

FIRST RANK

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A bulletin of the activities of
Wanstead & Woodford Chess Club

Editor:
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Junior Achievements

Roy Wagstaff gladly reports the following successes by our amazing Junior members, since the last Annual General Meeting:

- August, 1977 B.C.F. Congress, Brighton - U. 11 Championship:
Joint third place - SIMON LEE $7\frac{1}{2}/11$
- October 1977 Essex C.A. - U. 18 Championship: WINNER - PAUL G.G. SMITH
with 100% score 6/6
- October, 1977 Essex C.A. - U. 11 Championship: Joint runners-up -
EDWARD LEE, JOHN FRANKLIN and JOHN DUGGAN each with 6/7
- October, 1977 London Junior Team Championships:
The Club's under 12 team finished in 2nd place out of 20
teams with $7\frac{1}{2}/10$, although we won the most games (27) of any
club. Scores: Simon Lee 6, Simon Leary 5, Paul Street 8,
John Duggan 8
- Christmas 1977 Evening Standard London Junior Chess Congress:
U. 12: SIMON LEE was joint 4th
U. 10: JOHN FRANKLIN was joint winner with Neil Carr of
East Ham, both with 6/6. John lost the play-off.
EDWARD LEE was joint 3rd with 5/6
- March, 1978 In the Essex County Association 1st team which won the National
U. 14 Jamboree at Manchester, SIMON LEE and EDWARD LEE both
won all their games at boards 8 & 9 respectively.
In the Essex 2nd team GRAHAM JEFFERIES scored $1\frac{1}{2}/3$ on board 1,
and John Franklin and Simon Leary also played in this team.
- March, 1978 Southern Counties Chess Union Junior Championships:
U. 12 SIMON LEE and PAUL STREET won prizes, each with 5/7.
SIMON LEARY scored 4/7.
U. 10 Championship: WON BY EDWARD LEE WHO WAS UNBEATEN WITH
 $5\frac{1}{2}$ points from 7 games.
WELL ! DONE ! EDWARD !
JOHN FRANKLIN $3\frac{1}{2}$ and JOHN DUGGAN 3, also played
- April, 1978 3rd North London Junior Congress:
U. 12 WINNER - SIMON LEE 9/10
- December, 1977 East London Primary Schools Championships:
U. 11 Champion - JOHN DUGGAN with $11\frac{1}{2}/12$. John has now won
this title 2 years in a row.

On a domestic note, the Club's Junior Championship had to be resolved by a play-off between Edward Lee, John Franklin and John Duggan - two games to be played against each other. Confounding all the tipsters by winning all four of his games, the Junior Champion is JOHN DUGGAN, who earns the right to play in the senior championship next season.

London League - Division 2

Played 15th March, 1978

Wanstead & Woodford				v	Wood Green			
1	R.A. Wagstaff	158	0	v	G.D. Lee	208	1	
2	A.T. Marshall	188	$\frac{1}{2}$	v	R.L. Turnham	180	$\frac{1}{2}$	
3	P.G. Smith	172j	0	v	T. Parke	192	1	
4	T.D. Whittton	173	0	v	K.R. Clark	178	1	
5	I.D. Hunnabie	174	0	v	T. Peterson	168j	1	
6	Alan J. Potter	172	0	v	M. Major	175	1	
7	D.C. Hick	U (161-1978)	1	v	A. Wheatly	184	0	
8	A.S. Kinder	152	0	v	J. Friedland	167j	1	
9	G.W. Fernie	147	0	v	H. Angel	170	1	
10	T.D. Sanders	Uj	$\frac{1}{2}$	v	A. Mitchell	157	$\frac{1}{2}$	

26 ... Qg4; Forcing the queens off, after which White has no counterplay. 27 Qxg4. Nxb4; 28 Bc1, Ra2; 29 f5 Rxa5; 30 fxb6+ Kxb6; 31 Bb2, Ra2; 32 Bc1, Nf6; 33 Rd1, Ra1; 34 Resigns. The d-pawn falls. Notes expanded from comments by Philip Gasper.

Game 12 The next game comes from an earlier match.

L.I. Div. 2 W & W v. Wimbledon 10.2.78 Board 3. P.G. Smith v. J.W. Branford
 1 e4, e6; 2 d3, d5; 3 Nd2, Nf6; 4 Ng3, c5; 5 g3, Nc6; 6 Bg2, Be7; 7 O-O, O-O;
 8 a5, Nd7; 9 Re1, b5; 10 h4, a5; 11 Nf1, b4; 12 Bf4, a4; 13 N1h2, a3; 14 b3, Be6;
 15 Ng5, Rc8; 16 Qh5, Qxg5; 17 h6 White merely retreats the knight and
 plays his other knight to g4 with a sacrificial attack on the h6 point. 17 hxg5,
 Nd4; 18 Rac1, Kh8; 19 Ng4, Qe8; 20 Qh3, Rg8? 21 f3, c4; 22 Kf2, cxd3; 23 g6, fxg6;
 23 ... h6 is answered simply by 24 Nxb6. 24 Qxh7+ Kxh7; 25 Rh1 mate.

Essex League - Division 1

Played 13th April, 1978 - Away

Wanstead & Woodford			v	East Ham		
1	R.A. Wagstaff	158	½	v	A.D. Martin	197 ½
2	I.R. Watson	201	1	v	H.I. Wolverton	172 0
3	P.T.R. Gasper	192	0	v	J.M. Sargent	151 1
4	A.T. Marshall	186	½	v	Alan J. Potter	172 ½
5	P.G. Smith	172j	0	v	S. Walker	U 1
6	I.D. Hunnabale	174	1	v	P. Smyth	U (142-1978) 0
7	T.D. Whitton	173	1	v	R. Hatch	144 0
8	A.S. Kinder	152	½	v	S. Hunt	U (136-1978) ½
9	W.T. Franklin	159	1	v	A. Gascoyne	U (120-1978) 0
10	G.W. Fernie	147	adj	v	R. Tarrant	U (143-1978) adj

5½ + 1a

3½ + 1a

This match was noted for the curious episode of the drips (and I am not necessarily referring to the Wanstead players who lost). A water pipe running across the lofty ceiling of the playing hall started to leak, discharging its contents onto Michael Bird's attache case with a resounding patter. It was at about this point that boards 3 and 5 blundered and their games washed away with the water.

Roy Wagstaff scored an excellent result against Andrew Martin who is rated at 197. But for a long time things did not look too hopeful for the rest of the side and it was difficult to see where the wins were coming from. In the end it was clear we battled too long for East Ham, and the lower half cleaned up. Alan Marshall agreed a draw with Alan Potter after adjournment despite having what appeared to be a winning advantage. My opponent made me a gift of the centre on move 7;

Game 13

Board 6 I.D. Hunnabale v. P. Smyth 1 Nf3, b6; 2 d4, e6; 3 c4, Nf6;
 4 a3, c5; 5 Nc3, Bb7; 6 Bg5, Be7; 7 Rc1, Nc6? Black played this move with the
 intention of provoking d5, but he has completely misjudged the position. 8 d5, exd5;
 9 cxd5, Nd4; Black cannot win a pawn by 9 ... Nxd5 because 10 Nxd5, Bxg5; 11 Nxb5,
 Qxg5; 12 Nc7+ wins the exchange. Nor is he safe with 9 ... Na5; 10 d6 and White
 piles in. 10 Nxd4, cxd4; 11 Qxd4. This is the position Black completely mis-
 read: he cannot recover his pawn by 11 ... Nxd5; because now 12 Nxd5, Bxg5;
 (not 12 ... Bxd5; 13 Bxe7 wins a piece) 13 Qxg7; now (a) 13 ... Bxc1; 14 Qxh8 is
 mate, and so is (b) 13 ... Rf8; 14 Qe5+ Be7; 15 Nf6. (c) 13 ... Bxd5; 14 Qxh8+
 Ke7; 15 Qe5+ Kf8; 16 f4 also falls short. The only reasonable move for Black to
 look on as an alternative to the move in the game is 11 ... d6 when White plays
 12 e4 since Black still cannot play 12 ... Nxd5; 13 Qxg7 followed by Bb5+.
 11 ... Bc5, 12 Qe5+ Qe7; 13 Bxf6, gxf6; 14 Qxe7+ Kxe7; 15 e4. White has a poten-
 tially won game provided he can keep Black's bishop pair under control.
 15 ... Rhg8; 16 g3, Rg5; 17 Bh3, Ba6; 18 Na2, Bd3; 19 Bf5, h5; Black hesitated
 when playing this move, realising I could win the pawn on this square, but none-
 theless went ahead with the offer. 20 h4, Rgg8; 21 Nf4, Ba6; 22 Nxb5, Bd4;
 Black played this immediately indicating it was this idea he was relying on to

compensate him for the sacrificed h-pawn. Apart from the threat to the Q-side pawns, Black's main threat is ...Rac8 to wrest control of the c-file. Two tries that do not measure up are (a) 23 Rc7, Bb5; 24 b3, Rac8; 25 Rxc8, Rxc8 and the intrusion of the black rook can be prevented only by Kd2 surrendering the f-pawn with disadvantage; similarly (b) 23 Rc2 also fails to 23 ... Rac8. Hence... 23 b3, Rac8; 24 d6+! Kxd6; If 24 ... Kd8 White can exchange rooks safely. 25 Rd1, Kc5; Now Black has been forced to block the c-file against his own rook. 26 f3. A necessary precaution against ...Bc3+. 26 ... Rc7; After this Black is on the run. 27 Rc1+ Kd6; 28 Rxc7, Kxc7; 29 Kd2, Bf2; 30 g4, Bd4; 31 Nf4, Be5; 32 Nd5+ Kd6; 33 f4, Bb2; 34 Rb1, Bxa3? 34 ... Bd4 35 Rc1, or h5 wins anyway. 35 Ra1, Bb2; 36 Rxa6, Ra8; 37 Nxb6, Resigns.

Game 14

From the Ilford match:
E.L. Div. 1 W & W v. Ilford 22.3.78 Board 2 I.R. Watson v. P.B. Cook. Veresov System. 1 Nc3, Nf6; 2 d4, d5; 3 Bg5, h6? Undoubtedly the worst of the normal replies to the Veresov. 4 Bxf6, exf6; 5 Nf3, c6; Black should probably play to eliminate the centre with ...c5. 6 e4, Bb4; 7 Bd3, O-O; 8 O-O, Re8; 9 Re1, dxe4; 10 Rxe4, Rxe4; 11 Nxe4, Bg4; 12 c3, Bf8; 13 h3, Bxf3; 14 Qxf3, Nd7; 15 Qf5. Now if 15 ... g6?? 16 Qxd7, Qxd7; 17 Nxf6+, 15 ... Be7; 16 Re1, Nf8; 17 Re3, Qd7; 18 Ng3, Rd8; If 18 ... Qxf5; 19 Nxf5, Bd8; 20 Re8 wins quickly. Note that almost all the possible endings are lost for Black as White has a mobile Q-side majority and Black has only an immobile bishop, not a bishop pair. As a result, the usual method of defence in this type of middle-game, that of threatening to exchange pieces, is not available. 19 Qh5, 19 Qxd7 might also win, but why not finish before closing time? 19 ... Ne6; 20 Nf5, Bf8; 21 Rg3, Kh8; 22 Nxe6! Ng5; On 22 ... gxe6; 23 Qf5, Ng5; 24 Rxe6, Qxf5; 25 Rxf5 forces Black to waste another half hour in the lost ending. Cook prefers to get home early. 23 Nxf7+ Kg8; 24 Nxe5, fxe5; Whereupon White precipitated Black's resignation by announcing mate in three by 25 Bh7+ Kh8; 26 Bg6+ Kg8; 27 Qh7 mate. Notes by Ian Watson.

Played 18th April, 1978, at Home:

Wanstead & Woodford			v	Harlow		
1	R.A. Wagstaff	158	0	v	D. Coleman	183
2	I.R. Watson	201	$\frac{1}{2}$	v	L. Mercer	158
3	P.T.R. Gasper	192	1	v	P. Smith	U (176-1978)
4	A.T. Marshall	188	0	v	G.J. Moore	153j
5	Paul Smith	172j	adj	v	R. Ellames	145 adj
6	I.D. Hunnabale	174	$\frac{1}{2}$	v	F. Simms	U (154-1978)
7	T.D. Whitten	173	1	v	S. Harvey	U (148-1978)
8	A.S. Kinder	152	0	v	Judith Moore	130
9	W.T. Franklin	159	1	v	M. Alvin	U (127-1978)
10	G.W. Fernie	147	$\frac{1}{2}$	v	D. Ward	U
			$4\frac{1}{2} + 1a$			$4\frac{1}{2} + 1a$

With this match the League Championship has slipped from our grasp. The game for adjudication offers only a slim hope for the draw that would keep us ahead of Upminster. But we are not dead yet, as we can retain the trophy by defeating Upminster in the play-off match.

The uneven score-line, with no consecutive pattern of success in any part of the team, indicates a patchy performance. It must be recognized that Harlow are now a useful side and show a marked improvement from when we met them at the end of last season.

Assuming the worst in Paul Smith's game, we must put the loss behind us and concentrate on winning the play-off against Upminster. Remember - we beat them 6-4 in December, and now we have Ian Watson! We WILL win!

Game 15

One of the brighter spots to retain is the following game from the irrepressible P.G. Board 3 P.T. R. Gasper v. P. Smith 1 c4, c5; 2 Nf3, Nf6; 3 Nc3, Nc6; 4 e3, g6; This is slightly better for White. Preferable is ...e6 or ...d5. 5 d4, cxd4; Here ...d6 is an improvement. 6 exd4, d5; 7 cxd5, Nxd5; 8 Qb3, e6; This move is forced anyway after 8 ... Nxc3; 9 Bc4! since 9 ... Ne4; 10 Bxf7+ Kd7; 11 Qe6+ is disastrous. 9 Qg5, f6; 10 Bd2. White's careful probing

has forced Black to weaken his K-side which is now vulnerable to direct attack.
 10 ... Bg7; 11 Bc4 Nce7; 12 h4 Q-O; 13. h5. Q5; 14 h6. Bh8; 15 O-O-O. a6;
 A token attempt only. White's K-side action is far too advanced to allow Black's
 Q-side action to catch up. 16 Rh5. b5; 17 Bxd5. The normal consideration in this
 type of game, of preserving the white-squared bishop, gives way to the need to
 clear lines to the black king. 17 ... Nxd5; 18 Nxd5! fxd5; After 18 ... Nxc3;
 19 Qxc3 wins just the same. 19 Rxd5+ Kf7; 20 Nxd5. exd5; 21 Rxd5. Be6; 22 Rxd8.
 Bxb3; 23 Rxf8+ Rxf8; 24 axb3. Bxd4; 25 Bb4! 26 Kb7. Rd8 and Black Resigned.
 Again, notes expanded from brief comments by Philip Gasper.

Essex League - Division 2

Matthew Shaw's outstanding game from the Roding match was returned
 a loss, as expected, making the final score in that match $3\frac{1}{2}-4\frac{1}{2}$. This, apparently
 is sufficient to prevent us retaining our Division 2 title, despite the following
 resounding wins in the last two matches:

Played 11th April, 1978

Wanstead & Woodford			v	Austin			
1	M. Shaw	125j	1	v	R. Cooper	137	0
2	P.J. Smith	U	$\frac{1}{2}$	v	G. Turner	U (128-1978)	$\frac{1}{2}$
3	K. Jones	U (152-1978)	$\frac{1}{2}$	v	D. Spencer	U (116-1978)	$\frac{1}{2}$
4	H. Anderson	U (140-'78)	1	v	DEFAULT		0
5	G.T. Gooding	137	1	v	DEFAULT		0
6	A.J. Clark	143	1	v	K. Charsley	U	0
7	V.G. Morris	U (133-'78)	$\frac{1}{2}$	v	J. Dawson	U (116-1978)	$\frac{1}{2}$
8	H. Morris	107j	1	v	L. Church	U (87-1978)	0
			6 $\frac{1}{2}$				1 $\frac{1}{2}$

Played 25th April, 1978

Wanstead & Woodford			v	Ilford			
1	M. Shaw	125j	$\frac{1}{2}$	v	A.L. Burnett	148	$\frac{1}{2}$
2	P.J. Smith	U	0	v	G. Novik	125j	1
3	K. Jones	U (152-1978)	1	v	M.E. Grange	136	0
4	H. Anderson	U (140-'78)	$\frac{1}{2}$	v	J. Helpe	U (129-1978)	$\frac{1}{2}$
5	G.T. Gooding	137	$\frac{1}{2}$	v	J. Manley	127j	$\frac{1}{2}$
6	A.J. Clark	143	1	v	P. Green	128j	0
7	V.G. Morris	U (133-'78)	1	v	R. Grant	U (114-1978)	0
8	H. Morris	107j	1	v	D. Goorvitch	110j	0
			$5\frac{1}{2}$				$2\frac{1}{2}$

Problem

Capablanca won the position given in First Rank No. 2 with the
 following brilliant combination: 1 Rxd6!! Rxd6; 2 Bxe5. Rd1(!) Black presumably
 counted on this clever move to save him. 2 ... Qa5 is better, but White would
 come out a pawn ahead after 3 f4! Bxe5; 4 fxe5. Rg6; 5 Ne7+. 3 Rxd1. Bxe5;
 4 Nh6+ Kh8; 5 Qxe5! Qxe5; 6 Nxf7+ Resigns.

Don't miss the next issue of First Rank which will feature a full
 report on the Club's Championship.

Ian Hummable