

The usual signs of a new Season are becoming evident.

The Annual General Meeting of the Portsmouth & District League is being held at the Fareham Working Men's Club, Mill Road, Fareham, on Tuesday, 26th September, when there will be another grand debate on the rate of play during matches.

On Wednesday, 20th September, the Annual Meeting of the Schools Sub-Committee of the same League will be held at Mayfield School. Rumour has it that Crofton School, Stubbington, is showing interest in participating.

Junior Clubs already meet at 3 p.m. on Sundays at Southsea Youth & Community Centre, at the Co-operative Chess Club, Fratton, and at Waterlooville Library Chess Club.

The Grading Issue of the West of England Chess Union's official Bulletin (Westward Ho!) is now available and contains 1945 Hampshire names. For the second year running, the grade numbers of unregistered players are not shown; and there are 411 such, with "U" (standing for "Unregistered") against them. This is an improvement on the previous season's list, when 528 out of a total of 1848 players were unregistered, indicating that the policy is having its intended effect.

The B.C.F. is holding a Coach's Training Weekend (6th/8th October), in Birmingham and under the supervision of Bob Wade, to advise and instruct those seeking to improve their own ability in developing local junior chess talent.

A short but unusually bright game between C.W. Baker (White) and M.J. Basman, from the National Bank of Dubai Open Tournament, 1978 :

1. P-K4 P-QB4; 2. P-QB3 (my own currently favourite move against the Sicilian Defence) 2...N-KB3; 3. P-K5 (which I would not have thought of!) 3...N-Q4;
4. P-Q4 PxP; 5. QxP P-K3; 6. N-B3 N-QB3; 7. Q-K4 P-B4; 8. Q-K2 P-QN3;
9. P-KN3 Q-B2; 10. B-N2 N(3)-N5; 11. Q-Q2 B-R3; 12. PxN BxP; 13. N-B3 NxN;
14. P-QR3 N-N8; 15. PxB NxQ; 16. BxN Q-B5; 17. N-Q4 QxN;
18. RxB QxKP+; 19. B-K3 Q-N4 and White resigns.

In the diagrammed position (which arose in the game Alekhine v. Colle, Paris 1925) White takes advantage of Black's weak pawn formation around the King - 30. QxR! Resigns, for if 30...RxQ; 31. R-K8+ K-R2; 32. R(B1)-B8 forces mate or wins the Black Queen.

J.E.C.G.

**3r2kl; p2rlppl; lpQ3pl; 3P2ql; P7; 6P1; 5P1P; 2R1R1K1**

**Caption: White to move and win.**