
Hampshire Chess Association Newsletter

Volume 1 Issue 1/4

February 1999

Newsletter

This is the new Hampshire Chess Association Newsletter, which is to be used to keep Hampshire chess players informed of what is happening within Hampshire. Although primarily concentrating on the local scene, I will also be writing about National and International chess as well.

As this is a new enterprise, the format is likely to change over the first few issues, dependant on the feedback received. I am planning on publishing 3 to 4 copies a year, as long as material is sent in, for me to publish.

Please supply any feedback or articles to me, Graham Stuart at the address at the end of the newsletter. I hope you enjoy the first edition.

County Matches

The latest county matches have not gone too well, with a close loss to Somerset 8-7, although we outgraded them on all but one board. The match against Wiltshire was also not that successful, as unfortunately we lost 9½-6½. Wiltshire were particularly strong on the top boards, boasting 5 players over 200 strength. Although Hampshire had more strength in depth they could not make up the deficit from the top board losses.

The U125 team has had more success, with two wins out of two. The latest match saw a crushing win in a friendly against Buckinghamshire 11½ - 4½. Only one game was lost and the strength of the team was such that the bottom board was graded 113. This team looks like it could go far! Next game due is on the 27th February. Any players graded 112 - 124 who have not yet been contacted but who would like to be considered for this match, or subsequent matches contact Ken Retallack on 01489 799671.

Hampshire Chess Championship

The Hampshire Chess Championship was held at the Eastleigh Unity Club over the weekend 20th-22nd November. Although the number of entries was on the small size, a closely fought competition was held. Going into the last round John Patience (Southampton, 162) was leading with 4½ out of 5, whilst Hampshire Match Captain, Dominic Tunks (Emsworth, 181) was in sole second place with 4 out of 5.

John had the harder draw, as he had to play the highest graded player in the tournament, Bill Purkiss (Eastleigh Unity, 187), with Black. Bill also needed to win, as this

would put him in second place. So with both Bill and John going for the win, a fine tussle was on the cards.

The opening / middle game went very well for John, as he tempted Bill into a sacrifice that was not particularly sound. The compensation never looked good enough and it seemed that John was going to win the tournament outright.

But last rounds are never that simple, the one advantage that Bill had was on the clock. In mutual time trouble Bill managed to pick off John's pawns one by one. When the dust had cleared Bill had four passed pawns for a Knight, which had no way of stopping their relentless march toward promotion.

Dominic managed to win his last game, as did Jeremy Fraser-Mitchell (Richmond & Twchm, 177) which meant the 1998 Hampshire Individual Championship final table looked like:

1. D.Tunks 5/6
2. B.Purkiss 4½/6
2. J.Patience 4½/6
2. J.Fraser-Mitchell 4½/6

Other winners were:

Under 175 John Patience - as above

Under 150 Tom Anderson (Southampton, 141) 4/6

Under 125 John Zastapilo (E.Unity, 119) 3/6

This years championship is planned to be on the weekend **13th November**, so keep this date free in your diary. This date does not clash with the 4 Nations Chess League, so we are hoping that the entries will be improved on last years. The venue is undecided at the moment, but may be the Eastleigh Unity Club again, which although not perfect, is right next to the train station and the beer is very cheap!

Your club secretary should pass you a questionnaire on the county championship, this is your chance to make your voice heard, so please complete and return as soon as possible.

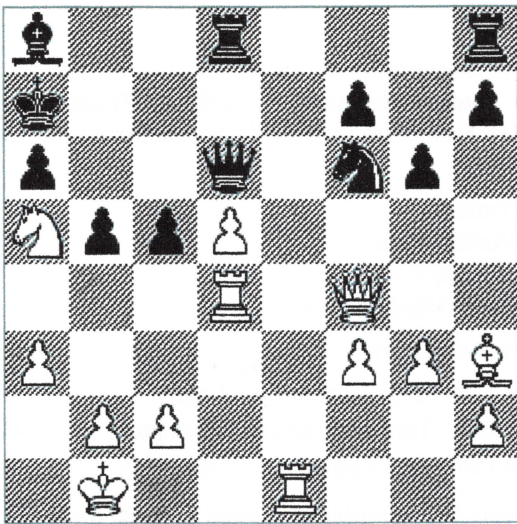
International News

The strongest tournament of the year so far (I know it's only February), was held at Hoogovens in Holland, the Wijk aan Zee tournament had many of the top players of the chess world, including perennial 2700+ players Anand, Ivanchuk, Svidler, Kramnik, Shirov & Topolov. Of course PCA/WCC World Champion Kasparov was also playing. Kasparov did not play many strong tournaments last year, so it was going to be interesting to see how he did.

Well after drawing with Ivanchuk in the first round Kasparov went on a massacre, winning his next seven games against opposition who had an average grade of 2627! Included in this spree was an awesome game against Topalov, which is given below. This had sacrifice after sacrifice, as Kasparov went on a king hunt. Only brief analysis given, due to space constraints.

**Kasparov, G (2810) - Topalov, V (2700) [B07]
Hoogovens, Wijk aan Zee NED (4), 1999**

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 g6 4.Be3 Bg7 5.Qd2 c6 6.f3 b5 7.Nge2 Nbd7 8.Bh6 Bxh6 9.Qxh6 Bb7 10.a3 e5 11.0-0-0 Qe7 12.Kb1 a6 13.Nc1 0-0-0 14.Nb3 exd4 15.Rxd4 c5 16.Rd1 Nb6 17.g3 Kb8 18.Na5 Ba8 19.Bh3 d5 20.Qf4+ Ka7 21.Rhe1 d4 22.Nd5 Nbx d5 23.exd5 Qd6 24.Rxd4!! *This is an amazing move and it would be interesting to know how far Kasparov saw from this position.*



24...exd4 25.Re7+ Kb6 *The rook cannot be taken, due to [25...Qxe7 26.Qxd4+ Kb8 27.Qb6+ Bb7 28.Nc6+ Ka8] 26.Qxd4+ Kxa5 27.b4+ Ka4 28.Qc3 Qxd5 29.Ra7 Bb7 30.Rxb7 Qc4 [30...Rhe8 31.Rb6 Ra8 32.Bf1 Ng8 33.Rd6 Re1+ 34.Kb2 Qe5 35.Rd4 and Black is getting mated] 31.Qxf6 Kxa3 32.Qxa6+ Kxb4 33.c3+ Kxc3 34.Qa1+ Kd2 35.Qb2+ Kd1 36.Bf1! Rd2 37.Rd7 Rxd7 38.Bxc4 bxc4 39.Qxh8 Rd3 40.Qa8 c3 41.Qa4+ Ke1 42.f4 f5 43.Kc1 Rd2 44.Qa7 1-0*

After winning these seven games in a row, Kasparov came down to earth with a bump, when he lost to Hastings 1999 winner Ivan Sokolov in a Grunfeld. This opened up the tournament a bit and it looked at one stage that Anand would catch Kasparov.

But, by winning his penultimate round against Peter Svidler, Kasparov went into the last round only needing a draw to win the tournament outright. This he duly did and therefore won by half a point from Anand, who went through the tournament undefeated with six wins and seven draws.

These two players dominated the tournament and it would seem that they will soon play some sort of match, even though it is unlikely to be for the FIDE Championship.

Internet Chess

If you have access to the Internet, you may have visited some of the numerous chess web sites. Listed below are some of my favourite ones (any site that has my results in I consider excellent!). The *http* numbers are what you need to key into the address field, on your web browser.

This Week In Chess - In my opinion this is the best Chess Web Site on the Internet. It details all the major international tournaments played, with an excellent weekly summary. You can also download the games played, if you have a database. If you don't have a database it will show you how to get hold of ChessBase Light, which is a free database supplied by ChessBase.

<http://www.chesscenter.com/twic/twic.html>

4NCL - Another excellent site, this details results and games from the 4NCL, as well as other chess activities, mainly in the UK.

<http://wkweb1.cableinet.co.uk/jsaunders/nclindex.htm>

Southampton Chess League - Want to see the results from the Southampton Chess League? Then this is the site to visit. This details all the matches that have taken place for the 1998/1999 chess season. Links are also supplied to the Southampton University Chess Site and the Southampton Chess Club web site, which are also worth looking at. This site is run by Ian Henderson from the University Chess Team. Hint if you want to prepare against the University Team, some of their games are on their web site!

<http://www.soton.ac.uk/~chess/league/>

Future Issues

As mentioned, the Newsletter is now in the hands of the Hampshire Chess members. If you want it to include more information on local chess, then this has to be supplied by you. Games, articles and forthcoming events can be detailed, if requested. One idea is an article on the Portsmouth Chess congress.

Therefore, please supply any information to me and I will do my best to publish it. I can be contacted at

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