

CHESS NOTES by J.H.J.

THE P.D.L. has one rule that covers the promotion and relegation of teams within the various divisions.

In essence it states that the winner may have the right to be promoted and the bottom team be relegated. Usually this system of one up and one down has worked well although the occasional team has argued against promotion when they have lost their strongest players.

Notwithstanding the occasional slight resistance the principle of promotion (and relegation) is accepted as a standard. However, to my mind this does not go far enough! I would like to see two teams promoted (relegated) so as to improve the mix within the divisions.

In seasons 1984-85 and 1985-86 Gosport A vigorously claimed the fifth spot in Division I and avoided relegation (in 1985-86) only on games average over IBM A. They were clearly depriving another team of a 'better' standard of chess.

In season 1983-84 Portsmouth C were relegated to Division III. They then won Division III (1984-85) and again were relegated in 1985-86. This had the effect of keeping Plessey and Fareham C a division too low.

As a result of various reorganizations in 1984-85 the six Divisions League was changed into five divisions. Petersfield A and Plessey were placed in Division IV and they ended in first and second place respectively.

Normally only Petersfield A would have been promoted, but, due to the withdrawal of Co-op from the league at the end of the season, both teams advanced to Division II in 1985-86!

So, because of an artificial situation of two up, Plessey advanced from Division IV to Division II in successive seasons when otherwise they might have spent one or more additional years vying for promotion.

Averaging the seasons 1981-82 through 1985-86 the runner up in each division has been over a match ahead (2.35 points) of third place while fifth place has been about the same (2.17) adrift of fourth place. This season the second placed teams have the following advantage (statistics correct at time of going to press): Division II, Fareham B (+8); Division III, Petersfield A (+3); Division IV, Emsworth A (+3) and Division V, Emsworth B (-1) but only five teams in this Division. For teams placed fifth the situation is not quite so clear: Division I, Manglers A (-2); Division II, IBM B (-2); Division III, Portsmouth D (-3) and Division IV, Fareham D (-1).

Finally two up and two down has the effect of rewarding the improving clubs who have not necessarily enlarged membership, rather an influx of strong(er) players. Nobody really believes that in the League there are 13 teams stronger than, say, Petersfield A or 18 teams stronger than Paulsgrove A and Emsworth A. Nevertheless these A teams languish in Divisions II and IV and under the present system may remain so unjustly.

DIVISION II

IBM A 5, COSHAM B 1: 1, J. G. Nicholson 1, A. D. Crossin 0; 2, J. E. Wheeler 1, G. Train 0; 3, R. E. Hartley 1, G. F. Abercrombie 0; 4, P. J. Burns 1, A. D. Smith 0; 5, B. S. Pratt 0, A. F. Langley 1; 6, G. D. Jefftha 1, G. F. Yates 0.

FAREHAM B 5, IBM B 1: 1, M. M. Street ½, S. J. Smith ½; 2, J. R. Poulton 1, S. Prince 0; 3, D. W. Coates 1, A. J. R. Wilkinson 0; 4, T. A. Wykes 1, A. J. Ball 0; 5, A. F. Stroud 1, H. Ali 0; 6, Chandler ½, M. Passant ½.

PLESSEY 2, LEIGH PARK A 4: 1, P. A. Rayment 0, A. J. Peters 1; 2, A. T. F. Williams 0, N. G. LeFevre 1; 3, D. G. Foale 0, S. D. LeFevre 1; 4, C. Wood 1, J. N. Mortlock 0; 5, J. B. S. Carns 0, S. J. Scott 1; 6, P. Maddocks 1, R. Smith 0.

IBM A are the Divisional Champions and gain promotion to Division I. Congratulations!

This was quite a well contested struggle with Fareham B looking likely candidates for promotion for much of the season. Surely the deciding factor was the top board for IBM (J. Nicholson) graded at 214 (?) and ranked 68th nationally. There should be quite a tussle in Division I next year for the P.D.L. League championship!

Division II

	P	W	D	G	Pt
IBM A	10	9	0	45½	18
Fareham B	10	3	1	38	17
Leigh Park A	10	4	1	25½	9
Cosham B	10	2	3	25½	7
IBM B	10	2	1	23	5
Plessey	10	2	0	22½	4

Note also IBM's high games average which indicates that they were winning matches at the rate of 4½-1½.

Plessey, who were promoted last season, found the going just too tough although, as can be seen, they only had to win one more match to consolidate their position in the division.