FIRST RANK

Editor: Ian Hynnable

A bulletin of the activities of Wanstead & Woodford Chees Club

(or an every day story of country folk)

This ism I believe, a new departure for the Club, and, now that the Club has grown to its present size, I think a necessary one. It is impossible for anyone to keep up with the activities of six teams unless news is presented in a form such as this. (Then it becomes merely difficult.)

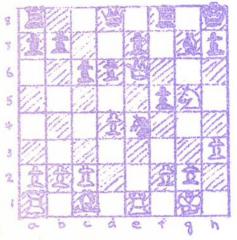
This, the first issue, is a special 5-page presentation, though it is intended first Rank will normally comprise three pages. A word about the title: epart from being a chess term, First Rank is what this club is, and thus

I thought it particularly suitable.

I am relying on match captains in particular to keep me supplied with full details of our match results, but any ordinary member is welcome to submit to me a game of interest, with explanatory notes where necessary, for possible inclusion. But please, only games played in or for the Club.

In games and analysis etc. I shall be using algebraic notation for reasons of space sewing. For anyone unfamiliar with algebraic, the lettered diagram on the left will help. Squares have one name only, made up of a lettered

Black



White, to move

file and a numbered rank: the files are lettered from Q-side to K-side and the ranks are numbered from White's side of the board. This contrasts with descriptive notation where each square has two names according to whether viewed from White's side or Black's, e.g. White's K4 square is e4. Black's K4 square is e5. A move is given in the form of the piece being moved followed by the square to which it moves e.g. 8f4. Captures always show the square on which the capture is made rather than the piece being captured e.g. Nxf6. Moves which do not specify a piece are pawn moves e.g. a white move "b5" means P-QN5. The following short game given in descriptive notation and than in algebraic, should make everything clear. 1 N-KB3, P-KN3; 2 P-Q4, B-N2; 3 N-B3, P-Q3; 4 P-KR3, P-KB4; 5 P-K4, P-B3; 6 B-Q3, PxP; 7 NxP, N-Q2; B Q-K2, QN-B3; 9 N(4)-N5, N-R3; 10 0-0, 0-0; 11 R-K1, N-B4; 12 N-K6, BxN; 13 QxBch, K-R1: 14 BxN. PxB: 15 N-15, N-K5: see diegram

16 RxM! PxR; 17 QxP(4), Resigns. Now follow it in elgebraic: 1 Nf3. g6; 2 d4. Eg7; 3 Nc3. d6; 4 h3, f5; 5 e4. c6; 6 8d3. fxe4; 7 Rxe4. Nd7; 8 Qe2. Ndf6; 9 Neq5. Nh6; 10 0-0. 0-0; 11 Rei. Nf5; 12 Ne6. Bxe6; 13 Bxe6+ Kh8; 14 Bxf5. oxf5; 15 Ng5. Ne4; see diagram. 16 Rxe4! fxe4; 17 Qxe4. Resigns. The forced continuation leads to Philidor's Legacy: 17 ... Rf5; 18 Qxf5, Kg8; 19 Qe6+ Kh8; 20 Nf7+ Kg8; 21 Nxd8+ Kh8; 22 Nf7+ Kg8; 23 Nh6+ Kh8; 24 Qg8+ Rxg8; 25 Nf7 mate.

Compare the methods of clarifying ambiguities: e.g. Black's 8th move and White's 9th. Note also that algebraic does not admit an ambiguity in White's 17th move whereas descriptive does.

Games given in First Rank will elways appear in the above form i.e. moves actually played in a game will be underlined and explanatory notes given plain.

Our record to date is

Played 7 Won 4 Drawn O Lost 3

After a run of 3 wins in a row we have gone down to Wimbledon and seem certain to lose to Wood Green, where we are trailing 1-5.

This has been a season of peaks and troughs, our best performance being against Mitcham, whom we beat $6\frac{1}{2}-3\frac{1}{2}$, and our worst performance being unmentionable. In the trough category is the fact that we shell lose $\frac{1}{2}$ a match point off our final total through having defaulted four boards during the season — not all of our own doing.

Our last completed match was against Wimbledon:

Played 10th February, 1978

	Wanstead & Woodford		¥	Wimbledon
G.	R.A. Wagstaff 4 158	0	V	J. Wilcox (Res.) 160 1
2	A.T. Marshall 47 188	9	V	A. Kitchlew 184 175 0
3	P.G.G. Smith 149 ji72	1	V	J.W. Branford 197 188 0
0	I.D. Hunnable 174	0	V	D Williams 191
5	T.D. Whitton 173	1	V	L.G. Kennion 189 189 1
6	Alan J. Potter to 172	1/2	12	T.M. Williams 193 185 1
9	D.C. Hick (161-1978)	7	V	S.J. Drury 17Z 0
B	A.S. Kinder 152	0	V	G.K. Sandiford 169 1
9	G.W. Fernie 147	0	V	W. Broome 158 1
10	S. Skelsey U	0	V	D. Barasi 166 1
	ne	CATOLINE D		Officeration
		4		6

Wimbledon are highly graded having, until last season been in the first division. For instance, Alan Potter's opponent on board 6 was graded 185.

Roy Wagstaff was down to play Michael Basman and was somewhat relieved when, as we half expected, Basman didn't show. Playing white against a reserve with half an hour on his clock, Roy felt duty bound to go for the full point but suffered the common fate of overpressing in an equal position.

Paul Smith, playing his first London League game for over two years, turned in a smooth performance with a nest finish (game to appear in a later issue). Alan Marshall and Dave Hick also won well, but a total eclipse at the bottom cost us the match.

Matches to come: v. Ilford Fri. 7.4.78 and v. Drunken Knights (sie) Wed. 26.4.78.

Now a few games from previous matches:

First, swallowing my pride, one of the 'wins' that went astray magainst Harrow. W & W v. Harrow 28.9.77 Board 4 I.D. Hunnable v. M. Dymond. 1 Nf3, d6; 2 d4. q6; 3 e4, Nf6; 4 Nc3, Bq7; 5 Bq5, c6; 6 Bd3, Qb6; 7 Rb1, Bq4; B Be3, Nbd7; 9 h3. Bxf3; 10 Qxf3, e5; 11 dxe5, Nxe5; 12 Qe2, Qe5; 13 b4. Qc7; 14 0-0. Q-0; 15 Rfd1, Nfd7; 16 f4, Nxd3; 17 Qxd3, Rad8; 18 Rb3, Nb6; 19 b5; d5; 20 bxe6, bxc6; If 20 ... d4; 21 Nb5. 21 Bc5, dxe4; 22 Qxe4, Rfe8; 23 Rxd8, Qxd8; 24 Qxc6, Re1+ 25 Kh2, Qd2; 26 Qf3, Bh6; 27 Rb4, Qxc2; 28 Rd4? Short of time, I missed the combination I was looking for: 28 Rxb6; axb6; 29 Qa8+ Kg7; 30 Qf8+ driving the king into the centre with an easy win. But the text move doesn't lose. 28 ... Re8; 29 Bb4, Bq7; 3D Rd3, Rc8; 31 a3 sealed. Here I felt White was still winning because his pieces are better placed. 31 ... h5; 32 Ne4, Nc4; 33 Ng5, After the move I had intended, 33 Bc3, White clearly gets the better of it, but the text move looked better = I couldn't see how he could stop me making a second attack on f7 by Qd5 or Qb7 (if 33 ... Rc7; 34 Qa8+). Then came... 33 ... Ne5! 34 fxe5, If 34 Qd5, Nd3; 35 Qxf7+ Kh8; 36 Qxg6, Qxg2+! 37 Kxg2, Nxf4+ etc. 34 ... 8xe5+ 35 Kg1, Qc1+ 36 Rd1, Qxg5 and Black, a pawn ahead, won. 44 moves.

Game 2 W & W v. Stock Exchange 24.11.77 Board 2 A.T. Marshall v. S.J.B. Knott.

1 e4, e6; 2 d4, d5; 3 Nc3, Bb4; 4 exd5, exd5; 5 Bd3, Nc6; 6 Ne2, Nge7; 7 0-0, Bf5;

8 Ng3, 8xd3; 9 Qxd3, 0-0; 10 Nce2, Re8; 11 c3, Bd6; 12 Bf4, Qd7; 13 Ree1, Rad8;

Bid6, Qxd6; 15 f4. Kh8: 16 f5! A fine move gaining oceans of space on the K-side. White is ready to let the pawn go eventually, by which time he will have profited from the extra space by a strong attack. 16 ..., Ng8: 17 Nh5, Qh6: 18 Nhf4, Nf6: 19 Rf3, Re4: 20 Ref1, Rde8: 21 Rh3, Qg5; 22 Rg3, Qxf5: 23 Rgf3: Avoiding the trap: 23 Ng6+7 fxg6: 24 Rxf5, gxf5: 25 Kf2, Rxe2+ 26 Qxe2, Rxe2+ 27 Kxe2 when the black knights outplay the rook in the ending. 23 ... Qd7: 24 Ng3, Re1: 25 Wf6: Nxh5: 26 Nxh5, f6: 27 Rg3, Rxf1+ 28 Qxf1, Rg8: 29 Nxf6: Qd8: Of course 29 ... gxf6: 30 Qxf6+ wins for White. 30 Nxg8, Kxg8 and Black Resigned. White could continue 31 Qb5 winning a pawn.

The next game was an important factor in our beating Mitcham.

W & W v. Mitcham 9.12.77 Board 2 P.T.R. Gasper v. G. Speed. 1 Nf3. g6: 2 c4. Bg7:

3 Nc3, d6: 4 d4. Nf6: 5 e4. 0-0: 6 Be2, e5: 7 0-0. Nc6: 8 d5. Ne7: 9 Bd2. Ne8:

10 Rc1. h6: 11 b4. f5: 12 exf5, gxf5: 13 gb3, Ng6: 14 c5. Kh8: 15 cxd6? This

ellows Black to win a pawn (much good may it & do him!). Better was 15 Rfd1 in

preparation. 15 ... Nxd6: 16 Nb5, Nxb5: 17 Bxb5, e4: 18 Ne1, c6: The d-pawn

is pinned on the Q bishop = hence the need for Rfd1 first. 19 Bc4, Ne7: 20 Bc3.

Nxd5: 21 Bxg7+ Kxg7: In compensation for the pawn, white has exposed the black

king and has good chances. 22 f3. Qb6+ 23 Kh1, Ne3(?) Driving the rook where it

wants to go. 24 Rg1. Bd7: 25 Be6: 8xe6: 26 Qxe6, Qxb4: After this moment of greed

Black has no defence, but white was already making inroads. 27 g4: fxg4: 28 Nc2:

Qd2: 28 ... Nxc2: allows Rxg4+. 29 Nxe3, h5: 30 Nxg4! White doesn't want the

piece, he wents only to open up the g-file. At this point BLACK LOST on time when

one imagines he was about to resign anywey. Notes based on comments by Philip

Gasper.

Essex League - Division 1

We are well on course for a successful defence of our League Champion-ship with the following impressive record to date:

Played 9 Won 9 Drawn 0 Lost 0

Naturally we cannot afford any slip-ups in the remaining three matches as our nearest rivals, Upminster, are only a point behind. That one point lead was gained when we met and defeated Upminster in a tense match on their ground:

Played 12th December, 1977

	Wanstead & Woodford		V	Upminster	
9	R.A. Wagstaff 158	1	V	O. Elmes U	1
2	P.T.R. Gasper 192	1	V	A.J. Stebbings 196	2
3	A.T. Mershall 188	0	W	A.E. Hanreck 205	1
4	P.G.G. Smith 172;	9	V	K. Spurgeon 179	0
5	I.D. Hunnabis 174	0	V	J. Harradence U	1
6	T.D. Whitton 173	1	v	R.W. C'Brien 172	1
7	A.S. Kinder 152	1	V	R. Watts 167	0
8	W.T. Franklin 159	1	V	A.E. Robertson 169	0
9	M. Bird 150	1	V	S.J. Abbott +56 152	1/2
10	M. Shaw 125j	1	V	M. Vellacott U	0
		6			4

Upminster must have fancied their chances with a line up that would frighten the knight lights out of all but W & W.

Andrew Kinder, Bill Franklin and Matthew Shew all produced heroic efforts. Bill's opponent, Andy Robertson, for several seasons played on top board for Upminster. Paul Smith attacked strongly on the K-side and Spurgeon found the pressure irresistable.

The match was adjourned with our holding a lead of 4-3. Matthew Shaw had a winning ending which was converted to the full point amid an air of tense expectation.

Then Michael Bird revealed that Roy Wagstaff's complex position had already been agreed drawn so we had won the match? Subsequently, Richard O'Brien,

who had previously maintained he had a winning line, agreed a draw with Terry Whitten.

Remaining matches: v. Ilford (away) Wed. 22.3.78; v. East Hem (away) on Thur. 13.4.78; and finally v. Harlow (home) Tue. 18.4.78.

Now a few games from previous matches:

Came tr W & W v. Chadwell Heath 12.10.77 Board 1 W. Saunders v. R.A. Wagstaff 1 d4. 96: 2 c3. 897: 3 e4. d6: 4 8e3. Nf6: 5 Nd2. Ng4: 6 8c4. Nxe3: 7 fxe3. 0-0: 8 Qf3. e5: 9 0-0-0. 28 Qg5: 10 Nh3. Qg4: 11 Qf1. Qh4: 12 Nf2. 8e6: 13 d5. 8d7: 14 Nf3. Qe7: 15 q4. f5: 16 qxf5. qxf5: 17 Qg2. f4: 18 Nd3. Preferable was 18 exf4. Rxf4. 18 ... fxe3: 29 White will find it difficult to pick up the e3-pawn e.g. 19 Rde1, Kh8: and ...8h6 prevents Rxe3. But White has planned to recover another pawn. 19 Ndxe5, Kh8: Of course 19 ... dxe5? 20 d6+ wins the queen. 20 Nxd7. This helps 8lack's development, but other moves with this knight lose the e-pawn. 20 ... Nxd7: 21 Qh3. Ne5: 22 Be2. If 22 Nxe5, 8xe5 prevents 23 Qxe3 because of 23 ...8f4. 22 ... Nxf3: 23 8xf3. Rf6: 24 Rhg1. Raf8: 25 Be2. 8h6: 26 Qh4. Qe5: 27 Kc2. Qf4: 28 Rg4. Qf2: 29 Kd3. Qxh4: 30 Rxh4. Rg8: 31 8g4. 8g5: 32 Rh3. Rf2: 33 8f5. h6: 34 Rg1. Rd2+ 35 Kc4. Rxb2: Threatening mate in two by 36 ... b5+ 37 Kd3, Rd2. 36 Rxg4? White is lost anyway. 36 ... Rxg4: 37 Resigns.

Game 5 W & W v. Brentwood 25.10.77 Board 1 R.A. Wegstaff v. G. Moscow 1 d4. q6; 2 c4. Bq7; 3 Nc3. d6; 4 e4. f5; 5 f4. Nh6; 6 e5. 0-0; 7 Nf3. c6; 8 Be2. d5; 9 0-0. e6; 10 Bd2. Na6; 11 Rc1. Nc7; 12 Qc2. Nf7; 13 h3. Bd7; 14 Kf2. dxc4; 15 Bxc4. Nd5; 16 Qb3. Qb6; 17 Ne4. Qxb3; 18 Bxb3. b6; 19 Nc3. Rac8; 20 a3. Bh6; 21 q3. Kh8; 22 Bc4. b5; 23 Be2. Nd8; 24 Nxd5. exd5; If 24 ... cxd5; 25 Rxc8. Bxc8; 26 Rc1 and White reaches the 7th rank. 25 Ne1. Ne6; 26 Ke3. q5; 27 Nd3. Kg7; 28 Bb4. Rf7; 29 Bb1. a6; 30 Bc3. Kh8; 31 Rc2. Rg8; 32 Rcf2. g4; 33 Rh1. Bf8; 34 hxg4. Rxq4; 35 Xf3. Rfq?; 36 Rg2. Nd8; 37 Nf2. R4q6; 38 Rh5. Rf7; 39 Nd1. Rh6; 40 Rgh2. Rxh5; 41 Rxh5. Kg7; 42 Ne3. Kg6; 43 q4. Resigns. White s position is overwhelming.

Came 6 W & W v. Upminster 12.12.77 Board 7 R. Watts v. A.S. Kinder 1 q3, e5;

2 Bg2, d5; 3 d3, Nf6; 4 Nd2, Be7; 5 e4, 0-0; 6 Ne2, Nc6; 7 0-0, Be6; 8 f4? Somewhat premature, loosening his position and exposing his king to dangerous threats.

8 ... d84; 9 Nxe4, Both 9 fxe5, and 9 f5, lose a pawn to 9 ... exd3. 9 ... Nxe4;

10 Bxe4, On 10 d84, Bc5+ 11 Kh1, Qxd1; 12 Rxd1, Bg4. Now if 13 Bf1, Bf3+ Black

wins a piace, and if 13 Re1, Nb4 etc. White's best chance is 13 Rd2. But after

the text move the diagonals into the white king's position are open. 10 ... Bh3;

11 Bg2, (If 11 Re1, Bc5+ 12 Kh1, Bf2 wins material - ed.) 11 ... Bc5+ 12 Kh1.

If 12 d4, Nxd4; 13 Bxh3, Nxe2+ leaves Black a pawn sheed. 12 ... Bxg2+ 13 Kxg2.

Qd5+ 14 Kh3. With White's king on h3 by move 14 the game looks all over, but how

to finish him off? It took me 20 minutes to find... 14 ... f5; (The only move

to continue the attack. What else can he have found to think about for twenty

minutes? - ed.) 15 Nc3, White stands a better chance with 15 fxe5 followed by

Nf4. 15 ... Qe6; 16 Kg2, Ras8; 17 fxe5, Nd4! Stronger than 17 ... Nxe5; 18 d4, Rd8

when White can gain some comfort from the complications. 18 Bf4. Qc6+ 19 Kh3, h6;

20 g4. g5; 21 Bg3. h5! 22 gxf5. After 22 gxh5, g4+ 23 Kh4, Be7 is mate. 22 ... g4+

23 Kh4, Rxf5; 24 Bf4, White loses prettily after 24 Rxf5, Nxf5+ 25 Kg5, (If 25 Kxh5)

Qh6+ 26 Kxg4, Ne3+ etc.) 25 ... Qh6+! 26 Kxf5, Rf8+ 27 Ke4, Qc6+ 28 Nd5, Qg6 mate.

24 ... Qg2; 25 Resions. Notes by Andrew Kinder.

Came? W & W v. Barking 24.1.78 Board 3 I.D. Hunnable v. 5.J. Bush 1 Nf3, q6; 2 d4. Bq7; 3 s4, d6; 4 h3. Nf6; 5 Nc3, 0-0; 6 Bq5, h6; 7 Be3, e5?! 8 dxe5, dxe5; 9 Qxd8. Black will be less able to organise his development with the queens off. 9 ... Rxd8; 10 Bc4. If 10 Nxe5, Black does not play 10 ... Nxe4 because 11 Nxf7, Kxf7; 12 Nxe4, Bxb2; 13 Bc4+ and Black finds life difficult since he cannot play 13 ... Be6; 14 Bxe6+ Kxe6; 15 Rb1, when White wins the b7-pawn. So Black enswers 10 Nxe5 with Re8 regaining the pawn (11 f4 is answered by 11 ... Nh5). 10 ... Nc6: 11 0-0. Ne8; 12 Rad1, Nd4!? 13 Bxd4, exd4; 14 Nd5, c6; 15 Nf4, Taking advantage of the weekness of g6. Black was apparently loathe to enswer the threat by 15 ... g5 (but why not 15 ... Kf8) and finds an ingenious way to protect g6 with his queens rook! 15 ... b5; 16 Bb3, a5! Yes, after 17 Nxg6, a4; 18 Ne7+ Kf8; 19 Nxc6, axb3; 20 Nxd8, bxe2 Black has emple compensation for the exchange. 17 a3. 17 ... c5; Now of course after 18 Nxg6? c4; 19 Ne7+ Kf8; 20 Nc6, Rd6 White loses a piece. 18 Bd5, Ra6; 19 Nd3, c4? Black cracks. He had to play ... Bf8, 20 Nde5.

20 ... Be6; 21 Rxdé, Bxd5; Forced. e.g. 21 ... Rad6; 22 8xe6, Rxd4; (or 22 ... 8xe5; 23 8xf7+ etc.) 23 8xd4, 8xe5; 24 8xf7+ Kxf7; 25 Nc6 etc. 22 Rxd5, Rxd5; 23 exd5, Rd6; 24 Rd1, Nc7; 25 e4! bxe4; 26 Nxc4, Rxd5; 27 Rxd5, Nxd5; 28 c3, Nf4; 29 Kf1, If immediately 29 Nxe5, Nd3; 30 Nc4, Nxb2; 31 Nxb2, e3 wine for Black; 29 ... Nd3: 30 Ne1. Nxb2? It no longer works. Black had to play 30 ... Nc5: forcing 31 Axe5 (before the other knight reaches c2) 31 ... a3: 32 bxa3, 8xc3; with an interesting ending for the adjudicators (in four moves time) with White claiming a win. 31 Nxb2, a3; 32 Na4, Of course! 32 ... Kf8; 33 Nc2, a2; 34 Kei, Resigns.

Essex K.O.Competition

It is well known that we are a "league side" rather than a "Cup side" (I wonder why that is?) but we keep on trying. In this year's competition we had a bye into the second round where we were drawn against our friends Old Parkonians. The proposition mentioned above was given some support when, despite turning out a strong side (including new star Ian Watson - grade 201), we ran matters close before booking our passage to the next round:

Played 6th January, 1978

	Wanstead & Woodford		W	Old Parkonians	
Qui	I.R. Watson 201	1	٧	No Cutler U	0
2	P.T.R. Gasper 192	·	V	1.8.N. Smith 187	1
3	A.T. Marshall 188	1	V	P. Sirleson (7)	8
4	I.D. Hunnable 174	3	V	H.J. Waterman 167	4
5	A.S. Kinder 152	0	v	P.W. Haddock U	9
6	D.C. Hick U	1	V	M. Kaye U	2
		31/2			21/2

Philip Gasper was unable to extend his 100% record against Ivor Smith and had to sattle for a draw. Alan Marshall got revenge for his League defeat at the hands of the same opponent. Your editor obtained a winning advantage from the opening but proceeded to hand it back throughout the rest of the game. The debut performance from Ian Watson is given below, with his own notes:

Game 8 N. Cutler v. I.R. Wetson 1 Nf3, Nf6; 2 d4, q6; 3 c4, 8q7; 4 Nc3, 8-0; 5 e4, d6; 6 Se2, e5; 7 8-0, Nc6; 8 d5, Ne7; 9 b4, Ne8?! This is a well known error, but I've got away with it before, so... 10 Nd2?! I get away with it! White should play 10 c5: f5; 11 Ng5. 10 ... f5: 11 f3? 11 Nb3 was mandatory. Anyway f3 is pointless (like White at the end of the game:) as Black cannot play ...fxe4 giving up the crucial e4 square. Nor can he yet play ... f4. 11 ... Bh6: and Black stands much better. If now 12 exf5, gxf5: 13 Nb3, f4: leaves only one question open: on which square will the white king be annexed? 12 Nb3, 8xc1; 13 Rxc1, f4; 14 c5, c5; 15 cxd6? This settles the issue. White's only drawing chance was to play b5 and c6 and march his king to b2 (! - ed.) 15 ... cxd6: 16 0c2, No6: 17 Nb5, Rf7: 18 Kh1. Threatening 19 Nxe7, (19 ... Rxe7: 20 0xc8 without the intervention of ...Qb6+ - ed.) 18 ... a6: 19 Nc3, h5: 20 Qd1, Nf6: 21 a4, q4: 22 b5, e5: 23 b6, Rg7! Starting a long combination. 24 Nb5, q3: 25 Nc7, Nxe4! (Clearing the diagonal d6-h4 and thus threatening ...Qh4 etc. - ed.) 26 Nxa8, Nc5: This (or ... 8f5) is to preserve the bishop which must be available to capture a pawn on h3. 27 Rxc5, dxc5: 28 d6, Qh4: 29 Bo4+ Kh8: 30 h3, Bxh3: 31 Re1, Bxg2+ 32 Kxg2, Qh2+ 33 Kf1, Qf2 mate.

In the 3rd round we faced Ilford. After adjourning with a lead of $2\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$, we lost the two outstanding games to go out of the competition.

More about this and the progress of our other teams next time.

Watch for our press reports in the Ilford Recorder.

Ian Humadola