



St John's College Lose County Title

ST John's College have lost their title of under-15 champions of Hampshire, and the Spedan-Lewis Trophy has this year gone to King Edward VI College, Southampton.

but lost the return match at Southsea.

Full scores were:

First match: King Edward VI 2½—St John's 2½ (M. Bauchop 1, A. Lakin 0; A. Newman 0, M. Rice 1; R. Wright 0, C. Leake 1; K. Evans 1, B. O'Brien 0; R. Hirschfeld ½, K. Taylor ½).

Second match: St John's College 1, King Edward VI 4 (A. Lakin 0, M. Bauchop 1; M. Rice 0, A. Newman 1; C. Leake 0, R. Wright

1; L. Galloway 1, K. Evans 0; K. Taylor 0, R. Hirschfeld 1).

FRIENDLY MATCH

Vosper Sports and Social Club's new Chess Section were completely overwhelmed by De Havillands in a friendly match and could only manage half a point from eight boards. Nothing daunted, an immediate challenge was issued for a return match to be played at De Havilland's Clubroom.

Details: Vosper ½, De Havillands 7½ (J. Grant ½, B. Smith ½; C. Brading 0, L. Langley 1; A. Pullan 0, R. Ralls 1; R. Hughes 0, M. Woods 1; H. Goldsmith 0, W. Prior 1; A. Palmer 0, S. Harris 1; L. G. Ancell 0, R. Feasey 1; A. Lynton 0, D. Walker 1).

COUNTY POSTAL CHESS

According to the latest bulletin received from the conductor of the County and District Correspondence Chess Championship, Hampshire's first team is now in equal 7th/8th place in Division I with seven points from 18 games. This being our first season in the top division, our performance can be considered very satisfactory.

Hampshire's second team are not doing quite so well and now lie in 19th place with 6½ points from 16 games.

Famous Hampshire Chess Players

by W. W. Rose (Cosham)

No. 1: H. E. BIRD

Henry Edward Bird was born at Portsmouth and learned chess at the age of ten. At 16 he was a regular visitor at the Divan in the Strand, London, where the strongest players in England, as well as foreign masters, used to congregate.

Bird played anybody at level terms or at odds, and from 1847 was regarded as a master player. He took part in the first international tournament ever held in England (London, 1851). This was a knock-out tourney and Bird was knocked out in the first round, 4-2½, by Horwitz.

Bird played many matches including a drawn match with Falkbeer in 1857 and ten years later he played an evenly contested match with the world champion Steinitz. Result: Steinitz 7—Bird 6, with 6 drawn games.

Bird was a very quick player, his style was brilliant, and he gained the reputation for originality, waywardness and eccentricity.

Being reluctant to draw games, he was seldom among the prize-winners in the many international masters' tournaments in which he competed, but often defeated the strongest players in individual games.

In 1896 he lost 9-4 in a match against Lasker who is considered by many to have been the greatest chess player the world has ever known.

Bird's best results were: Hereford, 1885 2nd and 3rd (11 players); London, 1889, 2nd and 3rd (16 players); London, 1889, 1st (11 players).

He popularized an opening which now bears his name (Bird's Opening), and contributed to chess literature by writing six books. He died in 1908.