

Sharp Defeats in League Contests

PLAY in the team competitions of the Portsmouth and District Chess League has now commenced, and the first results to come in show sharp defeats for De Havilland "B" and St Johns "B," by Gosport "B" and Fareham "C" respectively.

In the Schools Section, Purbrook Par.'s first taste of competition play has been somewhat bitter—all three of their teams have been decisively beaten during the first week. They have, no doubt, learned something from their experience, if only that this competitive chess is a very serious business, indeed, and they will undoubtedly show improved results.

Technical High (another newcomer), on the other hand, are probably feeling a little overconfident, and judgment of their prowess must be reserved until they meet some of the "veterans."

RESULTS

Senior Section—Division 3: De Havilland "B" 0, Gosport "B" 5. (S. Harris 0, H. W. Tripp 1; K. Lawrence 0, J. Hardcastle 1; J. Simmonds 0, P. Bennett 1; D. Walker 0, A. Ferrier 1; J. Taylor 0. Mrs. L. Clear 1).

St John's "B" 1, Fareham "C" 4. (A. Clark 0, R. Tyack 1; P. Miller 0, C. Brading 1; C. Moore 1, D. A. Bloxam 0; C. Dawes 0, R. Hughes 1; A. Lakin 0, B. Keen 1).

Schools Section—Division 1 (Section "A"): Prices "A" 5, Purbrook "A" 0. (H. Curtis 1, A. Leadbetter 0; R. Tyack 1, S. Rook 0; B. Keen 1, R. Warren 0; C. Gay 1, D. Thomas 0; A. Barkhuysen 1, K. Firth 0).

Schools Section—Division 1 (Section "B"): Technical High "A" 4, Purbrook "B" 1. (L. Hill 0, A. Renouf 1; E. Gander 1, N. Walker 0; G. Arnold 1, G. Marsh 0; M. Poling 1, B. Hirst 0; R. Tringham 1, H. Norwood 0).

Schools Section—Division 2: Technical High "B" 4, Purbrook "C" 1. (P. Bugden 0, D. Nicholson 1; C. Davis 1, A. Jervis 0; J. Brindle 1,

R. Francis 0; J. Robertson 1, M. Grant 0; R. Bowyer 1, R. Lintott 0).

First round results so far received in the League Individual Tournament are Moir 0, Grant 1; Brameld ½, March ½; Lee 0, Jones 1; La Lond 1, Hollington 0; Smith (H.) 0, Poynton 1; Adams ½, Potter ½; Crossin 0, Collins 1.

NATIONAL SCHOOLS TOURNAMENT

Portsmouth Grammar School made a very good start in the first round of the National Schools Knock-out tournament, beating Tauntons School, Southampton by 3½—2½. The margin was greater than it appears at first sight, as Tauntons were an age group higher, and even had the score been 3—3, Portsmouth Grammar would have still won on handicap.

This win is interesting as a further indication that our schools are wresting the initiative from those of Southampton, which for a long time has been the stronghold of junior chess.

Full scores (Portsmouth Grammar names first): P. M. Collins 1, R. Peto 0; P. Mihalop 0, H. Thornton 1; T. Moore ½, D. Otto ½; D. Watkins 1, D. Saunders 0; I. Mansell 1, A. N. Other 0; C. Goble 0, R. Bailey 1.

Chess Problem. The solution to last week's "2 mover" composed by C. F. Way was Q—KR5 (complete block with added note 1...P—K4, 2Q—B7 mate). Two good tries are 1.R—N6 (defeated by 1...P—R4) and 1.Q—KN5 (defeated by 1...P—Q7).

We have this week a position which occurred in actual play a few years ago. Your League Secretary was playing with Black pieces in a match, the score standing at 2—all with only his game unfinished.

Having probably read somewhere that it was always good to double rooks on a file, he played ...R(2)—QN2. A groan immediately went up from the usual crowd of watchers and the League Secretary was still wondering what he had missed when he lost the game some 20 moves later.

Incidentally, White's reply to Black's move above was R—Q2, which gives a clue to what Black should have done to win the game out of hand.

