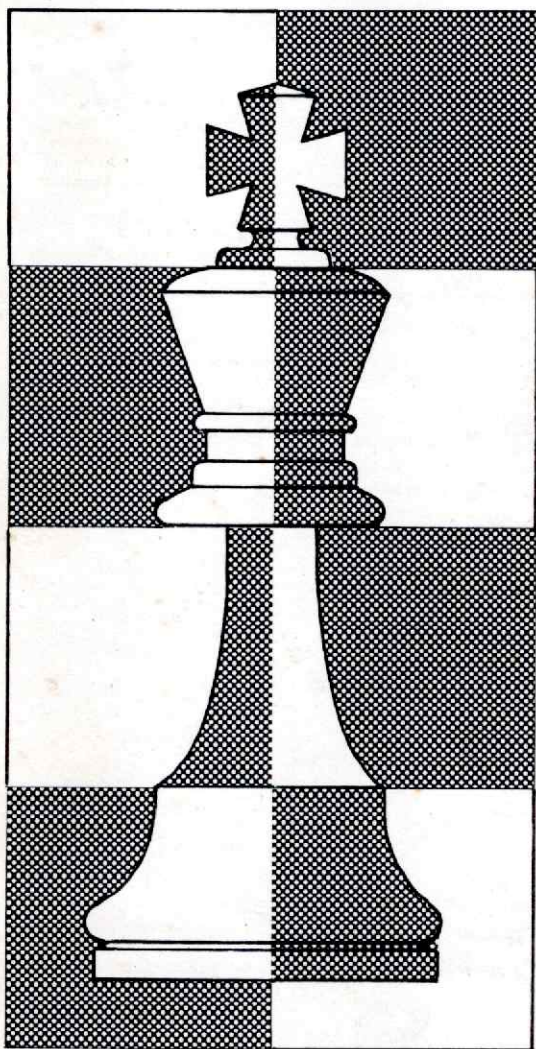


SOUTHAMPTON CHESS CLUB

FOUNDED 1883



A SHORT HISTORY OF
THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS

SOUTHAMPTON CHESS CLUB

Centenary 1883 – 1983

A Short History of the Club

Author :- H. L. PARSONS

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SOUTHAMPTON CHESS CLUB

A Short History of the Club

by H. L. PARSONS

PREFACE

In a short history it is impossible to do justice to the many members both past and present who have contributed to the success of the club, so those mentioned are mainly those who have given sustained support for twenty years or more. The names of others will be found in the lists of officers, championship winners, and present members contained in the later pages of this Handbook.

The history of the club divides roughly into three periods, 1883–1918; 1918–1945; (club meetings were suspended 1939–45) and 1945–1982. These periods naturally overlap, but the dates make a convenient guide line.

EARLY HISTORY 1883 – 1918

The **Southampton Chess Club** is almost certainly well over one hundred years old. No records can be found prior to January 1883. The first is a circular letter.

163, High Street,
SOUTHAMPTON.

January 26th, 1883.

Proposed Chess Club for Southampton

Dear Sir,

A meeting will be held on Tuesday Evening next, January 30th at half past seven (under the Presidency of W. C. Westlake, Esq., J.P.) at the above address – Semidini's* Restaurant — for the purpose of forming a Southampton Chess Club.

If you cannot make it convenient to attend the meeting you will oblige by stating on a Post Card addressed to Geo. Sloper, Esq., 8, Cranbury Terrace, whether you are willing to become a Member.

We are, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

J. H. Blake
Geo. Sloper
Wm. Williams.

At this meeting R. Chipperfield Esq. was elected President; Mr. J. H. Blake, Secretary; Wm. Williams, Treasurer. This was followed by a further circular letter with an application form attached.

I hereby state that I am willing to become a member of The Southampton Chess Club.

..... Signature

..... Address.

St. Lawrence Road,
Southampton.

February, 2nd 1883.

Dear Sir,

At a meeting of chess players held at 163 High Street (Semadeni's* Restaurant) on Tuesday Evening, January 30th, under the Presidency of W. C. Westlake, Esq. J.P., it was unanimously decided to re-establish a Chess Club in Southampton.

(Note : The re-establish shows that a club must previously have existed but become defunct.) The letter continues :—

The Committee were empowered to arrange Correspondence and Out and Home Matches with other Clubs, and Tournaments amongst the members. The Chess term will be from 1st September to 30th April, and the practice nights Monday and Friday from 7 till 11, commencing on Monday next, the 5th instant, at 163, High Street when you are invited to be present and join the club. If unable to attend on that occasion, you will much oblige by signing and returning to me the counterfoil.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

J. H. Blake, Hon. Sec.

* Note two different spellings; also the frequent use of capital letters for common nouns.

Of the original 58 members, quite a number continued their association with the club for many years.

Mr. Robert Chipperfield remained an active president for 24 years until a month before his 90th birthday in 1907. From 1890–1907 he was also president of The Hampshire Chess Association. For another 4 years until his death, he remained a paying vice president of both. He left an annuity of 5 guineas to the club. But there were legal difficulties arising from the will, which took nearly five years to solve (1911–1916). Together with other items in the will, these were settled out of court after a decision in Chancery. The Club waived their claim to the five guineas annuity bequest, on the undertaking of Mr. Edmund Chipperfield to pay £100 out of his own money. This was invested in bonds. The Chipperfield family presented the club in 1914 with a handsome set of ivory chess men and a board, which, since the club championship proper was started in 1921, has been the trophy awarded to the winner.

Mr. J. H. Blake was secretary for the first 17 years and served on the committee for another 7 years, before leaving the town to live in London in 1907. For his services to the club he was made a "Vice President for Life". He continued to play in matches and played top board for Hampshire for many more years. He continued to show interest in the club until his death in 1951 aged 90. His last gift to the club was a framed photograph of himself at the age of 90 playing the youngest member of the Kingston club, of which he was then a member. The strongest player the club ever had, he was Amateur Champion of England in 1892, and tied with H. E. Atkins in 1909 but lost the play off. He was City of London Champion in 1912. His greatest success was in 1922 when he won a tournament at Weston Super Mare above Maroczy, Kostich, and Yates and in the same year won The British Individual Correspondence Championship. He was the prime mover in the formation of The Hampshire Chess Association in 1890, which received the unanimous approval of all club members and enthusiasm from the leading members. He was president of the Hampshire Chess Association 1910–1914 and 1927–32. In 1934 he was made the first Honorary Life Vice President of the Association. In 1889 he joined the editorial staff of the British Chess Magazine and did not finally sever that connection until failing eyesight caused him to resign as Games Editor, in 1937.

The Third Founder member, who gave 37 years active service was **Mr. James Fewings**, Headmaster of The Grammar School (later King Edward VI School) then in Bugle Street. He acted as Chairman of Committee on the few occasions when the President was absent and represented the club (1904–1911) on the committee of The Hampshire Chess Association. He and **Mr. W. F. Sandell** (Treasurer) met Capablanca at the Docks in August 1909. They tried to get him for a simultaneous, but it was impossible to make the arrangements in time.

Mr. G. R. Sloper whose name is one of three appearing on the original letter proposing the establishment of the club, was active for 20 years, and represented the club on the County Committee from 1890–1903. Several committee meetings were held at his house during the first year.

Mr. E. P. Westlake was very active for 9 years as a member of the Committee and was the first to volunteer as a teller for Dr. Zukertort's blindfold exhibition. After 1892 he remained a paying vice president for a further 39 years, but seems to have taken no further part in the organisation of the club.

The last of the Founder members with long service, was **Mr. W. Williams**. He was treasurer for the first 17 years, and on the committee for 7 more years. In 1907 he was made a "Member for Life" which lasted until 1919.

In these early days there was no season such as we have now, and although there was no play from May to August inclusive, subscriptions covered January to June and July to December.

The rules of the game were based on Staunton's Handbook and it was 1885 before it was decided that the player having the first move in each game, should play with the White man. In 1893 it was decided that the rules should be changed from "in Staunton's Chess Players' Handbook" to "in the book of the London (1883) Tournament".

Mr. W. G. Tracy joined the club in September 1883 and served the club for 21 years. In 1898 he was thanked for various repairs. These included covering the base of all the boxes of men with baize to prevent them damaging the boards. On the committee from 1892–1900 and treasurer from 1900–04, he died in 1905.

Mr. W. C. Kenny joined in December 1883 and he (together with Mr. F. J. H. Elwell) had a tremendous influence in the club during the early years of the 20th century. In 1907 he followed Robert Chipperfield as President, until 1921 when he resigned through ill health. He died in 1922. From 1894–1911 he was a delegate to the Hampshire Chess Association, of which he was secretary 1891–3 and President 1909–10. For many years he gave a bound volume of the British Chess Magazine as a gift to the club, which had a librarian to look after these and other books. Mr. Kenny was appointed the first librarian in 1886, a post which he held until Mr. Elwell succeeded him in 1891 until 1909.

During this early period there were several outstanding events in addition to the usual club games and matches against other clubs. Within a year of its formation, the Committee were considering an invitation to Mr. Blackburne to give a simultaneous display, but this

did not take place. A year later in 1884 Dr. Zukertort offered to give a simultaneous and blindfold exhibition for six guineas plus two guineas expenses on November 13 and 14. He played 26 players simultaneously, winning 24, drawing 1, and losing 1. The greater feat was playing 12 blindfold simultaneous games, winning 7, drawing 4, losing 1. A few years later on February 13th, 14th, 1888, Mr. Blackburne played 22, winning 16, drawing 4, losing 2 to Mr. J. H. Blake and W. C. Kenny. The press report states, "Mr. Blackburne is a slower player than Dr. Zukertort who is an exceptionally rapid mover." On the second night Mr. Blackburne took 6 hours playing blindfold against 8 opponents, losing again to Mr. Blake, and also to Dr. Hemming. W. C. Kenny was one of four who drew, and Blackburne's only wins were against G. R. Sloper and E. P. Westlake.

Matches were played against Bournemouth, Portsmouth, Brighton, Chichester, Salisbury, The Isle of Wight, and Oxford University, and were usually won except against Brighton. A quote from the press about the loss to Brighton, 1885: "The result is not surprising when the circumstances of the respective combatants are considered. First, the population of Brighton is nearly twice that of Southampton. Then the chess players who go to do battle in its name, are not drawn simply from a club, but are chosen from among all the chess players of that large community; consequent mainly, on chess playing being promoted and fostered by the Corporation of Brighton, who supply its inhabitants with a free chess room, open daily from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. If this privilege existed in Southampton, there is no doubt that its chess playing strength would be rapidly and largely developed".

The list of the names and addresses of Southampton Chess Club members shows that most lived within a few minutes' walk. R. Chipperfield, Redcliffe House, Above Bar; W. Williams, 21 Oxford Street; J. H. Blake, St. Lawrence Road (opposite No. 3 dock gate); J. Fewings, Bugle Street; W. C. Kenny, 74 High Street (by 1890 he had moved to Freemantle House, Hill, a small mansion in a large park, where the poet Cowper often stayed in the 18th century. It was in the area now bounded by Paynes Road, Millbrook Road, Park Road).

One of the most difficult problems for the club throughout its history has been that of finding suitable premises at a reasonable price. It moved from its first venue Semadeni's Restaurant, 163, High Street, after eight months, to Helvetia Restaurant, 141, High Street. Two years later it moved to Adelaide Restaurant, Scullard's Hotel, 61 Above Bar, (next to where Above Bar Post Office is now). Here it remained for 23 years.

In 1890 Mr. E. N. R. Harvey presented a silver cup value ten guineas for competition annually for a handicap tournament. This is the cup which is now awarded (since handicap competitions have gone out of fashion) to our junior under 18 years of age winner.

In 1891 Mr. Harvey, who was a member for only 5 years, offered £40 towards the expenses of arranging a match in Southampton lasting several weeks, between Mr. Blackburne and Gunsberg. Arrangements broke down owing to the difficulty of finding officials who could be in attendance continuously for four or five weeks. A large increase in attendance of members in 1895 led to renting a larger room at Scullard's Hotel. Mr. Chipperfield presented a board to the club to be awarded annually to the winner of a new

tournament started in that year and inaptly called "The Junior Trophy" Tournament, as it was open to all players of moderate strength who were not considered strong enough to enter for the Cup Competition, and it had nothing to do with age. The trophy would only pass out of the Club on being won three times in succession by the same player. This has never been achieved, and the board is still the trophy for the moderate strength players.

Matches against other clubs continued to be friendlies until the County Trophy Competition was started in 1896. Most of the members whose names and addresses appeared a few paragraphs above, contributed to buy the trophy, which is still used today :- One set of finest ivory chess men No. 1 size, full club Staunton Pattern; and one County Board No. 1 size to match, in holly and rosewood squares (2½ inches); board edged with satin wood, solid rosewood frame, Italian walnut panels, French polished. The Southampton Club had to divide its strength originally into two equal strength teams, but later this was increased to three and even four equal strength teams (and Portsmouth up to three) to allow other teams a chance.

The Southern Counties Chess Union had been formed a few years earlier on September 3rd 1892 at the Salutation Tavern, Newgate Street, E.C. Hampshire's delegates for a number of years were J. H. Blake and W. C. Kenny, with G. R. Sloper replacing the latter for a time.

The County invited the Union to hold its Annual Tournament in Southampton in 1897, and the Union accepted. Most of the work of organising the tournament was done by a sub-committee of Messrs Kenny, Fewings, Sloper, and Dr. Dodd. The event took place from August 31st to September 7th at the new Grammar School which had moved from Bugle Street to Havelock Road, West Marlands. It was the most important event ever held in the county for many years. Three club members competed, Mr. F. J. H. Elwell won third prize in the Amateur Championship of England (won by Mr. H. E. Atkins, Leicester). Mr. Kenny tied for first prize in Class 2.

Mr. Elwell was the second strongest player the club has ever had, and was an active member for 58 years from 1888-1946, and an Honorary Life Vice President of the club for another 7 years until his death in 1953. He was President of the club for 25 years (1921-46). He won the Club Championship (which was not started until 1921) on 13 occasions out of 18, with 4 consecutive wins 1927-30 inclusive. The championship was restricted to a limited number of players and played at 20 moves an hour. He won the Hampshire Championship when that was first played in 1930, and repeated this in 32, 34, 36, and 37. It is interesting to record a paragraph from the 9th Annual Report of 1892. "The second Annual Handicap Tournament for the Cup presented by Mr. Harvey, resulted in a win for Mr. Elwell with the loss of only one game of the twelve played, a success which has led to his being handicapped at the present time to give odds to all those whom he has played on even terms in previous tournaments. So rapid a progress as Mr. Elwell has made since joining the club in September, 1888, is quite unprecedented in the club's history, and Mr. Elwell's chess future will undoubtedly be watched with keen interest not merely by members of this club, but by Hampshire chess players at large". About the same time as he was librarian (1891-1909) he was also match captain (from 1900-02 and

1908–10). He was honorary adjudicator for The Southampton Chess League for nearly 30 years. He was secretary and treasurer of the Hampshire Chess Association 1893–95. After J. H. Blake' retirement he played top board for Hampshire.

Mr. H. J. Penwill (1891–1930) was club secretary 1900–07; match secretary 1917–19; and secretary of the Hampshire Chess Association 1904–23.

Mr. W. H. Killick (1895–1918) was an active member 1898–1913 and treasurer 1909–13. His name seems to appear in the minutes more times than that of any other member.

The Annual General Meeting of the club was held at the beginning of each year until 1901, when it was changed to October.

1907 must have been a notable year when Messrs. Chipperfield, Blake, and Williams all ceased to be active at the same time after 24 years service.

On the 10th April, 1908, the members unanimously passed a resolution, "That it is desirable in the interests of the club to hold our meetings on unlicensed premises". In September the move was made to the Bungalow Cafe, 157 Above Bar (just below Plummers Store).

The first lightning tournament was a knock-out held on 3rd September, 1912. Mr. Elwell acted as timekeeper, and the moves were made at the stroke of a gong. Mr. Kenny was the winner.

During the 1914–18 war, meetings were held at the Grammar School. The club seems to have continued throughout the war with little change in membership or activities.

BETWEEN THE TWO WARS 1919 – 45

Soon after the first World War the recurring problem of accommodation again had to be solved. St. Paul's Parish Room in Bedford Place was rented for a few months but found unsatisfactory and a return was made to their pre-war room at the Bungalow Cafe. Two years later another move was made to the Grosvenor Cafe, 43, Above Bar. The cafe was over the cake shop on the corner of Spa Road. The club remained there for 6 years when a move was made to The Carlton Hotel, Carlton Crescent in 1929.. **Mr. W. O. Robertson**, secretary of the club from 1920–25, and the donor of the Robertson Cup for an annual knock-out competition among Southampton Chess League clubs, resigned as there was insufficient ventilation. Shortly afterwards, the hotel management agreed to allow the club the use of the newly built annexe at the rear, and adjoining the Georgian House used as the main part of the hotel. This was the most comfortable venue the club has had in its long history.

My own first contact with the club was made in September, 1921, one year before the Southampton Chess League was formed. At the start of its second season in competitive chess, Taunton's School played a match against a Southampton Club team minus

its best players, and won $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$. I was the only one to lose (on top board to Mr. W. O. Robertson). As a result of this victory, Taunton's School was invited to join the Hampshire League where they finished in third place. The Hampshire League match between the two teams a few weeks later was drawn 3-3, and I was again among the losers, being beaten by Mr. Duffey at top board. He was the winner of the Trophy Board that year with a score of 8 out of 8, and of The Continuous Tournament.

Mr. Elwell continued to dominate during this period, but a rising star was Mr. W. J. Fry, who joined in 1913 and was the next strongest player after Mr. Elwell, and one with whom I had very close associations in chess circles. He and I played boards one and two for many years for the Old Tauntonians after that team was formed in 1926; we were associated together in the formation of the Southampton Chess League in 1922; he was chairman of the league from 1937 until his sudden death in October, 1954 at the age of 58, while I was secretary of the league from 1928-1960. He first won the club championship in 1926, then in 1931 and 34. But his greatest successes were after the war, which ended in 1945. He won every year from 1946-54 inclusive except in 1947, and had 7 successive wins. A very sound positional player with an excellent knowledge of the openings, he rarely won by brilliant combinations, but by his excellent end game technique. He was also good at solving chess problems, particularly three movers. At various times he was tournament secretary (1920-21; 28-31; 35-47). From 1916-19 he was club secretary, and from 1921-27 he was match secretary, until he joined the Old Tauntonians for whom he continued to play in matches, but still remained a member of the club. He won the Hampshire Individual Championship in 1933, 39, 47 & 51.

Mr. E. G. Parsons (no relation of the writer) was a member for 41 years from 1904-45. He was match secretary from 1926-39 for the club's Southampton League team, and from 1932-39 for the Hampshire League team as well.

Mr. F. G. Binning was one of the stronger players between 1904 and 1927, and remained a paying vice president until 1937, but played much less frequently. He won the Cup in 1906, 1911, 1914.

Mr. R. T. Lawrence who joined in 1908 resigned in 1930 but rejoined in 1937 and remained a member until 1948. He was match secretary 1912-13, and club secretary 1919-20. Won the Cup in 1925; was on the committee 1916-28.

Mr. E. C. May (1909-1937) was tournament secretary 1912-20, a period of 8 years, which is surprisingly a record, as no other tournament secretary has served more than 5 years, except W. J. Fry, whose service was in four spells, the longest being 4 years although he totalled 10 years. Mr. May served on the committee 1911-32 when he moved to Fareham, but remained a paying vice president until 1937.

Mr. A. B. Coe, 1912-1935, almost as strong a player as W. J. Fry, won the Cup in 1913 and the Championship in 1922; was match secretary 1913-15 and on the committee 1919-1929. He was Secretary and Treasurer of the Hampshire Chess Association 1923-34 where his best work was done. Unfortunately he made himself very unpopular in his later years, especially in the club and with players of other clubs in Southampton.

As a consequence, Mr. F. L. Taylor, a younger member of the Southampton club and secretary of Old Tauntonians was elected secretary at the Hampshire Association's Annual General Meeting in 1934.

The last of the players of this period of sufficient importance to be included, was Mr. A. E. Gale, a member from 1924-47, and treasurer for most of that time 1925-45. As a player he was only of moderate strength, but as a regular member who gave whole hearted support to the club, he ranked amongst the highest.

MORE RECENT TIMES 1945 - 82

The club closed completely during the second World War 1939-45 but its spirit lived on.

At the end of the war, Mr. Fry approached me and asked if I would make efforts to re-start the club. An extract from the Minute Book states, "The first meeting (after the war) of the Southampton Chess Club was held at the Co-operative Rooms, Prospect House, 160, Above Bar, on September 20th, 1945. Mr. H. L. Parsons explained the reasons for which the meeting was called, and there was a large attendance. Mr. A. E. Gale was voted to the Chair. It was decided to accept the accommodation provided for the ensuing season, and that the rooms be open for play from 7 p.m. to 10.30 p.m. every Thursday and Saturday It was decided the club would be opened on October 4th 1945 at 7 p.m."

Temporary officers were elected until the General Meeting on October 25th, when the temporary appointments were confirmed with one exception. Those elected were President - Mr. F. J. H. Elwell; Club Secretary - Mr. H. L. Parsons; Match Secretary - Mr. J. Kirby in place of Mr. E. G. Parsons who resigned; Tournament Secretary, Mr. W. J. Fry; Treasurer - Mr. S. T. Smith. I agreed to act as secretary on a temporary basis as my work as secretary of the League and as secretary of another organisation, took most of my spare time, but I have retained the office to the present day with the exception of a short break of 4 years from 1964 to 1968 when my wife was seriously ill. I do not claim any special merit for these 33 years as club secretary, as most of the work during the season is done by the match captains who are also secretaries for their teams nowadays, and by the tournament secretary. The Club secretary's work is chiefly at the beginning and end of the season, and in welcoming new members and making them feel they are happy to be members of such a club. I had joined the club in 1935 and was elected to the committee in 1936 until war broke out.

The equipment stored at the Carlton Hotel had not been damaged by the bombing, but we were unable to use the premises again. They were soon sold for an extension to St. Anne's School. The Co-operative Rooms remained the accommodation for the next seven years.

When the club re-started, it entered a completely new era. All the officers elected were new to their office except Mr. Fry, and Mr. Elwell, who resigned after one year. Most of the pre-war members who rejoined were elderly and their membership continued only a

short time; but there were a few exceptions. **Mr. H. H. Runham** who had joined the club by 1930, (He may have joined before, but the records between 1920-30 contain the names only of those whose names appear in the minutes of meetings, and these consist only of people elected, or of their proposer and seconder) was elected President in 1946, and resigned through ill health in 1957. He combined this office with that of match secretary 1954-56. He also acted as tournament secretary (a job nobody seems to want) for part of this time 1955-57.

A similar comment to that above applies to **Mr. S. T. Smith** who had also joined by 1930. He was also compelled to resign as treasurer owing to ill health in 1950.

From the playing point of view, just as the inter war period had been dominated by Mr. Elwell, now it was Mr. Fry whose playing record has already been mentioned, who dominated during the early years of this period. Two younger players were soon challenging him. **Mr. A. C. Barton** 1946-49 and 1955-72, won both the championship and the Handicap Cup in 1947; and after Mr. Fry's death in 1954, won again in 1956, 58, 65, and 68. Mr. Barton was match captain for 15 years from 1957-72. He was another player with whom I worked closely. From 1962-74 he was match secretary for the Hampshire Chess Association, responsible for arranging the venues, starting times, and equipment for County Matches, while I was match captain at the same time, responsible for getting the teams of 50 for the same matches, and the travel arrangements for getting them there, providing some of the equipment, and ascertaining that catering facilities were adequate for teas. Mr. Barton won the Hampshire Championship in 1968, and has organised it for some years. He was club treasurer for one year 1955-56.

The other young player was **Mr. M. W. J. Thompson**. He won the Trophy Board in 1953, and was the only one between 1955 and 1979 to win the championship in successive years, a feat which he achieved twice in 1959 and 60; 1973 and 74. He has won the Hampshire Championship 9 times, (far more than any other player) in 58, 59, 61, 65, 67, 72, 74, 75, and 77. Owing to recurrent ill health his membership has been intermittent.

John Patience was another young player who won the club championship in 1965 at the age of 17, shared it with C. Mc Sheehy (yet another young player) in 1966 and won outright again in 1970. Marshall Thompson in 1960, and John Patience in 1966 both qualified for the final 32 to compete in the British Championship proper after winning the qualifying rounds.

More recently, **Stephen Bell** repeated the feat of winning the club championship in consecutive years 1980 and 81 while still a junior under the age of 18, and again in 1982.

The club passed through a difficult time in the early 1950's. Half way through the 1952-53 season, the club was told that it could only use Prospect House on alternate Tuesdays. For the next two years the Board Room of The Independent Order of Rechabites, a first floor room at 22, Carlton Crescent was the club's venue, but the average attendance fell to about 20 members. The 1953 Annual General Meeting had to be postponed for a week, as there were insufficient members to form a quorum on the date fixed. A further proposed steep increase in rent caused a quick removal in October, 1955 to Northam Junior

School, but the membership fell even further. Through the efforts of **Mr. L. E. Vine**, who was a friend of **Mr. John Spedan-Lewis**, the head of **John Lewis**, the **Oxford Street**, **London**, store which had taken over **Tyrrell and Green**, **Above Bar**, we were able to use the staff canteen there for the next 18 years.

Mr. Spedan Lewis had been a generous President of the Hampshire Chess Association in the years preceding the war, and had allowed part of his London Store to be used as the National Chess Centre. It became the venue for the National Chess Club, and many County Championship matches were held there — often as many as three 50 board matches on the same Saturday afternoon. Mr. Lewis provided packed lunches for the players who journeyed to London on the same train as himself for these matches. Mr. Lewis became President of the Southampton Club for a year in 1957 but then resigned due to failing health. He was a great benefactor both to the club, and to the Hampshire Chess Association particularly.

Strangely enough, while the club was passing through this difficult time, (1955 being probably the worst in its history), the local league and schools' league were flourishing. In March 1956 the British Chess Federation held a National Chess Week. The Southampton League organised a hundred-a-side match "Old Stagers versus Teenagers", with 50 boards at Taunton's School and 50 boards at Ichen Grammar School. As the Southampton section of this nation wide match was the only one in the country apart from one at the National Chess Centre to reach three figures, the British Chess Federation recognised this magnificent effort by awarding a special prize, "The Pitman Prize" to be awarded to a suitable Teenager. The Teenagers won locally 55-45 and Marshall Thompson was among their top board winners.

The Change of venue in January, 1956 led to a change in the fortunes of the club. In 1956 the club decided to dispose of its old fashioned English Club size sets of good quality wood, as no one liked playing with them, and they were taking up valuable cup-board space. The Members preferred to play with much smaller Staunton men which the club bought to cope with increasing numbers. The discarded sets were given to Tatchbury Mount Hospital.

Another factor in encouraging interest in the game was the introduction of the Grading System. This enabled players to assess their improvement. Being Southampton Area Grading Officer since 1956 has allowed me to watch the progress of many young players to a very high standard.

Mr. R. S. Gregory joined the club in 1946 and was treasurer from 1955-65.

Of the people so far mentioned in this history, only two are still members, **Stephen Bell** and myself. From now onwards, nearly all are still members. **Mr. M. W. Stone** joined in 1955, **Mr. P. L. Marshall** and **Mr. L. C. Walters** in 1956. All three (at the time of writing) are working hard, together with **Mr. I. Stenhouse** and myself, as a sub-committee to plan a successful programme to celebrate our centenary, and not only to bring it to the notice of local inhabitants, but to publish it nationwide, especially in the southern half of England among chess players.

Mr. Stone was tournament secretary 1972-75. Mr. Marshall was elected treasurer of the club in 1966, so to date has served 16 years, beating Mr. Gale's 14 years, but not the founder member Mr. William's 17 years. Mr. Marshall won the club championship in 1964. He has been President of the Hampshire Chess Association since 1972. For the last two years he has been Hampshire Match Captain.

Our chairman, Mr. Walters was elected to the post in 1966. He was responsible for getting The College of Technology in East Park Terrace as the venue for the club in December, 1973, when we had to leave Tyrrell and Green in a hurry owing to a strengthening of their security arrangements more or less forced upon them by their Insurance Policy. Both he and Mr. Marshall have continued to give valuable service to the club. This move led to a further large increase in membership.

When the rent at the college was increased to a prohibitive amount, both Mr. Walters and Mr. Marshall were responsible for finding our present accommodation at the Atherley Bowling Club, Hill Lane, in 1981. Mr. Walters won the club championship in 1961 and 63. Both he and Mr. Marshall are Hampshire's delegates to the West of England Chess Union, and Mr. Walters is Hampshire's delegate on the British Chess Federation Council.

Mr. Stenhouse who joined the club in 1967 was tournament secretary from 1969-72, and Hampshire Match Captain 1974-78. He won the club championship in 1972 and 79. He inaugurated, organized and controlled the Southampton Open Tournament, a week-end event which attracted players from others parts of the country, and which ran annually from 1971-76. He is results secretary and Individual Championship controller for the Southampton Chess League.

Mr. S. M. Katz joined the club in 1960. For two years 1958-60 the club had no president. He agreed to become president and expressed his wish to support the club as much as possible, but also to "take a back seat" as often as possible. His business prevented him from regular attendance, and when a few years later he moved to Bournemouth to live and to commute to his business in Southampton, he was rarely able to visit the club, but has loyally continued to support the club financially, and by his interest in what is happening, during his 22 years as president.

It would be almost impossible and also invidious to mention many other members who have given valuable service to the club over shorter periods of time, but I think it only just, to mention a few both past and present.

Mr. R. Senior 1900-13 was tournament secretary 1905-08 and club secretary 1907-13. He was made a life member on leaving the town in 1913 and died in 1916.

Mr. J. T. Boyd, for many years the controller of the British Chess Federation Counties Correspondence Championship, spent five years in Southampton after coming from Lancashire 1948-53, and most efficiently ran the tournaments of the club.

Mr. T. Mumford (1959-69) was Match Captain of the B team in the Second Division of the Hampshire League in 1961. From 1964-68 he was club secretary and tournament secretary, and he retained the latter position for a further year.

Team results have varied considerably over the years. The two main causes being the division into several teams of equal strength in the earlier years, and members playing for other teams in the Southampton League, and the Hampshire League. The increase in the number of County Championship matches has also affected the strength of the Hampshire League Teams. During the years 1950-71 there were very few outstanding team performances. The one team entered by the club in the Southampton League never finished higher than second.

In the last decade there has been more success. **Mr. D. E. Bower** 1968-81 was match captain of the Hampshire League and National Club Team 1973-81 when he left the city to work in London. The team won the Hampshire League on six of these eight years. Near the beginning of this history, comment was made about a match at Brighton. Almost a century later, in February, 1981, Southampton was drawn away against Brighton in the 3rd round of the National Club Championship. Although one of the conditions has reversed — Southampton is now twice as populous as Brighton — others were much the same. On paper the Brighton team headed by Grand Master Raymond Keene, were an average of almost 30 grade points higher than each Southampton player. Brighton's lowest had a grade of 195, Southampton's highest 186. Southampton won 3½-2½ and went on to reach the 5th round — a remarkable giant killing performance. The second team competing in the new event of 1980-81, the National Minor Club Championship with limited gradings, reached the final where they were beaten by Gloucester, but received a chess clock as runners-up.

Mr. D. W. Bell (father of Stephen previously mentioned) who joined in 1972, has captained Southampton League first team since 1973. The team has succeeded in winning the League Championship in 1976, 77, 78, 80, and the Robertson Cup in 1979 in spite of opposition during that time from very strong University teams. Mr. Bell has been our strongest player during these years, except perhaps for the comparatively few occasions when Mr. Thompson played in the National Club or Hampshire League matches; but because of his pre-occupation with his duties as match captain he has won the Club championship only once, in 1976.

Mr. A. M. Paine 1972-77, a match captain for the 2nd team, and tournament secretary 1975-77 proposed a new form of competition to include the Championship and minor tournaments, which is the method still in use.

Mr. L. C. Allen joined as a junior member 1962-66, rejoined in 1975 and has been match captain for the 2nd team.

Mr. A. C. Summers 1972-82 has been match captain of one of the lower teams 1975-81.

We must remember that the success of a club depends upon all its members whose work is impossible to mention, but who have contributed, and who still contribute to its success in one way or another. Apologies to any who feel they should have been included.

For several years, about a third of our club membership of around 60 persons has comprised strong junior players. King Edward VI School team of six players, succeeded

in reaching the final four to decide the winners of the "Sunday Times" National Schools' Championship Tournament in three successive years, 1979, 1980, 1981. The team which won the championship in 1980, contained five of our junior members: Michael Jackson, Stephen Bell, Andrew Kluth, Philip Stevenson and Michael O'Sullivan. In 1979 and 1981 the school had to be content with fourth place. Stephen Bell and Andrews Kluth played in each of the three years. Michael Jackson played in 1979 and Philip Stevenson in 1981. Mark Buchan was in the 1981 team. This 1981 team won the Robertson Cup in 1982 and only just failed to win the Southampton League Championship to a very strong University side.

A. J. Berry who won the club championship in 1977 later played for Cambridge University against Oxford University. B. P. A. Andrews winner of the club championship in 1978 played top board for Oxford University's second team.

Encouragement of even younger players took a significant step forward in September, 1981 with the formation of a Southampton Junior Chess Club meeting on Sunday afternoons during term time at the Deanery School under the leadership of Mr. T. P. O'Farrell and Mr. L. T. Walker, assisted by M. J. Buckmaster. An opening two day age group congress was attended by 172 local junior players. Eight year old Mark Walker joined both senior and junior clubs. Before he was nine, he had qualified for a play-off with three others for the under 18 championship, scoring $2\frac{1}{3}$ against players with grades over 150 and 170. He lost the final play off. He won the Southampton Schools' League under 12 championship, and finished seventh in the London under 12 championship in 1982. His future will be watched with interest.

SOUTHAMPTON CLUB CHAMPIONS

1921	F. J. H. Elwell	1946	W. J. Fry	1965	P. J. Patience
1922	A. B. Coe	1947	A. C. Barton	1966	{ P. J. Patience C. McSheehy
1923	No Contest	1948	W. J. Fry		
1924	F. J. H. Elwell	1949	"	1967	L. E. Vine
1925	"	1950	"	1968	A. C. Barton
1926	W. J. Fry	1951	"	1969	M. W. Johnson
1927	F. J. H. Elwell	1952	"	1970	P. J. Patience
1928	"	1953	"	1971	B. F. O'Sullivan
1929	"	1954	"	1972	I. Stenhouse
1930	"	1955	No Contest	1973	M. W. J. Thompson
1931	W. J. Fry	1956	A. C. Barton	1974	"
1932	F. J. H. Elwell	1957	G. L. Pritchard	1975	D. E. Bower
1933	"	1958	A. C. Barton	1976	D. W. Bell
1934	W. J. Fry	1959	M. W. J. Thompson	1977	A. J. Berry
1935	F. J. H. Elwell	1960	"	1978	B. P. A. Andrews
1936	"	1961	L. C. Walters	1979	I. Stenhouse
1937	H. H. R. Northover	1962	A. C. Barton	1980	S. D. Bell
1938	F. J. H. Elwell	1963	L. C. Walters	1981	"
1939	"	1964	P. L. Marshall	1982	"

CUP WINNERS

1890	W. C. Kenny	1914	F. G. Binning	1938	A. J. Draper
1891	F. J. H. Elwell	1915	F. J. H. Elwell	1939	A. Levack
1892	W. C. Kenny	1916	"	1940-45	No contest
1893	F. J. H. Elwell	1917	W. S. Mackie	1946	{ W. J. Fry
1894	J. H. Blake	1918	"		{ H. L. Parsons
1895	G. R. Sloper	1919	W. J. Fry	1947	A. C. Barton
1896	A. M. Brown	1920	L. Illingworth	1948	N. R. Diaper
1897	J. H. Blake	1921	W. J. Fry	1949	H. L. Parsons
1898	S. J. Beer	1922	"	1950	R. S. Gregory
1899	J. H. Blake	1923	C. Burnard	1951	{ H. L. Parsons
1900	C. E. Lloyd	1924	H. H. R. Northover		{ I. Ramsey
1901	"	1925	R. T. Lawrence	1952	Miss A. Rice
1902	H. Targett	1926	F. J. H. Elwell	1953	C. Parker
1903	"	1927	"	1954	A. E. Horne
1904	J. H. Blake	1928	W. F. Hodges	No records	
1905	"	1929	H. S. Leathers	Changed to under 18	
1906	F. G. Binning	1930	E. C. May	championship	
1907	H. Targett	1931	S. Emsley	1977	{ T. M. Joslin
1908	E. L. Watkin	1932	F. J. H. Elwell		{ R. C. Noyce
1909	F. J. H. Elwell	1933	M. Clifford	1978	R. C. Noyce
1910	W. S. Mackie	1934	F. J. H. Elwell	1979	J. S. Tilley
1911	F. G. Binning	1935	M. Clifford	1980	M. Buchan
1912	A. C. Whitcher	1936	"	1981	M. Buchan
1913	A. B. Coe	1937	A. E. Gale	1982	K. Fuller

TROPHY BOARD WINNERS

1896	H. E. Corbin	1918	F. J. Perrott	1946	H. Huntley
1897	E. H. Lanham	1919	D. Worcester	1947	F. H. Walton
1898	T. S. Brierley	1920	A. J. H. Duffy	1948	A. J. Kirby
1899	W. S. Fenwick	1921	G. Bernard	1949	G. L. Pritchard
1900	H. J. E. Whitmarsh	1922	A. C. Crawford	1950	M. G. Sayers
1901	G. H. Caws	1923	F. Craig	1951	S. Ryzewski
1902	G. Hicken	1924	W. F. Whitfield	1952	G. Baverstock
1903	R. Senior	1925	W. G. Kimber	1953	M. W. J. Thompson
1904	H. M. Veitch	1926	F. Hejl	1954	G. Daw
1905	F. G. Binning	1927	W. R. Bryson	1955-9	No contest
1906	J. W. Foot	1928	H. S. Leathers	1960	M. D. Thompson
1907	H. H. R. Northover	1929	C. T. Clark	1962	T. Mumford
1908	L. N. Clarke	1930	W. G. Kimber	1963	P. Hurn
1909	E. H. McGrath	1931	"	1964	A. C. Barton
1910	H. F. Muir	1932	C. R. Foot	1976	{ P. Clough
1911	A. C. Whitcher	1933	A. F. McKenzie		{ I. T. Sherman
1912	C. Parker	1934	J. K. McHardy	1977	J. J. Evans
1913	R. T. Lawrence	1935	P. McKeefrey	1978	K. J. Smith
1914	C. S. Gibbs	1936	K. N. Reed	1979	J. D. King
1915	P. Grimshaw	1937	A. Levack	1980	P. G. Stevenson
1916	E. C. May	1938	"	1981	A. C. Summers
1917	T. J. Bradbury	1939	E. Sibley	1982	A. K. Blades

HAMPSHIRE CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

F. J. H. Elwell - 1930, 1932, 34, 36, 37.

W. J. Fry - 1933, 39, 47, 51. A. C. Barton - 1968.

M. W. J. Thompson - 1958, 59, 61, 65, 67, 72, 74, 75, 77.

SOUTHAMPTON DISTRICT INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS

M. W. J. Thompson – 1959, 60, 61, 72, 73, 74, 77.

P. L. Marshall – 1957, 58. A. C. Barton & M. G. Ford tied 1962.

B. F. O'Sullivan – 1970. T. M. Joslin – 1980.

TEAM HONOURS

1951 National Club Championship – reached Zonal Semi-Final.

1981 National Club Championship – reached the last 16 (round 5) after beating the powerful Brighton team in round 3.

The second team were runners-up in the National Minor Club Championship.

HAMPSHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION CLUB CHALLENGE TROPHY

First awarded 1896. Won by Southampton in 1897, 98, 99 tie with Portsmouth, 1902, 03, 04, 05, 06, 09, 12, 22, 31, 54, 58, 66, 73 tie with University, 74, 75, 77, 78, 79, 81, 82.

ROBERTSON CUP

First awarded 1928. Won by Southampton 1933, 35, 36, 38, 39, 47, 49, 58, 62, 79.

SOUTHAMPTON LEAGUE DIVISION I CHAMPIONSHIP BOARD

First awarded in 1923 to Southampton, then 29, 32, 37, 46, 47, 49, 50, 71, 76, 77, 78, 80.

VENUES

1883 Semadani's Restaurant, 163, High Street.

1883 Helvetia Restaurant, 141, High Street.

1885 Adelaide Restaurant, Scullards Hotel, 61 Above Bar.

1908 Bungalow Cafe, 157 Above Bar.

1915 Grammar School, Havelock Road.

1920 St. Paul's Parish Room, Bedford Place.

1921 Bungalow Cafe, 157, Above Bar.

1923 Grosvenor Cafe, 43, Above Bar.

1929 Carlton Hotel, Carlton Crescent.

1932 Carlton Hotel Annexe, Carlton Crescent.

1945 Prospect House, 160 Above Bar.

1953 I.O.R. Board Room, 22 Carlton Crescent.

1955 Northam School,

1956 Staff Restaurant, Tyrrell & Green, Above Bar.

1973 College of Technology, East Park Terrace.

1981 Atherley Bowling Club, Hill Lane.

PRESIDENTS

1883-1907	R. C. Chipperfield, J.P.	1946-57	H. H. Runham
1907-1921	W. C. Kenny	1957-58	J. Spedan Lewis
1921-1946	F. J. H. Elwell	1960-82	S. M. Katz

CHAIRMAN

1966-82 L. C. Walters

TREASURERS

1883-1900	W. Williams	1945-1950	S. T. Smith
1900- 04	W. G. Tracy	1950- 51	T. V. Parrott
1904- 09	W. Jackson	1951- 55	J. C. V. Howard
1909- 13	W. H. Killick	1956- 65	R. S. Gregory
1913- 14	T. Rice	1965- 66	A. C. Barton
1914- 25	W. F. Sandell	1966- 82	P. L. Marshall
1925- 39	A. E. Gale		

CLUB SECRETARIES

1883-1900	J. H. Blake	1925-1927	Lewis
1900- 07	H. J. Penwill	1927- 31	W. F. Hodges
1907- 13	R. Senior	1931- 34	P. S. Joyce
1913- 15	F. J. Lander	1934- 35	A. F. McKenzie
1915- 16	H. J. E. Batchelor	1935- 39	A. J. Draper
1916- 19	W. J. Fry	1945- 64	H. L. Parsons
1919- 20	R. T. Lawrence	1964- 68	T. H. Mumford
1920- 25	W. O. Robertson	1968- 82	H. L. Parsons

TOURNAMENT SECRETARIES

1900-1902	C. E. Lloyd	1945-1947	W. J. Fry
1902- 04	W. Jackson	1947- 48	A. M. Edmonds
1904- 05	R. T. Forrest	1948- 53	J. T. Boyd
1905- 08	R. Senior	1953- 55	R. F. Pezet
1908- 12	L. N. Clarke	1955- 57	H. H. Runham
1912- 20	E. C. May	1957- 60	G. L. Pritchard
1920- 21	W. J. Fry	1960- 63	J. Waller
1921- 23	W. Cooke	1963- 64	P. Hurn
1923- 25	A. C. Crawford	1964- 69	T. Mumford
1925- 28	W. R. Bryson	1969- 72	I. Stenhouse
1928- 31	W. J. Fry	1972- 75	M. W. Stone
1931- 34	S. Emsley	1975- 77	A. M. Paine
1934- 35	M. Clifford	1977- 78	L. C. Allen
1935- 39	W. J. Fry	1978- 82	H. L. Parsons

MATCH SECRETARIES AND CAPTAINS

1900-1903	F. J. H. Elwell	1910-1912	L. N. Clarke	1917-1919	H. J. Penwill
1903- 05	J. R. Waldron	1912- 13	R. T. Lawrence	1919- 21	L. Illingworth
1905- 08	W. Veitch	1913- 15	A. B. Coe	1921- 27	W. J. Fry
1908- 10	F. J. H. Elwell	1915- 17	P. E. Rush		

With the Southampton League starting in 1922 there were two secretaries at various times, and since 1971 up to six match captains according to the number of teams.

HS below means secretary for Hampshire and Southampton league.

HAMPSHIRE			SOUTHAMPTON		
1927-31	H. S. Leathers		1922-23	A. B. Coe	
1931-32	W. G. Kimber		1923-24	A. C. Crawford	
1932-39	E. G. Parsons	HS	1924-25	W. R. Bryson	
1945-46	A. J. Kirby	HS	1926-39	E. G. Parsons	
1947-48	C. H. L. Jackson	HS	1967-70	M. W. Johnson	
1948-50	A. M. Edmonds	HS	1970-71	B. O'Sullivan	
1950-54	C. H. L. Jackson	HS	1971-72	M. W. Johnson; B. O'Sullivan	
1954-56	H. H. Runham	HS	1973-82	D. W. Bell	
1956-57	C. Newby	HS	1973-77	A. M. Paine	
1957-67	A. C. Barton	HS	1974-75	P. N. W. Freeman	
1967-72	A. C. Barton		1975-81	A. C. Summers	
1972-73	H. L. Parsons	HS	1976-78	L. C. Allen	
1973-81	D. E. Bower		1977-78	M. J. Buckmaster	
1981-82	M. J. Buckmaster		1978-79	I. Sherman; T. H. Anstey	
			1978-80	C. O'Bee	
			1979-82	T. L. Hutchins	
			1979-80	D. Beer	
			1980-82	R. A. Chance	
			1980-81	L. C. Allen	



ROLL OF HONOUR

For Long Service (including 1939-45)

		Total	Nominal	Active
R. Chipperfield	1883-1911	28	4	24
J. H. Blake	1883-1951	68	44	24
J. Fewings	1883-1920	37	-	37
G. R. Sloper	1883-1903	20	-	20
E. P. Westlake	1883-1930	47	39	8
W. Williams	1883-1919	36	12	24
W. G. Tracy	Sept. 1883-1904	21	-	21
W. C. Kenny	Dec. 1883-1921	38	-	38
F. J. H. Elwell	1888-1953	65	7	58
H. J. Penwill	1891-1930	39	-	39
W. H. Killick	1895-1918	23	5	18
E. G. Parsons	1904-1945	41	-	41
F. G. Binning	1904-1937	33	10	23
R. T. Lawrence	1908-30; 37-48	33	-	33
E. C. May	1909-1937	28	5	23
A. B. Coe	1912-1935	23	-	23
W. J. Fry	1913-1954	41	-	41
A. E. Gale	1924-1947	23	-	23
H. H. Runham	1930-1957	27	-	27
H. L. Parsons	1935-	47	-	47 to date
A. C. Barton	1946-49; 55-72	20	-	20
R. S. Gregory	1946-1965	19	-	19
M. W. Stone	1955-	27	-	27 to date
P. L. Marshall	1956-	26	-	26 to date
L. C. Walters	1956-	26	-	26 to date
S. M. Katz	1960-	22	16	6 to date