

The 1976 West of England Grading List comprises 1848 names, 444 of which are from Hampshire. Next year, only the names of players who are registered with the B.C.F. will appear - a decision by the Union Council which is raising a good deal of controversy.

I declare myself fully in agreement with this ruling. The preparation of these statistics involves a great deal of work at County and Union level, bearing in mind that results have to be accumulated for everyone, whether or not their grades are published. Why then should a player who contributes nothing to County or Union finances have the benefit of all this work?

So strongly do I feel on this issue, I am anticipating next year's decision by publishing only those names of players in the Portsmouth area (including Isle of Wight) who are currently registered. Hereunder the first list containing those whose names begin with the letters A to G. (Previous year's grading number in brackets) :

| | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------|---------------------------|-----------|
| G.F.Abercrombie (Cosham) | 130 (130) | J. Craig (Fareham) | 125 (126) |
| N.D. Argent (Polytech) | 118 (-) | A.D. Crossin (Cosham) | 158 (161) |
| M.J. Ashdown (Polytech) | 140 (132) | A.R. Cullinane (Portsmth) | 169 (188) |
| A.F. Behmber (I. of W.) | 156 (155) | H.E. Davies (Gosport) | 151 (159) |
| T.D. Bell (Cosham) | 122 (128) | S. Dean (Cosham) | 170 (162) |
| A.F. Brameld (Fareham) | 193 (194) | T.J. de Buriatte(Fareham) | 142 (140) |
| C.W. Bryan (Cosham) | 150 (146) | A. Driscoll (Portsmth) | 111 (109) |
| M.J. Cawston (Portsmth) | 120 (-) | P.J. Eales (Gosport) | 130 (128) |
| A.J. Charlwood (Cosham) | 98 (110) | P.B. Eastlake (Portsmth) | 159 (149) |
| J.F.T. Charvill (Gosport) | 158 (150) | G.E. Feltham (Portsmth) | 150 (150) |
| R.C. Clark (Gosport) | 141 (145) | D. Gibson (Cosham) | 172 (173) |
| J.A. Coburn (Gosport) | 136 (135) | R.A. Goldstone (Fareham) | 106 (129) |
| B.V. Cochran (Portsmth) | 127 (126) | J.E.C. Grant (Fareham) | 138 (137) |
| M. Cole (Fareham) | 135 (143) | Miss C. Groves (Portsmth) | 118 (102) |
| B.C. Coppin (Cosham) | 122 (135) | W.D. Groves (I. of W.) | 121 (140) |
| W.D. Coward (Fareham) | 106 (117) | | |

The County programme for 1976/77 is as follows :

| | |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| Sept. 25 | Senior Jamboree at Exeter |
| Oct. 23 | Hampshire v. Dorset |
| Oct. 29/31 | Southampton Open Tournament |
| Dec. 11 | Somerset v. Hampshire |
| Jan. 22 | Cornwall v. Hampshire |
| Feb. 12 | Hampshire v. Devon |
| Feb. 26 | Wiltshire v. Hampshire at Ilminster |
| March 5 | Junior Jamboree |
| March 26 | Gloucestershire v. Hampshire |
| April 8/11 | W.E.C.U. Congress, Cheltenham |

One of the best games to come out of the 1976 W.E.C.U. Congress was from the final round between the leaders of the Championship Tournament, D.M. Wise and L.P. Burnett. White's attack is from move 19 onwards and is worthy of the eventual Champion.

1. P-K4, P-QB4; 2. N-KB3, N-QB3; 3. P-Q4, PxP; 4. NxP, P-KN3;
5. N-QB3, B-N2; 6. B-K3, N-B3; 7. B-QB4, Q-R4; 8. O-O, O-O; 9. N-N3, Q-B2;
10. P-B4, P-Q3; 11. B-K2, P-QR4; 12. P-QR4, N-QN5; 13. B-B3, B-K3;
14. R-B2, Q-B1; 15. P-R3, N-Q2; 16. N-Q4, B-B5; 17. R-Q2, R-Q1;
18. R-N1, N-B4; 19. B-N4, Q-B2; 20. P-B5, N-Q2; 21. PxP, RPxP;
22. N(3)-N5, Q-N1; 23. P-QN3, QBxN; 24. PxB, N-R7; 25. BxN, N-B6;
26. Q-N4, NxR (see diagram: Black is already the exchange up and can win a further exchange after White's next move, but his position is in tatters)
27. B-K6; PxB; 28. QxNP, R-KB1; 29. NxP, R-B2; 30. R-B2, Q-KB1;
31. N-N5, P-N3; 32. Q-R7 mate.

J.E.C.G.

rqlr2kl; 1plBppbl; 3p2pl;pP6; 3NP1Q1; 1P2B2P; 2PR2P1; 1n4K1

D.M. Wise v. L.P. Burnett: Position after 26...NxR