

CHESS NOTES by J.H.J.

Border battle not as clear as black and white

WHEN Hampshire and Dorset meet at Minstead in the New Forest, I can never be certain which is the home team as both sides are involved in more than a measure of travel.

After an interesting struggle, the first team managed a substantial 10-5 victory (with one game for adjudication — a probable loss). However, the second side were crushed 5-11.

As the second team actually outgraded Dorset by 32 points this was a particularly disappointing result: clearly very few of the team played at their full potential!

Details:

HAMPSHIRE 10, DORSET 5: 1. J. Corfield 1, S. J. Shutler (200) 0; 2. G. H. Bennett 1, R. M. Pegg (183) 0; 3. A. Fallor 1, M. J. Simons (-) 0; 4. M. L. Newbury ½, M. R. Charter (185) ½; 5. J. H. Jones 1, M. J. Freeman (196) 0; 6. S. Dean 0, S. C. E. Robinson (167) 1; 7. E. Godber ½, I. C. Clark (173) ½; 8. S. W. Knox 0, J. F. Catchpole (167) 1; 9. S. P. Pezet 0, M. J. Roth (166) 1; 10. E. Holland v. A. J. Pleasants (160) (a); 11. J. R. Poulton 1, M. P. Waddington (165) 0; 12. I. A. Stenhouse 1, R. Burton (155) 0; 13. J. R. Neil 1, T. E. Simms (159) 0; 14. J. Hopkins (, R. K. Lowen (154) 0; 15. T. I. Cowling 0, J. C. Rowley (154) 1; 16. P. Miller 1, H. D. Needham (151) 0.

HAMPSHIRE II 5, DORSET II 11: 1. K. Cornelius 0, D. K. Bevis (150) 1; 2. M. R. Baker ½, M. W. Adams (149) ½; 3. L. C. Walters 0, A. Millers (150) 1; 4. M. C. Hagan 0, J. F. Tilney-Bassett (144) 1; 5. P. C. Symington ½, P. Brackner (141) ½; 6. D. Culliford 1, J. Ounsted (133) 0; 7. D. F. Thompson 1, D. J. Cannings (133) 0; 8. J. M. D. Gould 0, S. A. Crane (122) 1; 9. P. J. Hebblethwaite ½, P. Foster (134) ½; 10. M. Connor 1, M. J. Sales (130) 0; 11. A. D. Smith ½, D. G. Rapkins (126) ½; 12. A. N. Mills 0, G. A. Hunwicks (126) 1; 13. S. D. LeFevre 0, M. G. Bond (125) 1; 14. H. Golding 0, A. D. Primett (125) 1; 16. J. Steward 0, W. J. Kelly (124) 1; 16. Q. Winch 0, C. Ambrose (108) 1.

Should you feel inclined to offer your services for the County, the match captain, Peter Marshall, can be reached on 0703-774464. Our next fixture is against Wiltshire today.

Last week I left you with 8/1p6/1kpp4/p2Pp2p/1PP1P2P/4K3/P7/8 and Black had just played 39. . . . a7-a5; and I asked you what should White try.

Bearing in mind White's parlous clock condition (only seconds remained to the time-control) he actually played 40. c5+, dxc5; 41. d6, cxb4; (oh, of course after 42. d7, Black simply plays Kc7), 42. Kd), c5; 43. Kc4, (White continues from sheer inertia) Kc6; 44. d7, Kxd7; 45. Kxc5, Ke6; (0:1).

So, what should White try?

40. bxa5+, Kxa5; 41. c5, dxc5; 42. d6, Kb6; 43. a4!, c5; 44. a5+, Kxa5; 45. d7, (1:0).

Black can improve his play with 40. bxa5+, Kc5; 41. dxc6, Kxc6; (After 41. . . . bxc6; 42. a3!, d5; 43. cxd5, cxd5; 44. exd5, Kxd5; 45. a6, Kc6; 46. Ke4 and White wins) 42. Kd3, Kc5; 43. Kc3, Kc6; 44. Kb4, Kd6; 45. Kb5, Kc7; 46. a3, Kc8; 47. Kb6, Kb8; 48. a6, bxa6; 49. Kcb, (1:0).

Then I further studied the position and came up with 40. bxa5+, Kxa5; 41. c5, cxd5! (threat dc+); 42. exd5, dxc5; 43. Ke4, Kb6; (if 43. . . . c4; 44. d6, Kb6; 45. Kxe5, c3; 46. Ke6, c2; 47. d7, c1=Q; — NOT Kc7??); 48. Ke7, c1=Q; 49. d8=Q+, Kc6; 50. Qc8+, — 48. d8=Q+ and this is drawn?); 44. Kxe5, Kc7; 45. d6+, Kd7; 46. Kd5, b6; (46. . . . c4; 47. Kxc4, Kxd6; 48. Kb5, Kc7; 49. Kc5 and White wins by capturing the h-pawn); 47. a3, Kd8; 48. Kc4, Kd7; 49. Kd5 with a draw by repetition.

Note that 48. Kc6?? loses for White after 48. . . . c4 as Black Queens and prevents White's pawn reaching that eighth rank.

I went on for a further 22 moves to determine that White wins if Black tries 47. . . . c4; as White maintains the opposition to force a break to either wing to capture each pawn in turn.

No wonder White failed to find the most active line: it was quite difficult without the pressure of tempus fugit!

For the Hampshire Individual — November 21, 22, 28, 29 — contact Iain Stenhouse, 48, Harefield Road, Southampton SO2 3TH. The entry fee is £3.75 but you must be a member of the County Association.