

The following match results are from the Portsmouth & District Middle Schools Association's League :

Division 1 : ST. JOHN'S A 5, PORTSMOUTH GRAMMAR A 0

(C.P. Smith 1, D.A. Hayward 0; P.K. Wells 1, A.J. Harris 0; M.D. Smith 1, D.J. Houghton 0; M.E. Vernon 1, T.R. Sparks 0; M.J.P. Hampton 1, S.D. Kneller 0)

PORTSMOUTH GRAMMAR A 1½, MAYFIELD A 3½

(D.A. Hayward 0, I.C. Kemp 1; A.J. Harris ½, I.M. Whitcombe ½; D.J. Houghton 0, P. Welsh 1; S.D. Kneller 1, M. Fisher 0; C.J. Brimmer 0, D. Musken 1)

Division 3A : PRIORY 4, CITY OF PORTSMOUTH BOYS 1

(C. Smith 1, P.A. Hearn 0; T.Y. Man 1, R.T. Maguire 0; P. Chamberlain 0, M.P. Hamorak 1; J. Weaver 1, M.B. McCall 0; S. Rackett 1, G. Thomas 0)

ST. JOHN'S C 4½, CITY OF PORTSMOUTH BOYS ½

(P.K. Wells ½, I.A. Welch ½; M.D. Smith 1, P.A. Hearn 0; M.E. Vernon 1, R.T. McGuire 0; M.J.P. Hampton 1, M.P. Hamorak 0; T.R. Vernon 1, M.B. McCall 0)

Division 3B : BROOKFIELD 2, WATERLOOVILLE LIBRARY 3

(P. O'Donoghue 0, P.J. Hudson 1; P. Carter 0, N. Chevis 1; P. Jones 1, P. Watkins 0; A. Cakes 0, N. Lane 1; J. Stares 1, Karen Illidge 0)

County and local Junior Organiser, Terry Hollington, is still unhappy with the West of England (and now National) decision to withhold grading figures of any player who is not registered with the B.C.U., and thinks this is particularly hard on the Under-12's, who are very unlikely to be registered by anyone anyway. He has therefore gone to some trouble to keep his own records and make his own assessment of over 300 youngsters, some of whom he says have played 100 games already this season! He calculates the initial grade by the formula (10 x age) minus 40 (e.g. 12 year old = 80) and he has supplied me with a list of 54 gradings for 1977 ranging from grade 149 to minus 20. As a W.E.C.U. official who strongly supports the "no registration, no grading" rule, it is not for me to publish these junior grades; I just thought local juniors might like to know that the information is available.

Playing in a local League match last week I had hardly started my game when I discovered that the Fareham player on my left (Dave Goddard) had mated his opponent (M.J. Cawston) in six moves, as follows :

1. P-QB4 P-K4; 2. N-QB3 N-KB3; 3. N-B3 N-B3; 4. P-KN3 N-Q5; 5. NxP?
 (I can see why White was reluctant to play 5. NxN; 5. B-N2 might be best. As it is the 'pawn snatch' has serious consequences) 5...Q-K2! 6. N-Q3?? (The only way to save the Knight seems to be 6. P-B4, although even this could leave White's King dangerously exposed) 6...N-B3 mate (which I assume White did not see coming).

This week's Problem is a "White to mate in 3" by Otto Wurzburg. The key move sets up a waiting move position. A further clue is that the theme is that of "echoed model mate" (in problemist language).

J.E.C.G.

8; 5p2; 5Q2; 8; 8; 5R2; 4K3; Bkb5