

By any standard, the display put on by Fareham Chess Club in the Fareham Shopping Precinct during the whole of last week was a resounding success. During each of my several visits, all 10 boards were in constant play and whereas the number of games completed ran into hundreds, spectators must have totalled several thousand. I saw a number of well known players from Portsmouth, Cosham and Gosport and students from several European countries.

Has any reader tried 'blindfold' chess; that is, playing a game without a board and men? The following was played in this way between A.F. Brameld and W.H. Pratten at Fareham Chess Club :-

1. P-QB4 P-Q4; 2. PxP N-KB3; 3. P-Q4 NxP; 4. P-K4 N-KB3; 5. N-QB3 P-K3; 6. N-B3 P-B4; 7. P-Q5 PxP; 8. P-K5 P-Q5; 9. PxN PxN;
10. QxQ+ KxQ; 11. B-KN5 P-KN3; 12. O-O-O+ B-Q2; 13. PxP P-KR3;
14. N-K5 PxB; 15. NxP+ K-K1; 16. NxR B-R5; 17. R-K1+ K-Q1;
18. NxP Resigns.

Several far reaching and (some will think) revolutionary measures were adopted at the recent British Chess Federation Annual Council Meeting.

Perhaps most important was the acceptance by a substantial majority of the proposition that "to pursue efficiently its aims and objects the Federation shall, under the Council, be managed by a Chief Executive and Management Board: responsibility for and authority over sectors of chess activity shall be concentrated in fewer hands." Only those who have worked on the B.C.F.'s existing over-large and too numerous Committees will appreciate the significance of this change. Other propositions adopted in principle were the relating of finance to grading (already in operation in the West of England Union) and the recognition that Unions should take a much greater share in the responsibility for national affairs.

The proposal that the Federation's name be changed to The English Chess Federation failed for lack of the requisite two-thirds majority.

Another item from the B.C.F. "Newsflash" worthy of note is the fact that Cosham Chess Club battled through to the quarter-finals of the National Club Championship Plate Tournament, where they were knocked out by Sutton and Cheam Chess Club by 5½ to ½.

This week's position comes under the heading of "Clever combinations in the middle-game".

1. Q-KN4! Q-N4 (if 1...QxQ 2. RxR+ mates; Black's reply is the only move which avoids immediate loss); 2. Q-QB4! (a move which diverts not only the black Queen, but also the QR) 2...Q-Q2; 3. Q-B7! Q-N4; 4. P-QR4! (by this pawn sacrifice, White attracts the black Queen onto R4) 4...QxRP;
5. R-K4 (which is why the black Q was attracted onto R4) 5...Q-N4;
6. QxNP! Black now has no defence, and resigns. (Adams v. Torre, New Orleans 1921).

J.E.C.G.

2r1r1k1; lplqlppp; 3plb2; p2P4; 3Q4; 5N2; PP2RPPP; 4R1K1