

Clocked out . . .

EVEN though Hampshire fielded a substandard side at the recent W.E.C.U. Jamboree, they still managed to score 6-12.

However, things could have gone significantly better had the Gosport trio (boards 1, 2 and 4) exercised better clock management.

I lost on time (with eight moves to make!) from an equal position, Martin Newbury squandered an easy win in a quick-play finish, while Steve Pezet also lost on time, having an extra pawn and the better position.

In the event, Gloucestershire won the tournament with 7½ on a split tie from Devon.

Details: 1. J. H. Hones 0, R. Haydon 1; 2. M. L. Newbury ½, M. Charter ½; 3. M. I. Walker 1, A. P. Ashby 0; 4. S. P. Pezet 0, K. C. House 1; 5. I. A. Stenhouse 1, C. Staze 0; 6. B. N. Otway ½, B. W. Hewson ½; 7. M. G. Buckley 0, A. Pleasants 1; 8. P. Miller 1, A. Ponting 0; 9. D. R. Neil 1, S. R. Boniface 0; 10. M. C. Hagan 0, P. J. Meade 1; 11. P. L. Marshall ½, J. Walker ½; 12. P. J. Hebbelthwaite ½, L. Jupp ½.

Last Saturday, Hampshire were again in action when they contested a second team friendly against Sussex at South-sea Community Centre.

Although both teams were at about the same strength, it was apparent that the visitors had travelled to avenge the defeat of the previous season and, after quite a struggle, they emerged 8½-7½ winners.

An amusing finish (for us!) on board 3 came from : rr5k/ p2Q2p1/ 7p/ 5P1K/ 1p5P/ 8/ 6P1/ 8. Black to play "tried . . . b3??; f6, gxf6??; Kxht and now noticed that mate was unavoidable. Of course . . . Rb6! avoids any nonsense.

Details: 1. E. Holland 1, M. R. Scott (161) 0; 2. P. L. Marshall ½, A. Hall (c160) ½; 3. L. C. Walters 1, R. T. F. Williams (158) 0; 4. M. C.

Hagan 0, A. Cooper (147J) 1; 5. M. R. Baker 1, R. D. Hirsch (53) 0; 7. D. Thompson 0, R. H. Saunders (144) 1; 8. E. Culliford ½, R. D. Hollands (143) 1; 10. F. Kelly 0, D. Elliot (110J) 1; 11. P. J. Hebbelthwaite 0, D. Oates (124J) 1; 12. C. W. Laxton 0, J. Richmond (136) 1; 13. S. D. Lefevre ½, M. Curtis (133) ½; 14. J. Stewart 1, R. Sherlock (115J) 0; 15. H. Golding 1, C. E. Boyes (125) 0; 16. R. M. Prince ½, P. Coulson (c120) ½.

The board 1 game was quite an exciting tussle. White: E. Holland (Manglers), Black: M. R. Scott (161). 1. e4, c5; 2. Nf3, d6; 3. d4, cxd4; 4. Nxd4, Nf6; 5. Nc3, g6; 6. f3, (6. Be3 is in vogue), Bg7; 7. Be3, Nc6; 8. Bc4, 00; 9. Qd2, Bd7; 10. 000, Rc8; 11. Bb3, Ne5; 12. g4, Nc4; 13. Bxc4, Rxc4; 14. H4, Qa5; 15. h5, Rfc8; 16. Nb3, Qa6; 17. hxg6, fxg6; 18. g5, Rxc3; 19. bxc3, Nxe4(?!?); 20. Qd5+, e6; 21. Qxe4, Bxc3; 22. Kb1 (so as to meet 22. . . . Qa3; with 23. Bc3), Rc4; 23. Qd3, d5; (The interest is maintained in the game since, although Black is a Rook down, White has fewer than five minutes to reach the time-control at move 42); 24. Bd4, Bxd4; 25. Nxd4, Qb6+; 26. Ka1, Ra4; 27. c3, e5; 28. Ne2 (28. Nb3, Qxb3; 29. Qxd5+, Qxd5; 30. Rxd5, Bc6; 31. Rxe5, Bxf3; 32. Rf1 looks good for Black), Be6; 29. Rd2, Qa5; 30. Qc2(?) (perhaps 30. Nc1 first), d4 (Better 30. . . . Ra3); 31. Nc1, Ra3; 32. cxd4, Rc3; 33. Qb2, Rxf3; 34. dxe5, Rxc1+; 37. Rxc1, Kxh7; 38. Qxb7+, Kg8; 39. Qb8+, Kg7; 40. Qc7+, Qxc7; 41. Rxc7+, Kf8; 42. Rxa7, (1:0).

An earlier column gave all the dates for this season's county matches, since which time the date for the Civil Service match has been changed to January 9. Informed sources tell me that the current grading list should become available in mid-October . . . unfortunately there was no mention of which year!