

IT IS with deep sadness that I report that John Grant (71) died peacefully last Monday after he had been confined to his bed for some weeks.

John was a real servant of chess from club throughout national level, although regular readers might only know him as "Mr. Chess Notes."

At the Fareham Club, which he joined in 1951, he was secretary and treasurer from 1952 through 1985 but he managed a few years off in the mid-60s to serve as president (1962/3/4). No mean player he won the Club Championship in 1956, 1964, and 1966 in the eras of Harry Golombek and Wilf Pratten.

John served the P.D.L. as secretary and treasurer from 1952, at a time when there was only a single division, till 1962. At that time three divisions were formed, his previous post split, and he continued as treasurer until 1986. When no controller could be found for the P.D.L. Individual Championship John, naturally, filled the gap (1983/4/5). In 1984 he won the Ruth Rose Cup (the over 60s Cup) and was "tickled pink!"

For Hampshire, John was also tireless: 23 years as secretary (1962-1985). And, in 1986, when no treasurer could be found — yes you know! — John again volunteered.

When Hampshire left the S.C.C.U. on a point of principle about playing all county matches in London the West of England gained a new county and a new treasurer. John served from 1972-1982.

I recall my first league game against him (was it only 25 years ago?) I could hardly claim to be a "wunderkind," although I had a string of wins (mainly in the lower division) which he well knew, as, even at that time, he edited this very column! He made some apt appreciative comment before the game (which doubtless encouraged me to win) and afterwards was equally kind about my play. As much as anything this genuine enthusiasm and total lack of side typified the man.

I will miss him, many will miss him, few will forget him.

## HAMPSHIRE LEAGUE

Brian Cochran who is the controller of this competition has provided this latest batch of results.

**DIVISION I:** Portsmouth A 1,

Basingstoke A 4; University 4½, Legg A ½; Southampton A 1½, I.B.M. 3½; I.B.M. ½, Portsmouth A 4½.

1, K. D. F. Gregory 0, G. Oswald 1; 2, J. F. Wheeler 0, D. Spurgeon 1; 3, R. E. Hartley 0, M. C. Hagan 1; 4, A. Ball ½, P. G. Smith ½; 5, G. D. Jefftha 0, F. S. Adam All 1.

Southampton A 2½, Legg A 2½; Southampton A 2, Basingstoke A 3; Legg A 2, I.B.M. 3.

	P	W	D	G	Pt
Basingstoke A	5	5	0	19½	10
University	4	4	0	17	8
I.B.M.	6	3	0	11	6
Portsmouth A	5	2	0	10	4
Legg A	5	1	1	13½	7
Southampton A	6	0	1	9	1

Brian notes that the position of Southampton A (the runaway winners of Division II last season) clearly reflects the difference in standard between the divisions.

### DIVISION II: Portsmouth B ½, Leigh Park 4½

1, P. G. Smith ½, A. J. Peters ½, 2, S. Cragg 0, G. Bailey 0, 3, D. Jeffers 0, 1, N. Mottack 1, 4, J. Stenzel 0, 5, Scott 1, 5, R. Prince 0, J. Serlon 1.

Southampton B ½, Salisbury 4½, Legg B 0, Basingstoke B 5, Leigh Park 4, Legg B 1, Basingstoke 4, Southampton B 1, Southampton B 5½, Portsmouth B 1½.

	P	W	D	G	Pt
Salisbury	4	4	0	18½	8
Basingstoke B	5	4	0	17	8
Southampton B	6	3	0	15	6
Portsmouth B	5	2	0	12	4
Leigh Park	5	2	0	11	4
Legg B	5	0	0	17½	0

J. French of the Basingstoke Club notes that they have recently gained quite a few new members of high grade and expresses the hope that their club might lift both divisional trophies this season.

As last week's column suffered a slight glitch I will repeat the details relating to the study.

Most players know that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. However, G. M. Richard Bell confounds us with the unusual geometry of the chessboard in this study composed in 1929. It is White to move and draw.

