

M. Cole
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The W.E.C.U. English Counties Championship was won by Devon after one of the most exciting end-of-season struggles seen for some years. On March 10th, Devon had dropped only half a point, and with Hampshire defaulting the match against them, needed only a win over Cornwall to achieve the title. However, Cornwall had other ideas and held Devon to an 8 - 8 draw. Meanwhile Gloucester, who had also dropped only the half-point (v. Devon), needed victory over Somerset to secure the title themselves. On March 17th, Somerset (who had not beaten Gloucester for a decade), won the match by the narrowest of margins ($8\frac{1}{2} - 7\frac{1}{2}$).

In the Minor Counties Competition, Devon won the title yet again. Their record is really quite incredible; first entering this competition in 1974, they have yet to lose a match!

Final Tables

	<u>P</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>L</u>	<u>Pts</u>
<u>Championship</u>					
Devon	6	4	2	0	5
Gloucester	6	4	1	1	$4\frac{1}{2}$
Dorset	6	3	0	3	3
Somerset	6	3	0	3	3
Cornwall	6	2	1	3	$2\frac{1}{2}$
Hampshire	6	2	1	3	$2\frac{1}{2}$
Wiltshire	6	0	0	6	0
<u>Minor Counties</u>					
Devon	5	5	0	0	5
Gloucester	5	4	0	1	4
Hampshire	5	2	0	3	2
Somerset	5	2	0	3	2
Dorset	5	1	1	3	$1\frac{1}{2}$
Cornwall	5	0	1	4	$\frac{1}{2}$

Gosport has the honour of being the first team to take a match point from Portsmouth this season in the top Division of the Portsmouth & District League. None the less, Portsmouth cannot now be caught and emerge worthy Champions for 1979.

Detailed scores (Division 1) :

I.B.M. A $1\frac{1}{2}$, Portsmouth A $4\frac{1}{2}$

(J.F. Wheeler 0, K. Zuidema 1; W. McDougall 0, G.E.J. Lambert 1; J.M. Morris $\frac{1}{2}$, M.J. Cawston $\frac{1}{2}$; R.E. Hartley 0, P.K. Wells 1; S. Hicks 1, A.R. Cullinane 0; I. Upton 0, I.A. Welch 1.)

/Continued

Portsmouth A 3, Gosport A 3

(R. Prince 0, J.F.T. Charvill 1; M.J. Cawston 1, Default 0; A.R. Cullinane 1, W.J.E. Yeeles 0; D.J. Scotney 0, J.F. Coles 1; Sharon Prince $\frac{1}{2}$, P. Groth $\frac{1}{2}$; M.J.P. Hampton $\frac{1}{2}$, J. Coburn $\frac{1}{2}$.)

Cosham A $\frac{1}{2}$, I.B.M. A $5\frac{1}{2}$

(A.F. Brameld 0, J.F. Wheeler 1; A.D. Crossin 0, W. McDougall 1; S. Dean $\frac{1}{2}$, J.M. Morris $\frac{1}{2}$; D. Smith 0, R.E. Hartley 1; C.W. Bryan 0, S. Hicks 1; P.J. McEvoy 0, I. Upton 1.)

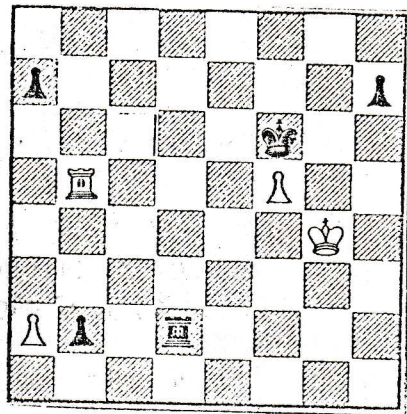
Cosham A 5, Cosham B 1

(A.F. Brameld $\frac{1}{2}$, D. Gibson $\frac{1}{2}$; A.D. Crossin 1, D. Harold 0; S. Dean 1, G.F. Abercrombie 0; D. Smith $\frac{1}{2}$, A.F. Langley $\frac{1}{2}$; C.W. Bryan 1, A. Charlwood 0; P.J. McEvoy 1, G. Train 0.)

Table (Division 1)

	<u>P</u>	<u>W</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>Pts</u>
Portsmouth A	9	7	1	36	18	15
Cosham A	9	5	0	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	10
Fareham A	9	3	3	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	9
I.B.M. A	9	4	1	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	9
Gosport A	9	3	2	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	29 $\frac{1}{2}$	8
Cosham B	9	0	3	19	35	3

From the diagrammed position, Black played 1 P - R4 +! and the game proceed 2. K x P P - R4; 3. P - R3 R - K7 (if now 4. P - R4 R - Q7; 5. K - N4 R - Q5 + etc.) 4. K - N4 R - K5 +; 5. K any R - QN5! and wins.



J.E.C.G.