

Hereunder the first of this season's match results from the Senior Section of the Portsmouth & District Chess League.

Division 2 : GOSPORT B 1½, COSHAM B 4½

(R.C. Clark ½, A.F. Langley ½; P.J. Eales 1, T.E. Hollington 0; P. Mallett 0, P.J. Markwell 1; I. Gouge 0, G.F. Abercrombie 1; S.R. Williams 0, G. Train 1; W.E. Portman 0, B.C. Coppin 1)

LEIGH PARK A 5, PORTSMOUTH B 1

M.C. Southwell 1, D.J. Scooney 0; N.G. Le Fevre ½, G.E. Feltham ½; A.D. Harris ½, Sharon M. Prince ½; S.D. Le Fevre 1, M.J. Cawston 0; J. Mortlock 1, B. Cochran 0; J.D.J. Gatt 1, R.M. Prince 0)

Division 3 : FAREHAM C 3½, PORTSMOUTH D 2½

(E.N. Judd ½, I.A. Welch ½; J. Dean 0, P.K. Wells 1; F. Nye 1, M.E. Vernon 0; M.J. Hockey 1, P.M. Spurgeon 0; K. Irish 0, G.D. Scotney 1; D. Coates 1, Julia Scotney 0)

I was present at Fareham Chess Club when the juvenile Portsmouth D team arrived to play Fareham C; a remarkable sight, reminiscent of the March of the Seven Dwarfs and with, I suspect, an average of around 9 years of age. On this showing, they should do quite well in Division 3 when they have had a chance to settle down.

The Hampshire Junior Championships are to take place at two separate venues this year; the Under-18 event (for the Bullows Trophy) at Southsea Community Centre over the weekend 20th and 21st November and the Under-16 event (for the Russell Trophy) at Southampton University on 27th and 28th November. In addition, there will be a tournament for the Under-18 girls on 15th and 16th January to determine the challenger of the reigning girl champion, Jane F. Seymour. Entry forms are obtainable from the County Junior Organiser - T.E. Hollington, 27 Karen Avenue, Portsmouth PO6 2HR.

Southampton University's entry into the Hampshire League has been received (two weeks late) but every effort will be made to accept them into the competition and so make it six teams in each Division.

No-one can accuse me of egocentricity seeing that I publish only the games that I lose. This one is quite an interesting Exchange variation of the French, where I had the black pieces against J.R. Webb of Portsmouth Community Centre.

1. P-K4 P-K3; 2. P-Q4 P-Q4; 3. P x P P x P; 4. N-KB3 N-KB3; 5. B-K3 B-KN5;
6. QN-Q2; B-Q3; 7. B-K2 QN-Q2; 8. O-O O-O; 9. P-B4 P-B3; 10. N-N5 B x B;
11. Q x B R-K1; 12. P-KR3 B-B5; (the idea being to force a backward KP)
13. Q-Q3 B x B; 14. P x B P-KR3; 15. N(5)-B3 N-K5; 16. P x P P x P; 17. Q-N3 N-N3;
18. N x N R x N; 19. N-K5 P-B3; 20. N-N4 Q-Q3; 21. N-B2 (I wasted some valuable time on my clock at this stage contemplating R-R5 and Q-N6 and decided against it. Should I have had the courage of my convictions?) 21...R-K2; 22. N-N4 R(1)-K1;
23. R-B5 (a good move by white, as it turned out) 23...R-K5; 24. R(1)-KB1 N-B5;
25. Q x P N x QP (black, having become obsessed by that backward KP, decides to remove it, but the ploy back-fires because white can now simplify by forced exchanges and remain a pawn up in the process) 26. N x N R x N; 27. Q x QP + Q x Q;
28. R x Q R-K7; 29. R-B2 (with around 3 minutes to make the last two moves before

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the first time control, and suffering from shock at the way what I thought was a favourable position suddenly disappearing, I now throw in the sponge by retiring my Rook. Second question - would 29. R-K8+ have given me a draw by repetition?) 29...R(7)-K2; 30. P-QN4 K-B2; 31. R-QB5 R-K5; 32. R-Q2 and Black resigns.

In the game position published this week, White played 1. BxP? (Correct was 1. PxRP and if 1...PxBP; 2. K-K1 wins) 1...P-N6! (and now Black wins - 2. PxNP P-R7 or 2. PxRP PxP followed by queening).

J.E.C.G.

3k4; 8; 3P2B1; 2p2p2; 1p6; p1PP4; PP6; 5K2

VAN NÜSS v. SCHMIDT 1926