

Chess notes by J.H.J.

THIS WEEK a pot-pourri with pieces from local level through to the international scene.

John Wheeler, the P.D.L. Secretary, has notified me of the impending A.G.M. (the 41st.) which will be held at the IBM Chess Club, 1, Northern Road, Cosham, on Tuesday, September 15, starting at 7.30.

One of the interesting proposals on the agenda is to allow players to agree to play their League games at the Cole Cup rate, i.e. 30 moves in one hour each then a quick-play finish in an additional quarter-of-an-hour each. As this rule requires both players to agree to the conditions I see little objection to adding it to the existing rules. Still the membership may have different views.

Hampshire captain, Peter Marshall, has sent me details of the County fixtures for this season: September 19: Jamboree (Taunton); October 17: Cornwall (Exeter); October 31: Dorset (Minstead); November 14: Wiltshire (away); January 23: Devon (Yeovil?); February 20: Gloucestershire (away); March 12: Somerset (away); April 23: B.C.F. Quarter-Finals.

There are also two friendlies — September 26: Sussex (Southsea) with a grading limit of 160, and March 26 — Civil Service (London).

The jamborees are for teams of 12, while the friendlies will be contested over 16 boards. All other matches will consist of 32 boards.

A county side of average grade 125, with a limit of 140, can play in the grading jamboree.

If you would like to be considered for the A or B sides and are not on the current mailing list then simply contact Peter on Southampton (0703) 774464.

As The News Chess correspondent I was invited by the B.C.F. to name my Player of the Year. Forty-six other columnists were also polled.

My first choice was G. M. Short for his excellent tournament record and World top ten ranking.

In second spot I put G. M. Speelman mainly for his efforts on behalf of the English team and his British Championship title.

Thirdly I placed I. M. Kosten, for his results on the tournament circuit which gave him +55 rating points over the year.

Now that Player of the Year results are to hand I can reveal that Speelman was awarded the title after gaining 191 votes to Short's 187. Chandler (64), Flear (51) and Adams (40), along with others trailed some way behind the "big two."

A word of advice. If you play the Sicilian, don't try it against Short.

White: Short, Black: Velikov (played in the German League): 1, e4, c5; 2, Nf3, e6; 3, d4, cxd4; 4, Nxd4, a6; 5, Bd3, Bc5; 6, Nb3, Ba7; 7, Qe2, Nc6; 8, Be3, Bxc3; 9, Qxc3, Nf6; 10, Nc3, d6; 11, 0-0-0, 0-0; 12, F4, Qc7; 13, g4!, Nxc4; 14, Qg3, Nf6; 15, Rhg1, Ne8; 16, Kbl, Ne7; 17, Nd4, Qc5; 18, Nf3, f6; 19, e5, dxe5; 20, fxe5, f5; 21, Qh4, Qc7; 22, Be4, h6; 23, Qxh6!, Qxc4; 24, Rxc7+, Nxc7; 25, Ng5, Re8; 26, Rg1, Qd4; 27, Qh7+, Kf8; 28, Nxc6!, Nxe6; 29, Qh6+, Resigns (1:0).

Young masters

A STRONG Hampshire contingent competed in the British Chess Championships at Swansea, collecting one title, and scoring a couple of near misses.

In addition to the under-13 title won by James Poulton, of Fareham, Edward Holland, of Waterlooville nearly gained the under-16 crown.

He led the field, winning his first five games, before dropping the last two. His score of five points from seven games was shared by David Neil, of Eastleigh.

Near miss

Neil Lusher, of Fareham came within a whisker of victory in the under-nine category, but also ended with five out of seven.

Peter Wells, of Portsmouth and Oxford University achieved seven out of 11 in the main Championship, and Philip Rossiter, of Denmead scored five/four in the same event.

Other results: Major Open: Mark Walker, of Botley, six out of 11. Under-18: Lorian Cunningham, of Portsmouth, three/four out of 11. Under-16: James Poulton, four out of seven; Kelly Frisby, of Portsmouth, three. Under-15: Edward Holland, four/four out of seven; Kelly Frisby, two/four. Under-14: Anthony Wells, of Portsmouth, two out of seven. Under-13: Adam Chandler, of Fareham, three/four out of seven; Anthony Wells, three; Adam Crocker, of Portsmouth, two/four; Emilia Holland, of Waterlooville, two/four. Under-12: Adam Crocker, four out of seven; Emilia Holland, three/four; Claire Lusher, of Fareham, three/four; Neil Lusher, three; Matthew Crocker, of Portsmouth, two/four. Under-11: Christopher Blake, of Chandlers Ford, four/four out of seven; Matthew Crocker, three.