

CHESS NOTES BY J.H.J.

HAMPSHIRE'S challenge to qualify for the National play-offs never materialised when they met Gloucestershire at Frome in the final county match of the season. Although both teams were about the same strength (according to the B.C.F. grading scheme), Hampshire failed to realise their potential and finally went down in both matches: the first team by 10-5 (with one adjudication which, at best, is a draw); the second by 6½-7½ (and the two unfinished games offer no more than draws).

Local players only scored 3½/13 and Hampshire had White on the event boards. 1, P. J. Rossiter ½, A. J. Mordue ½; 5, A. F. Brameld ½, S. D. Dilleigh ½; 7, R. C. Noyce ½, C. J. A. Jones ½; 8, J. H. Jones ½, C. Copeland ½; 9, S. Dean 0, A. Easton 1; 11, M. L. Newbury ½, S. R. Clark ½; 12, A. D. Crossin 0, M. E. Burn 1; 13, S. P. Pezet v. P. J. Meade (a); 14, D. A. Evans, I. E. Newman 0; 19, W. H. Silber 0, J. J. Carr 1; 22, M. R. Baker 0, R. J. Dixon 1; 24, A. D. Williams v. S. W. Maggs (a); 27, M. L. Hagan 0, J. Knight 1.

The local League Secretary, John Wheeler (IBM), plays county chess for Devon! He notes that since Devon beat Dorset 10-6 and 11-5 (while we were losing) they win both sections of the W.E.C.U. County Championship and along with Gloucestershire (the runners-up in both sections) they will represent the West of England in the final stages of the this year's National competition. Good luck, John!

Last week's position was 8: 3p3B; 1n2P2r; 8: 8; 7k; R4P2; 7K, with White to move and win.

1. e7? (insufficient would be 1. Bf5+, Kh4; (2. e7, Rh8); 2. exd7, Kg5+; 3. Kg2, Rd6! and Black draws) Kg4+! (if instead 1. Re6; then the first fork 2. Bf5+ would seal Black's fate); 2. Kg2, Re6; (now White must find a way to close the e-file); 3. Re2!, Rxe2; 4. Be4!, Rxe4; 5. B+ (Carroll's advice was to "hunt it with forks and hope" and here the Black King and Rook have been fixed onto the lines of the White pawn). White wins.

DIVISION I

PORTSMOUTH B 1½, MANGLERS A 2½; 1, A. Daley ½, K. D. F. Gregory ½; 2, S. Kent v. D. Hannam (u); 3, F. v. Adam-Ali 0, E. N. Holland 1; 4, B. Sweeney ½, M. Fowler ½; 5, L. Cunningham ½, K. J. Frisby ½; 6, B. K. Maund v. R. Davies (u). The result of this match should resolve the relegation battle.

DIVISION II

PLESSEY ½, IBM A 3½; 1, D. W. Pownall 0, J. G. Nicholson 1; 2, P. A. Rayment v. W. M. McDougall (u); 3, D. G. Foale 0, J. F. Wheeler 1; 4, C. Wood v. R. E. Hartley (u); 5, A. C. Rodger ½,

B. S. Pratt ½; 6, J. B. S. Cairns 0, P. J. Burns 1.

IBM B 2½, LEIGH PARK A 3½; 1, J. M. Morris ½, A. J. Peters ½; 2, S. J. Smith 1, N. G. LeFevre 0; 3, M. J. Jones 0, S. D. LeFevre 1; 4, S. Prince 1, J. Mortlock 0; 5, A. J. Ball 0, R. Smith 1; 6, R. G. J. Hillier 0, J. Gatt 1.

FAREHAM B 1½, COSHAM B 1½; 1, J. Poulton v. A. D. Crossin (u); 2, T. A. Wykes ½, G. Train ½; 3, D. Coates v. M. R. Baker (u); 4, A. D. Harris v. A. D. Smith (u); 5, J. Monk 1, G. F. Abercrombie 0; 6, C. Fairall 0, A. F. Langley 1.

DIVISION III

Fareham C beat Portsmouth D 3½-2½ after the B.C.F. adjudication panel handed down the result 1, J. C. Monk 0, F. S. Adam-Ali 1.

DIVISION IV

Emsworth A ran out 4½-1½ winners over Gosport C after the B.C.F. panel gave the decision 6, A. Whitehead ½, R. Strong ½. I understand that Gosport are not satisfied with the standard of adjudications (and not simply the results handed down to their own club) and may well launch an appeal. It strikes me that the name of the adjudicator should be appended to each result returned from the panel so that in subsequent seasons a League could ask for an "adjudicator," who consistently hands down contentious decisions to be removed from the panel. A similar type of "assessment" occurs in the Football League where clubs give the referee a rating for his "handling" of the match and the management are at pains to regrade "poor" performers. Doubtless our own League should consider if any action is required providing that there is sufficient feeling generated by the "problem."

This week a position by A. A. Trotsky, 1897, in which White has a material superiority that appears to be offset by Black's threat to play ... g2; however, it is White to move, but what will the result be?

White to move

