CHESS NOTES   13th September, 1976

It seems probable that we shall see 23 teams lined up for the coming season's play in the Portsmouth & District League (20 last season).   New teams are entered from Emsworth, I.B.M. 'B', Leigh Park 'B' and Polytechnic 'C', but Portsmouth may be dropping their 'B' team from Division 1.

The League's A.G.M. is due to be held on Wednesday, 29th September, at Southsea Youth and Community Centre, at which a number of alterations to the rules will be proposed.   One that is of particular interest is yet another attempt to reduce the number of adjudications.   As things now stand, the two players concerned can continue the unfinished game at a later date if they <u>both</u> agree to do so.   The new proposal is that the game shall be continued at a second session if <u>either</u> player wishes.   Unfortunately, few players relish turning out to the opponent's venue on a winter's night for what may be quite a short session, but if this fact alone encourages some of them to agree a result which would otherwise have gone to the adjudicator, the new rule will have achieved something.

A couple of seasons ago, with the same objective in mind, it was suggested that unfinished games be completed on the 'sudden death' principle, but this proposal failed on the grounds that the result of such games would not count for grading.   I now see that the B.C.F. Grading Committee has relented and an extract from their latest report says "tournaments in which games are finished at fast time limits may be graded .... provided certain minimum conditions are met".   Perhaps this way round the vexed question of adjudication is still open.

Hereunder a further 24 names of local players appearing in the 1976/77 Grading List (initial letters H - M) :

C.D. Harris (Portsmth)	151 (135)	G.E.J. Lambert (Portsmth)	205 (193)
R.E. Hartley (I.B.M.	162 (-)	A.J. Lancashire (Fareham)	142 (132)
P.M. Hodgson (I. of W.)	149 (142)	A.F. Langley (Cosham)	136 (136)
T.E. Hollington (Portsmth)	143 (155)	P.J. Lee (Portsmth)	195 (196)
S.J. Hooker (Portsmth)	177 (156)	A.P. Le Fevre (Leigh Park)	169 (174)
K. Irish (Fareham)	116 (113)	N.G. Le Fevre (Leigh Park)	146 (155)
N.E. Jackson (I.B.M.)	174 (-)	S.D. Le Fevre (Leigh Park)	133 (143)
G.D. Jeftha (I.B.M.)	144 (136)	A.W. Leggatt (Portsmth)	142 (136)
B. Joyce (I. of W.)	117 (141)	T.P. Love (Portsmth)	183 (171)
A.H. Judd (Cosham)	97 (115)	P.J. Markwell (Portsmth)	147 (140)
E.N. Judd (Fareham)	117 (-)	B. Massey (Fareham)	113 (120)
I.P. Judd (Cosham)	149 (126)	P.W. Mottram (Polytech)	153 (138)

I derived much enjoyment in reading Bill Harston's amusing new book "How to Cheat at Chess" (£1.95) and published by Hutchinsons, which in any case makes a pleasant change from the steady flow of more serious publications on opening theory and middle game practice.   The chapter on "How to be a Chess Journalist" was of particular interest to me as, amongst other things, this contains annotation notes after every move of a 12 move game every one of which the author swears has appeared in a chess journal during the past few years and every one of which could be used again in any other game for practically any move.   (Examples : 'bther lines cause the defence little difficulty" and "the purpose of Black's opening dispositions is now clear").   I shall no doubt be drawing heavily on this material in future.

The diagram published this week demonstrates a simple sacrificial mating combination: 1. R-R8+, KxR; 2. R-R1+, K-N1; 3. R-R8+, KxR; 4. Q-R1+ and mate next move on R7.   (But would you or I have seen it under match conditions, particularly as we would have been much concerned with Black's mate on the move?)

3rlbk1; 2r2pp1; p3n1P1; 1p6; 4P3; qPpB4; P1P2P2; 1KN1Q1RR

White to move: Mate in 5

J.E.C.G.