 c7-c5; 2.Ng1-f3 e7-e6; 3.d2-d4 c5xd4; 4.Nf3xd4 Ng8-f6; 5.Nb1-c3 d7-d6; 6.Bc1-g5 Bf8-e7; 7.Qd1-d2 a7-a6; 8. 0-0-0 Qd8-c7; 9.f2-f4 Nb8-d7; 10.Bf1-e2 b7-b5;

White has made his intentions very clear and Moore has had to counter quickly on the queenside. However, this last move allows White a sacrifice of a piece for 3 pawns. It does however, clear the air very quickly leaving Black a chance to stop the advance and use his skill in picking off his opponent.

11.Be2xb5?! a6xb5; 12.Nd4xb5 Qc7-c5; 13.Nb5xd6+ Be7xd6; 14.Qd2xd6 Qc5xd6; 15.Rd1xd6 0-0; 16.Rh1-d1 Nd7-c5; 17.Bg5xf6 g7xf6;

Black takes the opportunity to remove another of his opponent's pieces thus giving his extra piece more value. He does of course allow his Kingside to be opened up but the pawn on f6 now defends e5.

18.b2-b3 Bc8-b7; 19.Rd1-d4 Rf9-c8; 20.Kc1-b2 Kg8-f8; 21.b3-b4 e6-e5;

This move allows Black to continue to swop of the pieces down to R+B - R.

22.Rd4-d2 Nc5xe4; 23.Nc3xe4 Bb7xe4; 24.Rd6xf6 Rc8-c4; 25.c2-c3 e5xf4; 26.Rf6xf4 Ra8-c8; 27.Rd2-e2 Be4-d5; 28.Rf4xc4 Bd5xc4; 29.Re2-d2 Rc8-a8; 30.a2-a3 Kf8-e7;

The King now comes into play, giving Black two extra pieces. He still has to stop the 3 joint passed pawns.

31.Rd2-d4 Bc4-f1; 32.g2-g3 Ra8-a6; 33.Rd4-e4+ Ra6-e6;

A surprising exchange. Black however has the intention of creating a passed pawn of his own with his King able to shepherd it up to Queening.

34.Re4xe6+ f7xe6; 35.Kb2-b3 Ke7-d6; 36.c3-c4 e6-e5; 37.c4-c5+ Kd6-d5;

I am sure 37.c4-c5+ is a mistake. I would have thought 37.a3-a4 was much better.

38.Kb3-c3 Bf1-b5;

Suddenly the bishop has stopped the pawn advance.

39.a3-a4 Bb5xa4; 40.Kc3-d3 Ba4-d7; 41.Kd3-e3 Bd7-f5; 42.Ke3-f3 Bf5-e4+; 43.Kf3-e3 Be4-f5; 44.Ke3-f3...

In a matter of moves White has lost all purpose. He has started to wander aimlessly around with his King and now seems only interested in a draw by repeating the position. Black, however, has no intention of giving him a draw and finds another move:

44...Kd5-d4; 45.Kf3-e2 Bf5-d7; 46.Ke2-d2 Kd5-e4; 47.Kd2-e2 Bd7-b5+; 48.Ke2-f2 Ke4-d3; 49.Kf2-e1...

White Resigns.

P.Aston v G.M.Smith

1.d2-d4 Ng8-f6; 2.Nb1-c3 g7-g6; 3.e2-e4 d7-d6; 4.f2-f4 Bf8-g7;

I must admit I have a passion for these sorts of openings. White takes a very aggressive line and attacks down the f-file which he half opens at the first opportunity.

5.e4-e5! d6xe5; 6.f4xe5 Nf6-d5; 7.Bf1-c4 e7-e6; 8.Ng1-f3 Nb8-c6; 9. 0-0 h7-h6; 10.Nc3-e4...

The advance of e4-e5 has vacated the e4 square for the knight and the squares around the King's fortress look very weak, especially to a sacrifice.

10...Nc6-e7; 11.Qd1-e1 Ne7-f5; 12.c2-c3 b7-b6; 13.Bc4-b5+ Bc8-d7; 14.Bb5xd7+ Qd8xd7; 15.g2-g4...

The Kingside attack rolls on, but Black decides to try and use it to his

advantage by sacrificing the piece on f5 and castling queenside with the hope of using the opened g-file:

15...0-0-0?!; 16.g4xf5 e6xf5;

For some reason he changes his mind and takes with the e-pawn. I suppose he has a four to one advantage on the kingside but the advance is much too slow. The white squares around his King are also very weak.

17.Ne4-f2 g6-g5; 18.Nf2-d3 Qd7-e6; 19.a2-a4 Rd8-g8; 20.a4-a5 Bg7-f8; 21.c3-c4 Nd5-f4; 22.Bclxf4 g5xf4+ 23.Kg1-h1...

Black has at last opened the Kingside up but at the cost of an "Irish Pawn Centre" - trebled pawns. He is also a long way behind in his attack.

23...Qe6xc4; 24.a5xb6 a7xb6; 25.Ral-a8+ Kc8-b7; 26.Qe1-a1 Qc4xd3?;

Taking of this piece is a mistake and loses but he is almost lost anyway.

27.Qal-a7+ Kb7-c6; 28.Rf1-c1+ Bf8-c5; 29.Rclxc5+! b6xc5; 30.Qa7xc5+ Resigns.

30...Kc6-b7; 31.Ra8-a7+ Kb7-c8; 32.Qc5xc7 mate or 30...Kc6-d7; 31.e5-e6+ Kd7xe6 (f7xe6 Nf3xe5 mate); 32.Ra8-a6+ Ke6-d7; 33.Nf3-e5+... wins the Queen.

Having played these moves again, I see a floor in this argument: the queen covers a6! Thus, unless I am very mistaken, Black resigned in error! Perhaps someone will advise me...

Round 2

Round 2 produced a catalogue of surprises. Firstly, Steve Dilleigh beat Lewis, graded 179 against 205, to remain on 100%. He was joined by the ever irrepressible Adams who crushed Gilmour - see below, Beaumont, Garwood, Osborne and Bolt. Moore could only draw with Aston, leaving both on $1\frac{1}{2}$ points. Fewkes held Helbig comfortably for a draw and Hills beat Purkiss. Mordue, after his draw in the first round with Hills, met Brusey, also on half a point:

A.W.Brusey v A.T.Mordue

1.e2-e4 c7-c5; 2.c2-c3 d7-d5; 3.e4xd5 Qd8xd5; 4.d2-d4 e7-e6; 5.Ng1-f3 Ng8-f6; 6.Bf1-d3 Nb8-c6; 7. 0-0 c5xd4; 8.c3xd4 Bf8-e7; 9.Nb1-c3 Qd5-d6; 10.Bc1-g5 0-0; 11.a2-a3 b7-b6; 12.Qd1-e2 Bc8-b7; 13.Rf1-d1 Ra8-c8; 14.Nc3-e4 Nf6xe4; 15.Bg5xe7 Nc6xe7; 16.Bd3xe4 Ne7-d5;

The air has cleared a bit and though White has control of the centre, Black is under no pressure and has the pawn at d4 to aim his forces at.

17.Nf3-e5 Rc8-c7; 18.Ral-c1 Rf8-c8; 19.Rclxc7 Qd6xc7; 20.g2-g3 f7-f6;

This move weakens his defence, but Black must get the knight off e5 where it controls too many squares.

21.Ne5-d3 Qc7-c4; 22.Rd1-c1...

This move suddenly shows what a bad move Black's last move was, yet it looked so obvious, putting pressure on White's centre. Black is in for a shock:

22...Qc4xd4; 23.Be4xh7+!...

23...Kg8xh7; 24.Qe2-h5+ Kh7-g8; 25.Rclxc8+ Bb7xc8; 26.Qh5-e8+... gives White a draw by repetition. Black, after his first round draw, is not interested in a draw.

23...Kg8-f8; 24.Rclxc8+ Bb7xc8; 25.Bh7-g6 Bc8-a6??; 26.Qe2xe6 Resigns.

Out of the frying pan into the fire?

Mate on f7 cannot be avoided.

This left Mordue on half a point and out of it, whilst Brusey jumped up to $1\frac{1}{2}$ points.

M.Adams v A.J.Gilmour

1.e2-e4 c7-c5; 2.Ng1-f3 d7-d6; 3.d2-d4 c5xd4; 4.Nf3xd4 Ng8-f6; 5.Nb1-c3 g7-g6;
6.Nc1-e3 Bf8-g7; 7.f2-f3 0-0; 8.Qd1-d2 Nb8-c6; 9.Bf1-c4 Bc8-d7; 10. 0-0-0
Nc6-e5; 11.Bc4-b3 Ra8-c8; 12.h2-h4...

All standard Dragon/Yugoslav attack moves, although g2-g4 is often played here.
Black now must decide how he is to counter this.

12...h7-h5; 13.Be3-h6 Bg7xh6; 14.Qd2xh6...

A bad decision to take the bishop allowing the queen into his defence. It
looks though that White has no other pieces readily available to join the queen
in the attack but Michael moves very quickly:

14...Rc8xc3;

Black must get his attack moving and quick and therefore sacrifices the rook on
c3 - a normal ploy. Who's going to be first?

15.b2xc3 Qd8-c7; 16.Kc1-b1 a7-a5; 17.f3-f4 Ne5-c4; 18.f4-f5...

Black has blocked his attack on the c-file whilst White in two moves is about
to wreck the King's fortress.

18...Nf6-g4; 19.Qh6-g5 Ng4-e5; 20.f5xg6 f7xg6; 21.Rh1-f1 Rf8xf1; 22.Rd1xf1
Bd7-g4; 23.Qg5-h6...

Suddenly mate is threatened and must be covered. White now stretches his
opponent until he snaps.

23...Qc7-c8; 24.Bb3xc4+ Ne5xc4; 25.Qh6xg6+ Kg8-h8; 26.Rf1-f7 Resigns.

So simple. It makes you wonder whether Michael had played these moves before.
In light of this slaying of the Dragon so easily, I, for one, will think
twice before playing it again. I now understand why the GMs say that the Dragon
is now dead and buried.

B.Johnson v R.Shapland

1.g2-g4 e7-e5; 2.Bf1-g2 Nb8-c6;

Johnson is a regular player of the Grob and claims it is a good opening to
play. My response to this is that it has many flaws in it and is only good
if the other player doesn't know it. Having said that, who am I to talk, I
swear by the Dragon...

3.d2-d3 g7-g6; 4.h2-h4 d7-d5;

All we are lacking now is 5.f2-f3 and 6.Ng1-h3!

5.g4-g5 Bc8-g4; 6.c2-c4 Ng8-e7; 7.Nb1-c3 d5xc4; 8.Qd1-a4 Bf8-g7 (c4xd3; 9.Qa4xg4);
9.d3xc4 0-0; 10.Bc1-d2 Nc6-d4; 11.Bg2-h3 Qd8-d7; 12.Qa4xd7 Bg4xd7; 13. 0-0-0
Ra8-d8; 14.Bh3xd7 Rd8xd7; 15.e2-e3 Nd4-e6; 16.Nc3-e4 Rf8-d8; 17.Ng1-f3 a7-a6;
18.Bd2-c3 Ne7-c6; 19.Rd1xd7 Rd8xd7; 20.Nf3-h2 Rd7-d8; 21.Nh2-g4 Kg8-h8;
22.h4-h5...

The pawn advance continues...

22...Kh8-g8; 23.h5-h6 Bg7-h8;

and bottles up the bishop.

24.Rh1-g1 b7-b5; 25.c4xb5 a6xb5; 26.Ne4-f6+ Bh8xf6; 27.Ng4xf6+ Kg8-h8;
28.Nf6-g4 Rd8-d5;

The e-pawn must be defended.

29.f2-f4! Rd5-c5; 30.Kc1-b1 Kh8-g8; 31.Bc3xe5 Nc6xe5; 32.Ng4xe5 Rc5-d5;
33.Kb1-c2 Ne6-c5; 34.Rg1-d1 Rd5xd1; 35.Kc2xd1 Nc5-e4; 36.Kd1-e2 f7-f6;
37.Ne5-f3 c7-c5; 38.Ke2-d3 Ne4-f2+; 39.Kd3-c2 Kg8-f7; 40.a2-a3 f6-f5;
41.b2-b3 Kf7-e6; 42.a3-a4 b5xa4; 43.b3xa4 Nf2-e4; 44.Nf3-e5 Ne4-d6;
45.a4-a5 Ke6-d5; 46.a5-a6 Nd6-c8; 47.Ne5xg6! Kd5-c6; 48.Ng6-e5+ Kc6-b6;
49.g5-g6 Nc8-e7; 50.g6xh7 Resigns.

Round 3

Garwood became the next player to be killed off by Adams' sword. He, Beaumont (who beat Bolt) and Dilleigh (who beat Osborne) were the only 3 players left on 100%. Moore returned to winning ways, beating Hills, to reach $2\frac{1}{2}$ points along with Aston who beat Brusey. Mordue on $\frac{1}{2}$ had the misfortune of meeting Lingham, a local player who knows all the sharp lines. (I know this to my cost as I played a Vienna Gambit against him in a County Match and he promptly played d7-d5 in reply to f2-f4, sacrificed 2 pawns and totally baffled me. I counted myself very lucky to escape with a draw, but learnt my lesson).

A.T.Mordue v R.Lingham

1.e2-e4 e7-e5; 2.Ng1-f3 Nb8-c6; 3.Bf1-b5 a7-a6; 4.Bb5-a4 d7-d6; 5.c2-c3 f7-f5!?!;

Again a sharp line to the Ruy Lopez.

6.e4xf5 Bc8xf5; 7.d2-d4 e5-e4; 8.Nf3-g5 d6-d5; 9.f2-f3 h7-h6; 10.f3xe4 h6xg5;
11.e4xf5 Bf8-d6; 12.Bc1-e3 Qd8-e7; 13.Qd1-e2 Ke8-f8; 14.Nb1-d2 Ra8-e8;
15.Nd2-f1 Bd6-f4; 16.Kel-d2 Ng8-f6; 17.Ba4-c2 Nc6-a5; 18.b2-b3 c7-c5;
19.Ral-e1 Qe7-d6; 20.Qe2-f3 c5xd4; 21.Be3xf4 d4xc3+; 22.Qf3xc3 Qd6xf4+;
23.Nf1-e3 Na5-c6; 24.Rh1-f1 Qf4-d6;

Does anyone know what's going on? Because I certainly don't! Now Nf6-e4+ and d5-d4 are both threatened.

25.Kd2-d1 d5-d4; 26.Qc3-d2 Qd6-a3; 27.Ne3-c4 Re8xe1+; 28.Rf1xe1 Qa3xa2;
29.Nc4-d6 Rh8xh2; 30.Qd2xg5 d4-d3!;

Black has won a pawn and is now turning the screw. Of the two, the Black King is the most safest, f8 seems to be a good square for it.

Of course now, the d-pawn must be taken.

31.Bc2xd3 Rh2xg2; 32.Qg5-e3 Qa2-a1+; 33.Qe3-c1 Qa1-d4; 34.Qc1-e3 Qd4xd6:

And now Black is a piece and a pawn up and he proceeded to win in 54 moves.

Not a good start to the Congress for Mordue. 3 games played, $\frac{1}{2}$ point scored. He must have wished he had stayed at home. He did however remain at the Congress and score wins in the last two rounds to bring him back up to 50%.

S.Dilleigh v D.Osborne

1.d2-d4 c7-c5; 2.d4-d5 e7-e5; 3.c2-c4 d7-d6; 4.Nb1-c3 Bf8-e7; 5.g2-g3 Nb8-a6;
6.Bf1-g2 Na6-c7; 7.e2-e4 Be7-g5;

This game seems to be about using the use of the bishops and pawn binds in the centre. It looks as though White is controlling the white squares, whilst Black the black ones. However, White contests the black squares:

8.f2-f4!?! e5xf4; 9.g3xf4 Bg5-h4+; 10.Kel-f1...

White has control of the centre but has had to pay a penalty for this - he has moved his King and cannot castle.

10...Ng8-e7; 11.Ng1-f3 Ne7-g6; 12.Qd1-d3 Bh4-f6; 13.Bc1-d2 0-0; 14.h2-h4...

White fires his first shot at the castled King as well as at the pieces in front of the fortress. Black aims at the centre:

14...Rf8-e8; 15.h4-h5 Ng6-h4; 16.Nf3xh4 Bf6xh4; 17.Bd2-e1 Bh4xe1; 18.Ralxe1 Qd8-f6; 19.Qd3-g3 Ra8-b8; 20.Bg2-f3 Qf6-h6; 21.e4-e5...

As White's attack on the King's fortress has been halted he turns his attention to the centre and the advance commences. However, this move loosens his control over f5. Black can now get his bishop off the back rank but must try for some counterplay on the queenside.

21...Bc8-f5; 22.Rh1-g1 b7-b5; 23.Bf3-e4 b5-b4; 24.Nc3-d1 Bf5xe4; 25.Relxe4...

Black's counterplay has come to nothing. His bishop on f5 was being attacked and he couldn't afford to just retreat it and he certainly couldn't afford for the knight to jump into e4, hence 23...b5-b4. Black is now in a complete mess but it takes a complete blunder to break the camel's back.

25...f7-f5; 26.Re4-e2 d6xe5; 27.f4xe5 f5-f4; 28.Qg3-f3 Rb8-b6; 29.Nd1-f2 g7-g5??;

The complete blunder.

30.Qf3xf4...

Of course the queen cannot be taken because of the pin. What is worse, Black can't take the h-pawn because of 31.Rglxg5+ winning the queen for the rook. The end is in sight.

30...Rb6-g6;

A good attempt to cover up. Of course 31.h5xg6... loses the queen to 31...g5xf4.

31.Qf4-g4 Rg6-g7; 32.Rg1-g3 Re8-f8; 33.Kf1-g2 Rf8-f4; 34.Qg4-c8+ Rf4-f8; 35.Nf2-g4! Qh6xh5; 36.Ng4-f6+ Kg8-f7; 37.Qc8xf8+! Resigns.

Black loses a rook.

C.Garwood v M.Adams

1.1.c2-c4 Ng8-f6; 2.Nb1-c3 e7-e5; 3.g2-g3 Bf8-b4; 4.Bf1-g2 0-0; 5.Ng1-f3 Nb8-c6;

Where have we seen these moves before? Why, of course, in round 1 Helbig v Adams, only White played 5.Nc3-d5. This time Adams shows how versatile he is.

6. 0-0 e5-e4; 7.Nf3-e1 Bb4xc3; 8.d2xc3 d7-d6; 9.Ne1-c2 Rf8-e8; 10.Nc2-e3 h7-h6; 11.b2-b3 Nc6-e5; 12.f2-f3 e4xf3; 13.e2xf3 Ra8-b8; 14.Rf1-e1 b7-b6; 15.a2-a4 a7-a5; 16.Ra1-a2 Ne5-d7; 17.Ra2-e2 Nd7-c5; 18.b3-b4 Nc5-a6; 19.Bc1-a3 Bc8-d7; 20.Kg1-f2 Rb8-a8; 21.Re2-d2 Qd8-c8;

This game is very similiar to the game against Helbig. Again Adams is jockeying for position, keeping the pressure on his opponent from long distance waiting for a mistake. The doubled c-pawns are a real headache for White. He cannot take the a-pawn as this will leave the c-pawns isolated whilst Ne3-d5 Nf6xd5 c4xd5 a5xb4 c3xb4 leaves the d-pawn isolated.

22.Ne3-d5 Nf6xd5; 23.Rd2xd5 Re8xe1; 24.Qd1xe1 Bd7xa4;

The air clears and White finds himself a pawn down. 24.Kf2xe1 Qc8-e8+; would have left him in the same position but with Black controlling the e-file. White can now bottle up the bishop, but does it do him any good?

25.b4-b5 Na6-c5; 26.Ba3xc5 b6xc5; 27.Rd5-d2 Ba4-b3; 28.f3-f4 Ra8-b8; 29.Bg2-d5 Kg8-h8; 30.Rd2-e2 a5-a4; 31.Bd5xf7 Qc8-f8; 32.Bf7-d5 a4-a3;

The a-pawn is free to advance down the a-file and White is powerless to do anything about it. Of course the exchange of the major pieces by 32.Re2-e8 etc would leave White unable to stop the a-pawn.

33.Qe1-c1 a3-a2; 34.Qc1-a3 Qf8-f6; 35.Re2-b2 Qf6xc3; 36.Rb2xb3 Qc3-d4+; 37. Resigns.

The pawn queens.

Adams makes it look so easy. Will anyone stop him?

Round 4

Adams, the number 1 seed met Beaumont, the number 2 seed, in what most thought would be the game which would decide the first place. Alas for Beaumont, he neither could stop Adams. However, Dilleigh beat Aston to leave him on 4 points as well and leave him to play Adams in the last round for the title. Moore beat Garwood to put himself on 3½ points and a good chance of coming second, whilst Lewis (who beat Gilmour) and Osborne (who beat Bolt) joined Beaumont on 3 points. Brusey again got a good result, this time drawing with Helbig.

M.Adams v C.Beaumont

1.e2-e4 d7-d6; 2.d2-d4 Ng8-f6; 3.Nb1-c3 g7-g6; 4.Bc1-e3 c7-c6; 5.Qd1-d2 b7-b5; 6.Bf1-d3 Bf8-g7; 7.h2-h3 0-0; 8.Ng1-f3 Nb8-d7; 9. 0-0 e7-e5; 10.d4xe5 d6xe5;

11.a2-a4 b5-b4; 12.Nc3-e2 c6-c5; 13.Ne2-g3 Bc8-b7;

The knight has been chased away from c3 but has rerouted to g3 where it will stay for some time before resuming its journey. At present it is in use to defend the pawn on e4.

14.Rf1-d1 Qd8-c7; 15.Qd2-e2 Rf8-e8; 16.a4-a5 Nd7-f8; 17.a5-a6 Bb7-c8;
18.c2-c3 b4xc3; 19.b2xc3 Nf8-e6;

An interesting ploy to isolate both c-pawns. I guess Adams felt that Black's is much weaker than his. The pawn on c3 also covers the d4 square which he doesn't want Black's knight to occupy.

20.Qe2-a2 Nf6-d7; 21.Qa2-a5 Nd7-b6; 22.Bd3-b5 Re8-e7; 23.Bb5-f1 Bc8-d7;
24.Nf3-d2...

The other knight starts its journey. It's funny how the queen knight transfers over to the King side whilst the other does the opposite.

24...Bg7-f6; 25.Nd2-c4 Bf6-g5; 26.Be3xg5 Ne6xg5; 27.Rd1-b1 Ra8-b8; 28.Nc4xb6 Rb8xb6; 29.Rblxb6 a7xb6;

White has got what he wants - a passed pawn on the sixth rank. It can get to a7 but can it get to a8?

30.Qa5-a2 Bd7-c6; 31.a6-a7 Bc6-a8; 32.Bf1-c4 Ng5-e6; 33.Bc4-d5 Re7-e8;
34.Ng3-f1...

Now that White has a firm control of his weak e-pawn the knight is free to continue its journey. Black's bishop however is totally powerless and to swop it off will only worsen the position - White obtain another passed pawn, only this one will be supported.

34...Qc7-d7; 35.Nf1-e3 Ne6-c7; 36.c3-c4...

The bishop is now cemented into position and the knight can again resume its journey.

36...Ba8-c6; 37.Ne3-g4...

No guesses where the knight is aiming for. Black is now totally passive and must wait for White to strike.

37...Kg8-g7; 38.Qa2-b2...

Both the b-pawn and e-pawn are under attack and Black must remove the bishop to defend both. However, White has a surprise in store:

38...Bc6xd5; 39.Ng4xe5! Qd5-d6; 40.Ne5-g4+ f7-f6; 41.e4xd5 Re8-a8;
42.Ral-e1 h7-h5; 43.Ng4xf6 Resigns.

Of course if 43...Qd6xf6; then 44.Rel-e7+... wins the queen. If 43...Kg7-f7; then 44.Nf6-e4... wins the b-pawn at the very least. Black's position is hopeless.

S.Dilleigh v P.Aston

1.d2-d4 Ng8-f6; 2.c2-c4 e7-e5; 3.d4xe5...

The Budapest is not often seen these days and for those who don't know it normally revolves around the pawn on e5 which will be collected back in due course.

3...Nf6-g4; 4.Bc1-f4 Bf8-b4+; 5.Nb1-d2 Nb8-c6; 6.Ng1-f3 f7-f6;

Black offers a pawn rather than fight for it to be returned. However, White prefers to return it for the exchange of the black squared bishops.

7.a2-a3 f6xe5; 8.a3xb4 e5xf4; 9.b4-b5 Nc6-e5; 10.h2-h3 Qd8-e7;

The threat is 11.h3xg4? Ne5xf3; mate.

11.Ral-a3 Ng4-f6; 12.e2-e3 0-0;

White has succeeded in keeping the game very complicated. Of course if f4xe3; Ra3xe3... brings the rook into the centre.

13.Bf1-e2 Ne5-g6; 14. O-O d7-d6; 15.Rf1-e1 Nf6-e4; 16.Nd2xe4 Qe7xe4;
17.Be2-d3 Qe4-e6; 18.Qd1-c2 Ng6-e5; 19.Nf3xe5 Qe6xe5; 20.Bd4xh7+ Kg8-h8;
21.Bh7-e4...

White has won a pawn by simple play and now totally controls the game. Black must make attempts to complicate the game again.

21...f4-f3?!; 22.Be4xf3 Rf8xf3?!; 23.g2xf3 Bc8xh3;

Black has succeeded in this attempt but is now the exchange and a pawn down. The threat is 24...Qe5-g5+; etc but White has a simple way of stopping this.

24.Qc2-g6 Ra8-f8; 25.Ra3xa7 Bh3-e6;

25...Rf8xf3; 26.Ra7-a8+...

26.Kg1-g2 Be6-f5; 27.Qg6-h5+ Kh8-g8; 28.Rf1-h1 Qe5-f6; 29.Ra7xb7 Bf5-e4;

A good idea but I am afraid its all over now, not by 30.f3xe4? Qf6xf2+; etc but by:

30.Qh5-h8+ Kg8-f7; 31.Rb7xc7+ Kf7-e6; 32.Qh8-h3+ Ke6-e5; 33.Qh3-g3+ Ke5-e6;
34.f3xe4 Resigns.

Well played by Dilleigh who made it look easy.

Round 5

Adams duly despatched Dilleigh in just 25 moves to collect first prize. In his 5 games, Michael has only reached the time control once and was never in trouble either with time or play. In fact his games lasted 40, 26, 36, 43 and 25 moves. He played 4 opponents from the Bristol League but none of them could match his quiet but devastating style. I print below his last game and make no apologies for printing all of his 5 games - it is not often that I get the chance to print any of his games and therefore I have grasped this chance with both hands.

Chris Beaumont beat Gerald Moore in the last round whilst Lewis beat Osborne to join Dilleigh in a three-way tie for second place. Moore finished on $3\frac{1}{2}$ points and was joined by Aston and Down to claim grading prizes. The other grading prizes were won by Bolt ($2\frac{1}{2}$) and Simms ($2\frac{1}{2}$).

M.Adams v S.Dilleigh

1.e2-e4 c7-c6; 2.d2-d4 d7-d5; 3.e4xd5 c6xd5; 4.c2-c4 Ng8-f6; 5.Nb1-c3 Nb8-c6;
6.Ng1-f3 g7-g6; 7.c4xd5 Nf6xd5; 8.Qd1-b3 Nd5xc3; 9.Bf1-c4!...

The knight can be taken later - it is not going anywhere. Adams just develops another piece.

9...Nc3-d5;

9...Nc3xa2; allows 10.Bc4xf7+... followed by the taking of the knight, whilst 9...Nc3-e4; 10.Bc4xf7+ Ke8-d7; 11.Qb3-e6+... followed by Qe6xe4.

10.Bc4xd5 e7-e6; 11.Bd5xc6+ b7xc6; 12. O-O Qd8-d5; 13.Qb3-c3 Bf8-g7;
14.Bc1-f4 O-O;

Black wants to liquidate his isolated c-pawn by c6-c5 but White simply won't let him do so.

15.Bf4-e5 Rf8-d8; 16.Be5xg7 Kg8xg7; 17.Rf1-e1 f7-f6; 18.b2-b3 g6-g5;
19.h2-h3 h7-h5; 20.Ra1-d1 a7-a5; 21.Qc3-c1 Kg7-f7; 22.h3-h4 g5-g4;
23.Nf3-e5+!...

A beautiful sacrifice. 23...f6xe5; 24.Relxe5 Qd5-d7; 25.Rx5xf5+ Kf7-e8;
26.Rh5-h8+ Ke8-e7; 27.Rh8-h7+... collects the queen for a rook and knight.
Or 23...f6xe5; 24.Relxe5 Qd5-d6; 25.Qc1-h6 Kf7-e8; 26.Qh6xh5+ Ke8-d7;
27.Qh5xg4... leaves Black in tatters and White with passed pawns.
Black decides not to take the knight.

23...Kf7-g7; 24.Qc1-c2 f6-f5; 25.Qc2-c1 Resigns.

Material loss is inevitable.

N.Down v A.Pickering

1.e2-e4 c7-c5; 2.d2-d4 c5xd4; 3.c2-c3...

Nick Down is a regular player of the Morra Gambit and I have rarely seen him lose with it. Pickering is a fellow regular Devon I's player and must have seen him play this line before. I am therefore surprised he played to his opponent's strength.

3...d4xc3; 4.Nb1xc3 e7-e6; 5.Ng1-f3 Bf8-c5; 6.Bf1-c4 a7-a6; 7. 0-0 b7-b5; 8.Bc4-b3 Bc8-b7; 9.Qd1-e2 Ng8-e7; 10.e4-e5...

A regular ploy in this opening. This move limits Black's space whilst White has complete freedom as well as have e4 for his knight.

10...Ne7-f5; 11.Nc3-e4 Bb7xe4; 12.Qe2xe4 Nb8-c6; 13.Bc1-g5 Qd8-b6; 14.Ral-d1 h7-h6; 15.Bg5-f4 Ra8-d8; 16.Bb3-c2 a6-a5;

Of course Black still cannot complete his development by castling as g2-g4 loses him the knight or he gets mated. Instead he attempts an attack on the queenside.

17.Bc2-b1 Nc6-d4; 18.Nf3xd4 Nf5xd4; 19.Rd1-d3 Nd4-f5;

Black spots the danger - 20.Rd1-g1 - and places the knight back on f5.

20.a2-a3 Qb6-c6; 21.Qe4-e2 d7-d5; 22.Rf1-c1 Qc6-b6; 23.Rd3-c3...

Suddenly White has his firepower on the c-file and Black cannot afford to try and stop the rooks invading by defending the bishop as 23...Rd8-c8; allows 24.Qe2-c2... winning the bishop. Thus the bishop must move.

23...Bc5-d4; 24.Rc3-c6 Qb6-b8; 25.Bb1xf5 e6xf5; 26.Rc6-c7 0-0;

At last, through necessity. But it is too late, the damage has been done.

27.e5-e6! Rd8-c8;

27...f7xe6?; 28.Rc7xg7+ wins the queen.

28.e6-e7! Bd4xf2+; 29.Qe2xf2 Resigns.

More material must go.

In the Major Section, there were joint winners: K.Yusof (London) and P.Massey (Fair Oak,Hants) with 4½ points. On 4 points came: J.Coburn (Fareham), J.Gorodi (Teignmouth), M.Horne (Exmouth), R.Jones (Exmouth), J.Walker (Teignmouth) and D.Wood (Burnham-on-Sea).

Games from this Section will figure in a future edition if space permits.

In the Minor, S.K.Dean of Sidmouth swept to victory with five straight wins from D.Hill of Exeter half a point behind. The Garrett family from Holsworthy mounted a mass assault in this section, two of them having 3/3. But in the end father Derek and daughter Teresa had to share third place on 4 points with D.Clarke, P.Sommer (both Plymouth), G.Jenkins (Exeter) and I.MacDonald from the Bristol Central Club.

Bristol Central also figured in an exciting team event, sharing first prize with Exmouth, Sidmouth and Teignmouth.

ANSWERS TO PROBLEMS AND LAST EDITION'S COMPETITION

For problems see page 14.

(a) A nice easy one to start with. This position occurred in one of my own games - M.Horne v RWR at the Paignton Congress 1988. The game continued:

1...Rf6-f2+; 2.Kd2-c1 Nd5-c3;

The White King is pinned to the wall. Now 3...Bg3-f4 mate is threatened and there is nothing Black can do.

3.Ra5-a2 Bg3-f4+; 4.Ra2-d2 Rf2xd2; 5.Resigns.

Incidentally, 2.Kd2-e1... loses the rook: 2...Rf2-a2+; 3.Ke1-f1 Nd5-e3+; 4.Kf1-g1 Ra2xa5; and 2.Kd2-d1... to ...Nd5-c3+; 3.Kd1-e1 Rf2-a2+; et al (3.Kd1-c1 Bg3-f4++).

(b) 1.Rf5-f2... threatening 2.Rf2-h2 mate. So: 1...Bb3-d1; is forced. 2.Rf2-h2+ Bd1-h5; 3.Bf1-e2... threatening 4.Rh2xh5 mate. So the next move is again forced: 3...Re3xe2; 4.g3-g4! Re2xh2; 5.g4-g5 mate.

All Black's moves were forced.

(c) This is a position reached by two strong players of the last century, Metger (White) and Paulsen.

White's problem is the unusual one of trying to retain his a-pawn on its file, where owing to the position of the bishop it can be forced to promotion. If it transfers to b6, while the B is at a7, Black with Kxx-b7 draws, whilst a sacrifice of the bishop will leave Black with the opposition; alternatively, if the White King approaches too near, a stalemate of the King on a8 takes place.

It is also important that, if the Black pawn moves, White shall be able to play a5-a6.

Therefore, if its White move, 1.Kd5-c5... is of no use because of 1...b7-b6+; Similarly, 1.Kd5-c4 is met by 1...b7-b5+.

Therefore 1.Kd5-d4... must be played. If 1...Kc7-b8; 2.Kd4-c5... is playable because 2...b7-b6+; is met by 3.Kc5xb6 and 2...b7-b5; is met by 3.a5-a6.

If 1...Kc7-c6; White's move is harder. 2.Kd4-c4... fails to ...b7-b5+; meanwhile the Black King threatens ...Kc6-b5. White must play 2.Ba7-b6...

Now 2...Kc6-b5 and 3...Kb5-a6 do not avail Black, because the White King goes round to c8 and b8. Thus: 2...Kc6-d7; 3.Kd4-c5 Kd7-c8; 4.Bb6-a7 Kc1-c2; 5.Kc5-b5... after which Black loses the pawn in Zugzwang.

If 2...Kc6-d6; 3.Kd4-c4 Kd6-c6; 4.Kc5-b5... brings a similar result.

If however, Black has the move, he still cannot save the game:

If 1...Kc7-c8; 2.Kd5-c5... is playable and 1...b7-b5; is defeated by 2.a5-a6.

Let it be added that Metger failed to win.

(d) A strange finish. Black with thirty-five possible moves on the board, cannot release White from his stalemate position!

1.h7-h8=Q+ Kg7xh8; 2.Ke8-f8...

This move threatens 3.Ne5-f7 mate. Black cannot win by capturing the knight as the continuation would be 2...Re3xe5; 3.g6-g7+ Kh8-h7; 4.g7-g8=Q+ Kh7-h6; 5.Bd6xe5 Qe1xe5; 6.Qg8-e6+ Qe5xe6; 7.Stalemate.

2...Bf3-d5; 3.Ne5-f7+ Bd5xf7; 4.Bd6-e5+ Re3xe5; 5.g6xf7 Any; Stalemate.

Answer to Last Edition's Competition

This problem was constructed by last edition's winner, Graeme Oswald and therefore rather debarred him from winning this quarter's competition.

The solution is:

1.Qh3-a3... the waiting move. Now:

1...Ng5-any; 2.Qa3-e3 mate.

1...Kd4-e5; 2.Qa3-c5+ Kd4-e4; 3.Qc5-d5 mate.

1...Ne2-g1; 2.Qa3-d6+ Kd4-e4; 3.Qd6-d5 mate

1...Ne2-elsewhere; 2.Qa3-c3+ Kd4-e4; 3.f2-f3 mate.

1...Kd4-e4; 2.Qa3-f3+! Ke4xf3 (Ke4-d4 or e5; 3.Qf3-d5 mate); 3.Bg8-d5 mate.

I regret that no one got the complete answer to this problem. My thanks however to Graeme Oswald for providing it. I have therefore decided that as he defeated the rest of you, he should be the beneficiary of the £5 prize.

Anyone else wishing to submit a suggestion, please do not hesitate to do so.