



# Fareham Man Tops the Grading List

**W. H. PRATTEN** (4a), of Fareham Chess Club, heads the 1961 Hampshire Grading List that has recently been published and in which 190 players are rated.

Other local players in the list (down to 9b) are:—

5a, Dr. A. J. Pointon (Portsmouth).  
 9b, P. T. Cartmell (Fareham), G. L. Comben (Portsmouth), T. de Buriatte (Fareham), N. C. Taylor (Fareham) and C. F. Way (Cosham).

6b, M. J. Dymond (Portsmouth), R. L. Paige (Cosham), Cmdr. A. J. Peters (Hayling Island) and Dr. B. G. Wells (Portsmouth).

7a, A. F. Brameld (R.N.P.L.) and G. Richardson (Cosham).

7b, Lieut. B. K. Butler (Portsmouth), B. S. Carter (Comm. Ctr.), A. Hayes (Comm. Ctr.), W. Makar (Portsmouth), W. C. Martin (Fareham), S. C. Noke (Cosham).

8a, R. Carter (Comm. Ctr.), A. D. Crossin (Cosham), W. J. Eaton (R.N.P.L.), J. H. Jones (Gosport), A. S. La Lond (Fareham), R. I. Reas (Comm. Ctr.), E. Taylor (R.N.P.L.) and L. West (Comm. Ctr.).

8b, P. M. Collins (Ports. Grammar), A. J. Evans (Fareham), J. E. C. Grant (Fareham), T. E. Hollington (Cosham), M. March (Portsmouth), J. P. Price (Portsmouth) and J. F. Watson (Ports. Grammar).

9a, H. C. Bailey (Portsmouth), G. W. S. Goggin (Fareham), D. M. Heywood (Portsmouth) and F. Johnson (Fareham).

9b, S. F. Adams (Comm. Ctr.), C. J. Campion (Portsmouth), P. J. Colson (R.N.P.L.), R. W. Davis (Comm. Ctr.), A. F. Garner (Fareham), E. G. Potter (Fareham), H. W. Tripp (R.N.P.L.), and R. J. Tyack (Fareham).

The annual meeting of the Hampshire Chess Association is being held at Prospect House, Above Bar, Southampton, on Saturday, July 1 (3 p.m.).

A number of important matters are coming up for discussion and it is hoped that the meeting will be well attended by players from Portsmouth and district.

## PORTSMOUTH LEAGUE

The final scores and placings in the 1960/61 Individual Championship Tournament of the Portsmouth and District Chess League were as follows:—

1 (with 6½ pt.), Dr. A. J. Pointon (Portsmouth); equal 2 (with 6 pt.), Dr. B. G. Wells (Portsmouth) and G. Richardson (Cosham); equal 4 (with 5½ pt.), R. L. Paige (Cosham), M. March (Portsmouth), and P. M. Collins (Ports. Grammar); equal 7 (5 pt.) J. H. Jones (Gosport) and A. J. Evans (Fareham); equal 9 (4½ pt.) J. F. Watson (Ports. Grammar), T. E. Hollington (Cosham) and A. F. Brameld (Gosport); equal 12 (3½ pt.), J. P. Price (Portsmouth), S. F. Adams (Comm. Ctr.), A. D. Crossin (Cosham), D. A. Blossom

(Fareham), H. C. Smith (Cosham) and D. M. Heywood (Portsmouth); equal 14 (3 pt.), J. E. Smith (Portsmouth) and J. E. C. Grant (Fareham); 20 (2½ pt.), G. W. Farmer (Fareham); equal 21 (2 pt.), H. R. Moir (Fareham) and A. S. La Lond (Fareham); 23 (1 pt.), V. Lee (unattached).

## FRIENDLY MATCH

The result of the return match between De Havilland Sports Club and Vosper Sports and Social Club was a win by the ship builders by 5 games to 3.

Detailed scores (De Havilland first named):—B. Smith 0, J. Grant 1; L. Langley 0, A. Pullan 1; S. Harris 0, C. Brading 1; R. Rails 1, S. Jenkins 0; R. Feasey 0, A. Lynton 1; D. Walker 0, H. Goldsmith 1; R. Richards 1, A. Palmer 0; B. Davies 1, H. Cole.

Vosper thus avenged their previous ½-7½ defeat.

## Famous Hampshire Chess Players

BY W. W. ROSE (Cosham)

### NO. 2 J. H. BLAKE

Joseph Henry Blake was born at Farnborough in 1859. The family moved shortly afterwards to Southampton, where he lived until 1905. He died in 1951 in his 94th year.

He learned chess at the age of 16 by quickly mastering the principles from Staunton's "Handbook"—not an easy way of learning chess, judging by 20th Century methods of teaching. Within a year or two from beginning his chess studies, he was regarded as one of the strongest players of the Southampton Chess Club, to which he then belonged and with which he was associated for many years.

He played in his first tournament outside club chess in 1881, tying for first and second prizes in the second class section of the Leamington Chess Congress of the Counties Chess Association. He competed annually in these congresses until they were abandoned in 1893.

Playing in the highest class, his best successes were at Stamford 1887 when he won from Fird, Thorold, Loeck, Mills and MacDonald and in 1892, when he won the Association's Trophy outright.

In the Southern Counties Tournament at Salisbury 1896 he tied first and second with Ward, and at Folkestone 1901 (Kent C.C.A.) he tied first and second with Atkins.

He first competed in the British Championship in 1907 finishing fifth. Competing regularly in this Tournament thereafter with varying success, he tied with Atkins for championship honours in 1909 but he never succeeded in winning the championship outright.

In the early years of the century, he lived at Surbiton and was therefore able to compete frequently in London tournaments and matches.

He won the Championship of the City of London and played top board for the Metropolitan Chess Club. He also competed in the annual Anglo-American Cable matches.

He never forsook Hampshire and played top board for the County throughout his career.

His greatest tournament success was probably Weston-Super-Mare 1922. He won the tournament outright ahead of the International Masters—Maroczy, Kostich and Yates. The same year he won the British Correspondence Chess Championship.