

Chess notes by J.H.J.

In my last column, I left over the position 3N4/8/8/3b4/6K1/5p2/8/71, a study by Brenew, and it was White to move and draw. The position is unusual in that a "stalemated" Knight is used to achieve a "stalemate" of the enemy King.

1, Kg3!, (with the simple threat to blockade the f-pawn) Kg1; 2, Ne6! (clearly the Knight is inviolate) f2; 3, Nf4!, (threat 4, Nh3+. If Black counters this by 3, . . . , Be6!; then White continues 4, Ne2+, Kf1; 5, Nf4, Bf5!; 6, Kf3!! and this position is drawn by perpetual or Black will lose his pawn) f1=Q; 4, Nh3+, Kh1; 5, Nf2+, Kg1; this position is drawn by repetition or by insufficient material if Black plays QxN+.

Keith Gregory, who is the Controller of the Cole Cup (the League Knockout Championship), has provided me with the details of the first round of this season's competition.

PAULSGROVE B 0, FAREHAM B 5 — 1, J. Taylor 0, J. Monk 1; 2, J. Gutteridge 0, J. Coburn 1; 3, G. Clair 0, D. Coates 1; 4, L. Diamond 0, T. Wykes 1; 5, F. Cox 0, A. Stroud 1.

EMSWORTH A 5, PORTSMOUTH C 0 — 1, M. Body 1, D. Jeffery 0; 2, D. Tunks 1, R. Prince 0; 3, G. Vosper 1, P. Rogers 0; 4, A. Quick 1, F. Guy 0; 5, K. Hyman 1, E. Nancarrow 0.

PORTSMOUTH B 1, MANGLERS A 4 — 1, B. Sweeney 0, K. Gregory 1; 2, N. Purkis 0, D. Hannam 1; 3, B. Cochran 0, M. Fowler 1; 4, D. Bye 0, A. Scoffin 1; 5, W. Laxton 1, N. Phillips 0.

IBM C 2, COSHAM B 3 — 1, A. Wilkinson 0, M. Baker 1; 2, R. Hillier 0, A. Smith 1; 3, G. Brenner 1, A. Langley 0; 4, A. Picton 1, T. Woodroffe 0; 5, S. Hartley 0, K. Nevois 1.

The draw for round two, which must be completed by January 10, pairs the following teams: Fareham A v. Paulsgrove A; Petersfield v. Fareham A; Gosport A v. Manglers B; Fareham C v. Emsworth; Manglers A v. IBM A; Plessey v. Cosham A; Leigh Park v. Portsmouth A; and Cosham B v. Gosport B.

The choice match looks like the Manglers v. IBM encounter as both clubs are past winners of this competition, otherwise I expect most results to go much to form. Incidentally Keith Gregory has predicted that the final will be contested between . . . but in fairness I will only tell you his favourites in the event that they get eliminated!

John Wheeler, who is the League Secretary and no mean player for IBM and Devon, has sent me the conclusion of his game from the recent match v. Manglers A.

White: J. F. Wheeler. Black: E. Holland. Position from the diagram with notes based upon those of the winner.

20, Rxf(!), Kxf6; 21, Qxh6, Ke7; (Black will be forced to this square in any case. Black could have tried 21, . . . , Rae8; but after 22, Qh7(!), Ke7; 23, Nxf6+, Kd8; 24, Nxf8, Rxf8; 25, Rf1, White is two pawns ahead and should win easily) 22, Rf1, Rg8; 23, Qh7, Raf8; 24, Rxf7+; 25, Qxg8, (White now has two pawns for the exchange, and the attack continues) Qd7; 26, Nxf6+, Kf6; 27, Nxf8, Qxa4; (27, Qc8 would last longer but after 28, Qg6+, Ke7; 29, Ne6, the White King-side pawns advance. 27, Qe8 also doesn't appear to save Black.) 28, Ne6, (threatening 29, . . . , Qg5 mate!) Qd1+; 29, Bf1, Qd2; 30, g4, Qe3+; 31, Kh1, (and, as Black was unable to prevent 32, g4+, Ke7; 33, Qd8, he resigned) (1:0).

