NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION

BULLETIN

NUMBER 10 : JANUARY 1984

COUNTY TEAM NEWS

FIRST TEAM David Holmes has little to report this time...

No county first team news this month, the match scheduled for December 10th versus Lincolnshire was defaulted by our opponents (plenty of notice was given) resulting in a 20-0 win for Notts. The next match is on January 21st versus Leicestershire. This is always the crucial match in the East Midlands zone and it is hoped that a strong Notts. team will be on display to avenge last year's defeat.

SECOND TEAM Three miscreants conceded draws as the second team defeated Lincolnshire by 18½-1½ on January 14th. In order to qualify to meet the winners of the West Midlands zone in the next stage of the second team tournament, it is now necessary to beat Northants. on February 4th in the final match in the East Midlands zone. Full reports on the Lincolnshire and Northants. matches will appear in next month's bulletin.

SPECIAL EVENTS David Holmes reports that the

COUNTY INDIVIDUAL LIGHTNING CHAMPIONSHIPS will be held at Gambit Chess Club on Tuesday 27th March commencing at 7:30p.m. The competition will be a six round Swiss but, unfortunately for lovers of modern technology, the (in)famous Alan Dean Swiss pairing computer program will not be on hand to do the draw. In case of this event clashing with league matches, Ron Stevenson, the league controller, has indicated that teams can apply to him for postponements.

UNDER-16/UNDER-18 CHAMPIONSHIPS Jenny Waddingham informs me that these events will take place at the Lenton Community Centre, Willoughby Street, Lenton, on Sunday, March 4th. Entries to Mrs. Waddingham, from whom further details can also be obtained. Last year the entries for these events was disappointing, and the time and energy of the people involved would be better rewarded if there were an increase in numbers this time round. Please work on it!

CHANGES OF ADDRESS

John Tassi, captain of Bulwell A, has moved to:

Paul Hare, whose address I was unable to give in the list of officers of the N.C.A. last month, sought me out to inform me that it was:

And would contributors to this publication, and anyone who is likely to encounter the Students II team, please note that I too have moved:

MIDLAND INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Last year this event was held, highly successfully, at the Derby Assembly Rooms. The experiment is being repeated this year from the 17th to the 19th of February. Neil Graham informs me that entries are, at present, disappointingly low, and asks that anyone interested in competing should hurry to help raise the numbers. Aspiring stars should note that the winner of the Individual tournament qualifies for a place in the 1984 British Championships...

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Just before Christmas Chris Dunworth, Steve Woodhouse (both West Bridgford) and your Editor travelled to London for the annual Islington Congress. Here, Chris Dunworth reports on the Open section:

The 19th Islington Open (16th-18th December) attracted about 120 entrants, of which about one-third entered on the night. More prominent participants included GMs Tony Miles, Vlastmil Hort, Forintos, and Dmitri Gurevich; IMs Mark Hebden, Ian Rogers, and Paul Littlewcod; IWGM Jana Miles and many more players with grades over 200. It is hardly surprising that it is called the strongest weekend tournament in Britain, although the venue left a lot to be desired. The prize money probably attracted a lot of the players, with prizes of £400, £200, £100 etc. However Tony Miles had a dual purpose for playing; firstly to win it, and secondly to score 6/6 in this last congress in the Leigh Grand Prix circuit and thereby win the Grand Prix. In the event, by conceding a draw to Tony Kosten, Miles "only" managed 5½/6, leaving Jim Plaskett to pick up the £2000 Grand Prix.

To give a better indication of the strength, in the first round I was paired against Pete Large on board 18! My play was sadly lacking and I lost rather quickly. However there were words of consolation from Keith Arkell who said that it was best to draw or lose in the first round "to get into the fishtank". In his first round game Arkell was black against Singh. They were both in time trouble and Arkell was drawing a rook versus queen ending due to perpetual check, but he wanted to win. He did manage to win because he gave a discovered check which his opponent did not see, and next move Arkell took Singh's queen claiming the game, all of which I am told has been legitimate since the beginning of this season. Singh appealed, but his claim was rejected. One of the surprises of this round was that 15-year old Phillip Rossiter beat the 212-graded Michael Pagden of Cambridge University.

In the second round I managed to beat a London junior;

The losing blunder, 17...g6 is forced when white plays Qf3 or h4.

Whit	e: C.N. Dunworth	Blac	k: R.J. Nash
1.	e4 c5	18.	Qh3 g6
2.	Nf3 Nc6	19.	
3.	c3 d5	20.	
4.	exd Qxd5		The point of move 19. Now if 20Bg7
5.	d4 e6		21. Ng5 is final, or if 20Bxe5
6.	Be2		21. dxe with a BIG plus.
	6. Na3 may be better	20.	Be7
6.	Nf6	21.	Nxf7 Kxf7
7.	0-0 Be7		If 21e5 22. Nxd8 Bxh3 23. Nxb7
8.	Be3 cxd	22.	
9.	cxd	23.	Rxc8 Bxc8
	9. Nxd4 is an interesting attempt		If 23Qxc8 24. Ng5 Bxg5 25. Bxg6 mates
	to take control of d5 by freeing	24.	a3 Nd5
	f3 for the bishop	25,	
9.	0-0		Black is all tied up, especially with
10.	Nc3 Qd8		two passed pawns on g2 and h2.
11.	Rac1?	25.	Bf6
	11. a3 is white's best move	26.	Ba2
	because of		Threatening to win a piece
11.	··· Nb4	26.	Bxd4?
12.	Ne5		26Be7 is a better alternative when
	One consolation		27. Rd1 Qc7 28. g3 is winning
12.	Nbd5	27.	Ng5 Qd7
13.	Bd3 a6	28.	Re1 Nf4?
14.	Bb1 Re8		Black was in severe time trouble. In
15.	Qd2		fact he is threatening 29Bxf2ch with
	For psychological reasons		a queen check on d2 or he can chop the
15.	Bd7		rook. But
16.	Bg5 Rc8	29.	Nh7ch Ke7
	If 16Nxc3 17. bxc Ne4 18. Bxe4	30.	Qg5ch Kd6
	Bxg5 19. f4 and wins	31.	Qxf4ch
17.			and black soon resigned
	m:		

It was in this round that Phillip Rossiter drew with ex-world U16 champion Stuart Conquest. Chris Butt, a Plymouth junior, after a ½-point bye beat Neil Bradbury. In the third round Butt beat Stuart Conquest. I was on the Black side of a wierd Sicilian against Inglis which I drew in the end.

In the fourth round I had a quick draw with J.P. Hawthorne, who finished the tournament with one win, one loss (to Tony Miles) and four draws. It was in this round that Gallagher and his opponent were in time trouble. Both their flags had fallen, but neither had noticed. Gallagher's opponent then claimed Gallagher's flag was down, and at the same time Gallagher held up his opponent's king (implying that he had taken it) and claimed the game due to the new rule. The arbiter came along and awarded Gallagher the game. American grandmaster Gurevich unexpectedly lost this round, thereby having $1\frac{1}{2}/3$, and withdrew from the tournament.

Next round my opponent (S. MacDonald-Ross) was 33 minutes late and had lost on time by move 33 in a lost position. G. Anthony, of Cambridge University, was doing well with $3\frac{1}{2}/4$ but was then beaten by Vlastmil (Hort). Mark Hebden dropped to 4/5 after losing on the white side of a Centre Counter against Commonwealth champion Ian Rogers (now on 5/5).

In the last round Vlastmil Hort and Tony Miles both won, beating Rogers and Crawley respectively, to win the tournament with $5\frac{1}{2}/6$. I played A.R. Corkett and won to finish up with 4/6, a reasonable result.

So, all in all, it was an enjoyable weekend.

Chris's four points were sufficient to win him the 170-179 grading prize of £25. Things did not, alas, go quite so well in the next section down, the Intermediate, where Steve Woodhouse and I were attempting to keep Nottingham's colours flying. Steve, after winning on the Friday night, contrived to lose his next five games. Starting play on the Sunday morning with 1/4, a similar fate appeared in store for your Editor, but some generosity on the behalf of my opponents allowed me 3/6. The section was won by M. Tabbard of Waltham Forest and A. Summerscale of Fulham, both of whom scored $5\frac{1}{2}/6$. Major and Minor sections also occurred.

ANOTHER GAME (!) ...

As many of you will know, West Bridgford have recently acquired yet another 190-plus graded player in Tony Dempsey. Here, he reproduces a game he played in Division 1 (Ward-Higgs Trophy) of the 1981/82 Counties and Districts Correspondence Chess Championships...

White: A.C. Demosey (Merseyside) Black: Dr. S.W. Dolan (Berkshire)

1. e4 e5

2. Nf3 Nf6 Whilst the Petroff Defence can lead to sharp complications it is generally thought of as drawish and indeed boring. Such is the respect which many whites have for the resilient qualities of the defence that they often play 3. Nc3 or even 3. d3 feeling that their prospects are here preferable to the "main lines". If such were the case there would be a lot more Petroff players.

3. Nxe5 This together with 3. d4 must be the only moves to threaten.

3. ... d6

Again clearly natural. Some wayward souls have experimented with 4. Nc4 and have been rewarded with a rapidly dissipating initiative. Others have experimented with 4. Nxf7!? and surprisingly have not been rewarded with the loss of the game, e.g. Vitolinah vs. Anckaer USSR Championship 1979 continued 4. Nxf7 Kxf7 5. d4 g6 6. Nc3 Bg7 7. Bc4ch Be6 8. Bxe6ch Kxe6 9. f4 Kf7 10. e5 Re8 11. 0-0 Nc6 12. d5 dxe5 13. dxc6 Qxd1 14. Nxd1 bxc6 when an ending offering equal prospects was reached. Room for experimentation here?

4. ... Nxe4

5. Qe2 has had its supporters, notably Emmanual Lasker and his great disciple, correspondence international Charles Warburton of Warrington. After 5. Qe2 Qe7 6. d3 Nf6 7. Bg5 Qxe2ch 8. Bxe2 an ending is reached where white has gained a tempo in his development. However, with the queens exchanged and a single open file beckening the rooks for wholesale

exchange it is hard to see white's slight initiative being more than short-lived against precise play by black. In recent years Spassky has often adopted this system but I am yet to see him win a game with it. Indeed, when the chips are down he tends to play 5. d4.

- 5. ... d5 Black can play here 5...Be7 intending to set up a solid yet restricted position with a further ...Nf6 and ...O-O. However, the greater board room which white is offered in this position seems to guarantee a persistent initiative and in consequence the text move, fighting for space and the maintenance of the outpost on e4 is almost invariably preferred.
- 6. Bd3 Be7 Black has various moves here of which the text is almost undoubtedly his best. Next best, more aggressive, but less reliable is 6...Bd6. Other tries are ...Nf6, ...g6, ...Bg4, ...Nd6, ...Bf5, and ...Nc6, of which ...Nd6 and ...Bf5 are interesting possibilities while ...Nc6 should simply transpose.
- 7. 0-0 Nc6 As suggested in the last note, black's moves 6 & 7 could well be played in reverse order.
- 8. Re1 Bg4 This and ...Bf5 are most consistent. The latter proposes to hold the knight outpost on e4, anticipating white undermining its foundations with c4. Playing in the Torino tournament in 1982 Karpov was willing to take on this position (with 8...Bf5) with both black and white. Kavalek played the cautious 9. a3 and Karpov equalised without much difficulty. With the white pieces against Portisch Karpov improved with 9. c4! and won nicely. White new gains time by continuing to undermine black's e4 outpost.
- 9. c4 Nf6 Experience has shown that maintenance of the knight outpost on e4 with 9...f5 is too ambitious for black especially with his king as yet uncastled. The text, which shifts emphasis to another key central square d5 has offered black the best prospects in this position.

10. cxd5 Nxd5

11. Nc3 0-0

12. Be4 Commenting on his victory over Jusupov in the 1981 USSR championship Beliavsky gives this the ?! (dubious) condemnation.

He's probably right as white's initiative appears to be more protracted after 12. h3 which has been giving the first player some promising results. Perhaps we should make careful note of the World Champion's preference on move 8.

12. ... Be6 Assessing this position after black's twelfth move we should clearly note white's isolated queen's pawn as the most critical

factor. As an isolated pawn it is in itself weak relying on pieces for its defence. Also it is surrounded by a complex of weak squares, most notably the one immediately in front of it where an enemy piece will be beautifully posted. Whilst staticly weak the isolated queen's pawn does confer dynamic attacking opportunities upon its possessor. It is after all here the only centre pawn and may provide useful support to white pieces in the outpost squares c5 and e5. The greater manoeuvring space due to the isolated queen's pawn must also be recognised as a crucial factor in the assessment of this position. What are to be the respective plans of the two players? White must try to explcit his attacking chances to the full, generally avoiding exchanges which would bring the position closer to an ending where the static weakness of the pawn would be more to the fore. To counter white's intentions black must sieze upon all chances to exchange pieces as long as the essentially superior pawn structure is not changed to his disadvantage. Black should also play upon his strength and reinforce the foundation of his ideally placed knight on d5.

13. a3 It might look like time to develop the queen bishop followed by the rook, but at present no good squares present themselves.

13. a3 is played to keep a black knight from b4 where it could interfere with the intended redeployment of white's queen and bishop on the c2 and d3 squares. Beliavsky, in the game mentioned above played 13. Qd3 but Jusupov could have equalised with 13...h6 14. Bh7ch Kh8 15. Bf5 Ncb4! 16. Qb1 Bxf5 17. Qxf5 Nf6.

13. ... h6 What's this? I had expected 13...Bf6 followed by ...Nce7 when

black's position is looking very solid. 13...h6 is mentioned in Hooper and Cafferty's book "A Complete Defence to 1. P-K4" and is played to restrict white's pieces in the same way as 13. a3 restricted black's. For instance in Sax vs. Kurajitsa, Voras 1980, white stood better after 13...Qd7 14. Bg5. However,

- ... h6 represents a weakening of the pawn front of the black king and gives white cause for a little optimism.
- 14. Bc2! Apparently the only reasonable move. White plans Qd3 and mate:
 14. ... Nf6 Anticipating white's next move black withdraws his well-placed knight. Better moves are not obvious.
- 15. Qd3 Re8? On the surface of things not bad, preparing ... Bf8. But black underestimates the potential of his opponent's actively placed pieces. 15... Qd7 looks better when white can continue with Be3 and Rad1 with some advantage.
- 16. Bxh6!! Resigns if 16...gxh6 then 17. Rxe6 fxe6 18. Qg6ch Kh8 19. Qxh6ch Kg8 20.Qg6ch Kh8 21. Ng5 Rf8 22.Qh6ch Kg8 23. Bh7ch Kh8 24. Bf5ch Kg8 25. Bxe6ch Rf7 26. Bxf7mate. Declining either sacrifice of either rook or bishop simply allows the piece to be withdrawn leaving black with a massive hole in his king's position and hence facing certain defeat. In correspondence play it is just not worth carrying on. So much for the "boring" and "drawish" Petroff's Defence.
- STOP PRESS received from League Secretary Ron Stevenson just in time for publication...
- (1) Change of team captain Sutton 4 now: Mr. N. Graham.
- (2) Change of address Stapleford secretary, Mr. P. Chambers, now:
- (3) <u>Fixture change</u> 8/12/83 Sherwood Colliery 2 vs. Stapleford 2 to be rearranged no transport.

(4) Message from the League Secretary

On two occasions within five weeks of each other, I have been confronted by clubs who used the threat of withdrawing teams either this season or next to enhance their chances of gaining a favourable decision from myself. Personally, I find this type of approach extremely distasteful as, I am sure, do the majority of clubs within the Association.

I find it ironic that neither of the clubs concerned were present at either the Rules Revision or Annual General Meetings of the Association to voice their opinions on how they wished the League to be administered. Ultimately, clubs who are encountering difficulties with personnel, transport, etc., must face the fact that they, and they alone, must take the responsibility for the position they find themselves in. If clubs had read and understood the rules before the season commenced it would have saved a lot of worries for respective team captains.

I ask each club to consider the following. Isn't it time that we became more involved with the running of the Notts. Chess Association either by attending all the meetings - no matter how boring or trivial they may appear - , competing in the special events organised on our behalf, and assisting the county captains by supplying players from our clubs to play for Nottinghamshire.

This bulletin is edited by Tim Lane on behalf of the Nottinghamshire Chess Association. Apologies for the slightly garbled order in which things occur in this month's edition - Ron Stevenson's letter to me missed me by a couple of days as I moved house, and has only just caught up with me. Please note the new editorial address, and please send me anything at all that is likely to be of interest to Notts. chess players; by Tuesday, February 14th if you wish to see it included in next month's production.

Tim Lane, Telephone: