



# *En Passant*

01/98

**THE HAMPSHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**  
From: Ken Retallack, 83 Firs Drive, Hedge End, Southampton, S030 4QQ

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1. **Thank you for your support with affiliation fees.** To date every club in the Southampton League and all but two of the clubs in the Portsmouth League have contributed. **We are still hopeful that we shall achieve 100% support.** Although more clubs have contributed, there has been a disappointing drop in membership numbers. Consequently total receipts are about the same as previous years. We have however been fortunate to receive a sponsorship of **£300 from TAB Homes** and this has been a welcome addition to our funds.

2. **The HCA Rapid Play Tournament**, for teams and individuals, held at Basingstoke Chess Club on Sun 19 APR was a great success thanks to the sterling efforts of Roger Marsh and Joe French. Despite the fact that the tournament was arranged at rather short notice and was held during the non-league season, there were 27 entries with a grade range of 61 to 184. 14 players were grade 150 or over and 13 were below that grade. The competition took the form of a 6-Round Swiss Tournament with players having 30 minutes to complete each game. Winners were: Team Trophy and Cash Prize .... Cosham Chess Club  
Individual Trophy and Cash Prize .... John Wheeler (Cosham)  
U-150 grade Cash Prize ....Kevin Byard (Eastleigh Unity)

We hope to arrange next season's tournament during the league season and give the event longer notice and more publicity. With the added attraction of a more central location we should expect at least 50 entries. This will enable us to give more and larger prizes !

3. **County Championship Matches.** As you know, because of difficulties at the end of last year, we were unable to enter our normal county team in the WECU Championships. Consequently our higher graded players have been 'rested' as far as county matches are concerned. However we accepted an invitation to represent the West of England in the National Championships with an **U-125 Team**. Our first match was a preliminary round against Merseyside. Although they were the 'home' team they agreed to meet us at a venue about halfway between the two counties and the match was played at Claines, Worcester on Sun 26 APR. It was a very close fought match with a nail-biting finish. When 11 of the 12 games had been completed we stood at  $5\frac{1}{2} - 5\frac{1}{2}$ . Because our opponents had done better on the higher boards a draw in the last game would have caused us to lose on board count. Fortunately our player, despite being way behind on time, was able to gradually increase his material advantage and win comfortably with a minute to spare.  $6\frac{1}{2} - 5\frac{1}{2}$  !

Our next match is in the quarterfinals against Oxfordshire on **Sun 18 May**. This time we are playing over 16 boards so require more players. **If you are graded between 100 and 124 and would like to be considered for the team please contact me on 01489 799671 ASAP.** Next season we are hoping to have 3 county teams (i.e. Open, U-150 and U-125).

4. I apologise for the brevity of this newsletter. Its main purpose was to thank you for your support, where appropriate, and let you know we are starting to get things moving again. **Is there anybody out there who would like to take over the editorship of the newsletter and make it more interesting ? If so please contact me. Also if you have any comments or suggestions for the benefit of the association we should be pleased to hear from you.**

5 May 1998

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