

HAMPSHIRE stayed on course for a place in the National Quarter Finals of the Inter-County Championship, when they defeated Dorset in the penultimate match of the season.

Realising the significance of the match both sides were, on paper, quite strong. Nevertheless the final results were a 9½-6½ win in the first team competition, and a 9-7 win for the second team.

Local players scored 6½/13 and Hampshire had White on the even boards.

1. P. J. Rossiter 1, M. Cowling 0; 2. G. Oswald 0, S. C. Shutler 1; 8. J. H. Jones 1, I. C. Clark 0; 9. S. Pean 0, R. M. Pegg 1; 10. A. D. Crossin 0, M. J. Roth 1; 12. M. L. Newbury 1, J. F. Catchpole 0; 14. D. A. Evans 1, J. E. Crewe 0; 20. W. H. Silber ½, S. A. Crane ½; 22. A. D. Williams 0, M. A. Lewis 1; 25. M. C. Hagan 0, D. P. Lock 1; 30. A. D. Smith ½, D. J. Calliford ½; 31. R. C. Clark ½, M. G. Bond ½; 32. S. D. Le Febre 1, P. Brackner 0.

Graeme Oswald suffered a very rare loss when he failed to overcome the resolute defence of his opponent (the bad news) while I managed a rare win (the good news) with a little help. 1kr4r4q1pp/3pp3/1N1b4/8/3R3Q/1PP3PP/1K3R2 Black to move has 50 minutes. White 14 to reach the time-control at move 42. 23.

Re5!; 24. Rxd5!, Rxd5!; (Now I offered a draw for tactical reasons! After 25. Re5; 26. Rd1, Rd8; 26. Qa3 with Qa5 to follow is double-edged. After 23... Rf5, White plays as above because 24. Rxf5, exf5; 25. Qxf5, Re8; could give Black chances).

25. C4, Re5?; (But I had seen what to do against this! White's moves now take four minutes. Black's 40) 26. Qb3, Kc8; 27. Rf7!, Rxb5; 28. Qf3!, Qxf7; 29. Qxf7, Re5; 30. b4, Rd8; 31. b5, Re5; 32. b6, Rd7; 33. Qe8+, Rd8; 34. Qa4! and Black resigned.

DIVISION I: As a consequence of played-on games, Fareham A lost by 2½-3½ to Cosham A.

3. D. Evans ½, A.F.C. Carter ½; 4. J. A. Coburn 0, A. D. Crossin 1; 5. D. W. Coates 0, C. W. Bryan 1.

DIVISION II: Leigh Park A drew their match with Cosham B, 3-3, when the board three game was resolved N. G. Le Febre ½, A. D. Smith ½. IBM B 5, Plessey 1 was the final score-line after this board 1 result: S. J. Smith 1, P. A. Rayment 0. The leadership battle continues and the game on board 5 D. W. Coates ½, B. S. Pratt ½; leaves Fareham B trailing I.B.M. A by one game to three.

DIVISION III: Gosport B 6, I.B.M. C 0. Gosport won by default as IBM were unable, at the last moment to raise a team.

DIVISION IV: Leigh Park B 2½, Manglers B 3½.

1. J. D. Gatt 0, A. G. Scoffin 1; 2. S. J.

Scott 0, K. Frisby 1; 3. R. Smith ½, S. Millard ½; 4. J. Sexton 1, R. Davies 0; 5. A. Charlwood 1, J. Brasswell 0; 6. V. Agins 0, E. M. Holland 1.

Paulsgrove A 5, Fareham D 1.

1. P. McEvoy 1, M. J. Hockey 0; 2. C. Smith ½, H. A. Tradevossian ½; 3. S. Phillips 1, J. Craig 0; 4. D. Worsfold 1, S. Evans 0; 5. P. Sibley ½, M. Sygrove ½; 6. M. Baxter 1, N. Lusher 0.

Gosport C 4, Fareham D 2.

1. H. Golding ½, A. Harris ½; 2. A. Crouch ½, H. A. Tradevossian ½; 3. K. S. O. Smith 1, B. Massey 0; 4. C. Emery 1, S. Evans 0; 5. P. Groth 1, M. J. Hockey 0; 6. Mrs. S. Tovey 0, M. Sygrove 1.

This match was a ninth-round fixture played in advance at Fareham's request hence the change of venue.

DIVISION V: Emsworth B 4½, Gosport D 1½. 1. A. Quick ½, J. Penn ½; 2. A. Whitehead 0, A. Elbourne 1; 3. A. J. Vosper 1, A. D. Hemmens 0; 4. J. Hollis 1, I. M. Bartlett 0; 5. M. Levy 1, D. M. Officer 0; 6. A. Dann 1, P. A. Williams 0.

Gosport lost their unbeaten record at the same time as Ian Bartlett lost his 100 per cent. record. A good win for Emsworth.

The end-game that I left over was: 8/8/8/1p5r/p1p1k1pN/P2pBpP1/1P1K1P2/8 with Black to move.

White appears to have established an effective blockade, however, he was playing Nimzovitch (grandmaster, author of "My System," and an original thinker who promulgated the theory of "blockade") who was quite capable of circumventing his own concept.

1... b4!; 2. axb4, Rxb4!; 3. gxb4, g3!; (undermining the defence of f2 and indirectly the bishop on e3!); 4. fxxg3, c3+; 5. bxc3, a3! (White will be powerless to prevent one of the Black pawns from queening) White resigns.

This week a study by B. Horwitz, 1873, with White to move and win. A little help from Richard II might not go amiss: "And humoured thus comes at last, and with a little pin bores through his castle-wall, and farewell King!"

