

Chess notes by J.H.J.

GAMES played in the local league don't often exceed 30 moves (a subsequent column will deal with the issue of the rate of play at which time the majority of those still unresolved will be sent for adjudication).

In the lower divisions (three through five) an incomplete game may only be continued with the prior agreement of both players and, as the norm is adjudication, very few games are actually played to a finish.

Divisions I and II operate a slightly different system. A player may insist on playing on, but loses the right of venue should his opponent have opted for adjudication. So a player who wants to play out all his games to a finish must be prepared to visit the opposition club . . . a lot! Or complete his games by move 30 . . . a near impossibility.

I would like to see playing-on become the standard as it gives additional match practice (late middle-game and end-game) that would advantage chess at county level (where the rate of play is 42 moves / 1¼ hours) or congress (county rate then a quick-play finish) and ultimately reflect ability accurately within the grading system (grades based on honest toil rather than gratuitous intervention of the adjudicator).

My suggestion would be to treat a home match as such for the duration of the match. Players could still opt for adjudication (the match captains ascertain this before exchanging team sheets!) and, should both require this, then it happens, otherwise a game is played to a finish.

Almost overnight adjudications would become a minority interest and hopefully chess would benefit. Remember I issued a slogan in an earlier column, it applies equally here.

More chess, not less!

Played in round three of the recent B.C.F. tourna-

ment at Southampton.

White, J. Monk (Fareham); Black, R. Marsh (Gosport).

1, e4, c6; 2, d4, d5; 3, e5, Bf5; 4, h4, (4, Nc3) h5; 5, Bd3 (N!), Bxd3; 6, Qxd3, e6; 7, Ne2, (7, Nf3) c5; 8, c3, Nc6; 9, Nd2, Nh6(!); 10, Ng3, g6; 11, Nf3, Nf5; 12, Nxf5, gxf5; 13, Bg5, Qb6; 14, OOO (This looks very risky. 14 OO! the QNP is not really loose because of 15, Rfb1 with attack) a5; (with obvious attacking intent) 15, Qe2, (15, Rhe1) a4; 16, Bf6, (16, Rd2) Rh6!; (watch this rook!) 17, Qe3, (White is drifting without a play) c4; 18, a3, Ra5; 19, Rd2, Rb5; 20, Rc2, Rg6; 21, Rh2, (21, Rg1) Rg4; (better to increase the pressure. 21 . . . , Bxa3 probably wins but would give White too much hope) 22, Ng5, Rb3!; (one threat is Bxa3 and Rxa3 and "a" pawn = queen but a less obvious threat decides this issue) 23, f3?, Rxd4!; 24, Nh7??, (as good a way to resign as any) Rd1+; (0:1).

You may have noticed indirect references to the P.D.L. Individual Championship in a previous column when I noted the unsubstantiated result. Now I can reveal all the outstanding matches.

Round 3: Maund 1, Russell 0.

Round 5: Default 0, Gregory 1; Storr-Best 1, Baker 0; Bloxson 1, Default 0; Maund 0, Puchades 1; Wood 1, Default 0; Laxton 1, Cochran 0.

This leads to the final standings: champion — K. D. F. Gregory (5/5); 2, R. H. Storr-Best (4); 3, M. Jones, R. V. Puchades, D. A. Bloxson (3); 6, B. K. Maund (2½); 7, M. R. Baker, J. B. S. Cairns, W. Laxton, C. Wood (2); 11, S. J. Russell (1½); 12, B. V. Cochran (0).

Keith Gregory retained his title in good style (the last round default was academic) and completed this second season (at last!) with a clean score.