

# FIRST RANK

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Duplicated  
and bound by  
Andrew Kinder

A bulletin of the activities of  
Wanstead & Woodford Chess Club

Editor  
Ian Hunnoble

## Editorial

The discerning reader will note one or two embellishments creeping into this publication. I have already started giving each game a number (who knows - later an index?) now I am indicating in match results, the colours taken by W & W and whenever possible players' gradings. When a Junior grade is given I shall adopt the SCCU system of adding 10 points to a junior's published figure to represent natural improvement.

## Essex League - Division 1

The Old Parks game has been postponed so the first team opened their campaign against Romford:

Played 31st October, 1978 at Wanstead  
W & W had black on odd numbered boards.

	Wanstead & Woodford	v	Romford	
1	I.D. Hunnoble 174	0 v	K.P. Warren 169	1
2	T.D. Whitton 173	0 v	J.W. Harradence 189	1
3	R.A. Wagstaff 161	1 v	R.S. Purse 155	0
4	Dr. D.C. Hick 161	adj v	B. McCague -	adj
5	A.S. Kinder 152	$\frac{1}{2}$ v	R. Langenham 169	$\frac{1}{2}$
6	W.T. Franklin 160	1 v	D. Rogerson 144	0
7	Peter Smith -	1 v	R. Sztadhaus 142	0
8	G.W. Fernie 147	$\frac{1}{2}$ v	K. Thomas 143	$\frac{1}{2}$
9	M. Shaw 152	1 v	D. Watkins 108	0
10	A.J. Clark 136	$\frac{1}{2}$ v	W. Luxton 119	$\frac{1}{2}$
		$5\frac{1}{2} + 1$ adj.		$3\frac{1}{2} + 1$ adj.

On paper, two evenly matched sides. Romford have clearly improved in recent seasons (they gave us a fright last year) and now strengthened by the arrival of John Harradence from Upminster, are capable of giving most of the Essex sides a match.

Roy Wagstaff opened the scoring in quick time - Purse threw his pawns at Black's king, but Roy remained as unflappable as ever and won material with a pawn fork. Bill Franklin sacrificed a pawn for the attack and caught Rogerson's king in the centre. In a fluctuating game, Peter Smith made inroads by a tactical threat and his opponent could find no defence. Matthew Shaw, having recently donated his appendix to medical science was more than happy to record a comfortable win.

Our only blots were at the top. On board 2 both players apparently thought the other had the better of it! Harradence however, accrued the more positive advantage of a passed pawn on the Q side, with which he made headway. Ian Hunnoble had an interesting encounter with the current Essex Champion, but as the game was boiling up towards the time control, he compromised a rook which was lost to a bishop.

In the unfinished game, David Hick appears to have a good claim for a win on adjudication. McCague at one time had a high grading and filled top board for Chadwell Heath for a number of seasons.

Essex League - Division 2

The second team also opened against Romford, sweeping them aside 7-1. Then we ran up against Harlow:

Played 24th October, 1978 at Harlow  
W & W had black on odd numbered boards

Wanstead & Woodford				v	Harlow			
1	G.W. Fernie 147	adj	v	R. Adams 162	adj			
2	K. Jones 152	0	v	J. Lewis -	1			
3	A.J. Clark 136	$\frac{1}{2}$	v	R. Searle -	$\frac{1}{2}$			
4	H. Anderson 140	$\frac{1}{2}$	v	M. Alvin 127	$\frac{1}{2}$			
5	G.T. Gooding 134	0	v	D. Walker -	1			
6	S.R. Lee 134 J	0	v	R. Matthews -	1			
7	V.G. Morris 133	$\frac{1}{2}$	v	D. Suchan -	$\frac{1}{2}$			
8	E. Lee 139 J	1	v	Dr. C. Selway -	0			
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$2\frac{1}{2} + 1$ adj.				$4\frac{1}{2} + 1$ adj.				

George Fernie has excellent chances of a win on adjudication after a full-blooded battle. But this can do no more than narrow the margin of defeat. Simon Lee was winning well until he made a present of his queen.

London League - Division 2

Played 6th October, 1978 at St. Bride's  
W & W had white on odd numbered boards

Wanstead & Woodford				v	Wood Green			
1	I.D. Munnable 174	0	v	G.D. Lee 210	1			
2	A.T. Marshall 177	$\frac{1}{2}$	v	M.R. Major 194	$\frac{1}{2}$			
3	T.D. Whitton 173	0	v	T. Peterson 186	1			
4	Alan J. Potter 161	0	v	K.R. Clark 191	1			
5	R.A. Wagstaff 161	0	v	R.L. Turnham 178	1			
6	Peter Smith -	1	v	A. Mitchell 148	0			
7	G.W. Fernie 147	0	v	E.W.J. Ayling (res) 172	1			
8	S.R. Lee 134 J	0	v	B.A. Smith 142	1			
9	J.S. Langford 109	1	v	M. Hooper 142	0			
10	P. Barclay 139 J	0	v	Miss S. Wood 156 J	1			
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$2\frac{1}{2}$				$7\frac{1}{2}$				

It was unfortunate that for our meeting with Wood Green we were well below strength. However one of the draftees, John Langford, demonstrated that he has not fallen quite so far as his published grading suggests, by scoring one of our wins. However, with Philip Gasper and Paul Smith now at Cambridge and David Hick and Andrew Kinder not available, we could hardly hope to match the opposition.

There is consequently little to say in our favour in this match, although we did manage to improve on the score of last year's encounter by  $\frac{1}{2}$  pt. Peter Smith, playing his first London League match for three years, found a gap in his opponent's opening knowledge with Albin's Counter Gambit and scored with an assurance that belied the trouble experienced by 70% of us. His game follows (Game No. 27). John Langford was making steady progress on the Q side in a congested position when, almost on the stroke of time, his opponent, in trying to stem the tide, walked into a two mover, losing a pawn. Alan Marshall agreed a draw in the adjourned position on deciding he could not make any further progress. Alan held an edge throughout the game but the scattered nature of the position made it difficult to hold onto anything for long.

Of the losers, boards 3 and 5 appeared to come nearest to making a mark. Terry Whitton was at least equal for much of the time but went wrong early

in the ending. Roy Wagstaff worked hard to recover a lost pawn and may have come away with something but for a tactical error just before time.

Game 27. Board 5 A. Mitchell v. P.J. Smith (Notes by Peter Smith.) 1 e4, d5; 2 c4, e5; 3 cxd5. Usual and better is 3 dxe6, 3 ... Qxd5; 4 Nf3, e4; 5 Nc3, Bb4; 6 Qa4+ Nc6; 7 Qxb4, Nxb4; 8 Nxd5, Nxd5; 9 Ne5, Bb6; 10 Bd2, f6; 11 Nc4. After his early aberration White has threaded his way well through the complications and arrived at a playable position. Black now lends some assistance. 11 ... 0-0-0? This is optimistic. I thought my position was so good that he wouldn't be able to exploit the king's exposed position. However, simply 11 ... Nge7 followed by ... 0-0 is sufficient to maintain the advantage. After the text, White gets a dangerous attack. 12 e3, Nge7; 13 Be2, Nc6; 14 e3, Kb8; 15 b4, a6; 16 Rb1. Perhaps b5 straight away was better. 16 ... b5; This leaves a gaping hole at c5 but otherwise the pawns just roll on. Fortunately White cannot exploit the gap quickly and he has a problem of his own at c4 which turns out to be decisive. 17 Nb2, Nb6; This was to discourage 18 e4 but I think he should have played it anyway. I intended to reply 18 ... Nc4 but after the exchanges the Q side is shattered and White stands much better. Instead White makes a similar mistake to mine on move 11. 18 0-0? White wanted the king tucked away before continuing the attack, but with the queens off, it is quite safe in the centre; he overlooked my reply. 18 ... Ne5! 19 Rfc1, 19 dxe5, Rxd2 is very good for Black. 19 ... Ncc4; 20 Nxc4, Bxc4; 21 Bxc4, Nxc4; 22 Be1. The knight is so strong that White's best chance may have been to sacrifice the exchange immediately. 22 ... f5; 23 Rc3, f4; 24 Rd1, Rd5; Careless. Black should exchange on e3 first. Now White should have tried 25 exf4, Rhd8; 26 Rg3! with excellent chances. Instead he sacrifices the exchange in the hope of holding out for a draw. 25 Rxc4? bxc4; 26 exf4, Rhd8; 27 Bc3, e5! White overlooked that I could swap-off one of my weak pawns in this way, thus forcing a way through the curtain of pawns. 28 bxc5, Rxc5; 29 Rb1+ Rb5; 30 Rxb5+ exb5; 31 Kf1, Kb7; 32 Ke2, Kc6; 33 Ke3, Kd5; 34 g3, g6; 35 h3, Ra8; 36 Bb4, c3; 37 Bc5. If 37 Bxc3, Rxa3; 38 Kd2, Kc4; 39 Bb2, Rd3+ also wins easily. 37 ... Kc4; 38 Ke2, Kb3; 39 Kd1, Kb2; White resigns.

Played 25th October, 1978 at St. Bride's  
W & W had black on odd numbered boards.

Manstead & Woodford		v	Battersea		
1	I.D. Hunnable 174	1	v	A.C. Ashby 183	0
2	A.T. Marshall 177	1	v	Dr. G.A.C. Ashcroft 180	0
3	T.D. Whitton 173	½	v	A.F. Stimson 169	½
4	Alan J. Potter 161	½	v	T. Martin 167	½
5	A.S. Kinder 152	0	v	G. Spittle -	1
6	Peter Smith -	½	v	I.R.E. Clark 787	½
7	R.A. Wagstaff 161	½	v	H. Chillingworth 144	½
8	G.W. Fernie 147	1	v	P.C. Stokes 142	0
9	T.D. Sanders 149 J	1	v	D. Watts 130	0
10	S.R. Lee 134 J	0	v	D.R. Steele -	1

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Battersea are our meet end this was our fifth victory in a row over them. It was also our first win of the season and a welcome turnaround of events after the Wood Green game.

The players on board 3 met for the third season running. For the third time the colours were the same and the opening was a Petroff. For the third time the game petered out into a forced draw while still in its infancy; this time in only 8 moves. In future real efforts must be made to keep these two apart! Tim Sanders, playing black against the English, made capital out of play on the Q side, which is where white usually hopes to succeed in this opening. With the losses on 5 and 10 coming next we went one down. Spittle attacked Andrew Kinder on the K side although Andrew had castled queen's and Spittle king's! The strategy worked!! After moves had been sealed, George

Fernie's opponent, faced with unstoppable passed pawns, acknowledged his fate by resigning, levelling the scores. (Game follows.)

The three adjourned games, on 1, 2 and 4 held the key which turned out to fit the lock! Ian Munnable, a pawn ahead after successfully defending a strong attack, found a forcing move to put in the envelope and Ashby lasted only four moves more. Alan Marshall had also had to fend off a fierce attack and in doing so successfully, inherited the better ending. This game also continued for only a few moves of the second sitting. This left Alan Potter, in an unclear position, free to agree a draw.

As a point of interest, linking these last two match reports, Wood Green beat Battersea 9-1.

Now here is George Fernie's imaginative encounter against Battersea:

Game No. 26. Board 8 G.W. Fernie v. P.C. Stokes (Notes expanded from comments by George Fernie) 1 c4, e5; 2 Nc3, Nf6; 3 g3, d5; 4 cxd5, Nxd5; 5 Bg2, c6? 6 Nxd5, cxd5; 7 Qb3, e4; 8 d3, f5; 9 Nh3, Nc6; 10 Nf4? Nd4? The move to take advantage of White's error was 10 ... Bb4+. 11 Qe4+ Nc6; 12 0-0, g5; This looks a trifle ambitious for one so far behind in development, but it is in fact a defensive move! Black will lose a centre pawn if he does not drive the knight away. 13 Nh3, h6; 14 Be3, Bg7; 15 Be5! George's inventiveness is already at work; he traps the king in the centre and is planning to let the exchange go in order to build an irresistible attack. 15 ... Bxb2; 16 dxe4. The annotators problem is where to put the exclamation mark. I have put it after White's 15th since he had already embarked on this exchange offer at that point. Can Black decline the offer? 16 ... dx4 looks the best refusal (if 16 ... fxe4; 17 Rad1 regains the pawn through the threats of Bxe4 and Qb3 e.g. a) 17 ... Be6; 18 Bxe4, Bxh3; 19 Bg6+ Kd7; 20 Rxd5+ etc. or b) 17 ... Bf5; 18 Qb3 wins the d-pawn). So after 16 ... dxe4; 17 Rad1 with good chances against the open black king in return for the pawn. Black however, accepts the offer and soon finds himself facing a white tide. 16 ... Bxa1; 17 exd5, Qa5; 18 Qxe5, Nxe5; 19 Rxe1, Bd7; 20 f3, Kf7; 21 e4, b6; 22 Bd4, Rhe8; 23 e5, Bb5; 24 f4, g4; 25 Nf2, Rac8; 26 Nd1, Rc4; 27 Nc3, Ba6; 28 Rd1, Rec8; 29 Bf1. A natural move, but maybe White should press on with 29 d6, Rxd4; 30 Rxd4, Rxc3; 31 Bd5+ Ke8; 32 e6, 29 ... Rxc3; After the game, 29 ... Rxd4 was suggested, but after 30 Bxe6, Rxd1+ 31 Nxd1, Rc1; 32 Be2, there is little Black can do to prevent White organising the advance of his pawns. 30 Bxa6, 30 Bxc3 levels the pieces! (30 ... Bxf1; 31 Bxa5.) 30 ... Rc1; 31 e6+? This should throw away White's chances. 31 Rxc1, Rxc1+ 32 Kf2 is sufficient to preserve the win. 31 ... Kg6?? Black in his turn goes wrong. 31 ... Ke7 was right, when 32 Rxc1, Rxc1+ 33 Kf2, Rd1; 34 Ke3, Kd6 holds the pawns (35 Bf6, Rxd5; 36 e7, Kd7 followed by ... Nc6 or 35 Be5+ Ke7 is also safe for Black). 32 Rxc1, Rxc1+ 33 Kf2, Nc4; 34 Bxc4, Rxc4; 35 Be5. Resigns. There is no way Black can approach the pawns.

*Ian Munnable*