

FIRST RANK

Editor
Ian Hunnabale

A bulletin of the activities of
Wanstead & Woodford Chess Club

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LONDON LEAGUE - DIVISION 2

Played 19th October, 1979 at St. Bride's Institute
W & W had black on the odd numbered boards

	Wanstead & Woodford	v	Willesden	
1	Alan J. Potter 158	0	G. Taylor -	1
2	P.T.R. Gasper 187	1	G.W. Thomas 182	0
3	P. Pritchard 171 WECU $\frac{1}{2}$	v	L. Szeri -	$\frac{1}{2}$
4	A.T. Marshall 190	0	A. Amin -	1
5	I.D. Hunnable 178	0	R. Gronau 165	1
6	T.D. Whitton 167	$\frac{1}{2}$	W. Bennett -	$\frac{1}{2}$
7	A.S. Kinder 164	adj v	R. Demming 137	adj
8	Peter J. Smith 152	0	R. Kane 155	1
9	G.W. Fernie 147	0	R. Elwell -	1
10	P. Barclay 135	0	R. Phillips 151	1
		2 + 1 adj.		7 + 1 adj.

The Ghost of Willesden Rides Again. Those players who took part in the previous match against Willesden in 1975 (six of the present side), and who are not still suffering from traumatic amnesia, will recall that the previous fixture was the year Willesden were relegated to Division 3, and on that occasion we were routed 2 - 8! Now Willesden are back in Division 2, and anyone who thought it couldn't all happen again was in for a big shock.

It wasn't too long before the spectre of that former horror reared its ugly head. The bottom boards led the rot: George Fernie slipped up very early and had to let a pawn go with worse to follow. Paul Barclay missed the chance to win a piece and straight away blundered material. After that no one seemed capable of winning and we stumbled to 0 - 6 before making reply.

Alan Potter looked to be making progress on the Q-side where White's king resided, but suffered through not having found a safe place for his own king. Alan Marshall lost a R & P ending he should have drawn. Ian Hunnable misremembered his homework and got into a losing variation instead of a favourable one. Peter Smith with advantage missed the chance to exchange queens and after a complex middlegame during which Black recovered ground, Peter suffered the anguish of putting his queen en prise to a knight fork. Terry Whitton halted the slide when agreeing a draw despite advantage in a R & P ending. Later analysis showed he had a win.

In the three adjourned games: Philip Gaspers opponent resigned without further play. Philip's was one of the few games not to show signs of suffering from the general malaise, and follows this narrative. Paul Pritchard also fared well but in another R & P ending agreed a draw. Andrew Kinder finished the session in a flurry of tactics but although standing with N & 4P v B & 3P will be hard pressed to make more than a draw of it.

Yes we were missing several players but were still the stronger side on paper. A highly disappointing flop after the euphoria of our first two matches and one that will haunt us for at least another year.

Game No. 48 Board 2 P.T.R. Gasper v G.W. Thomas. English Opening Notes by Philip Gasper. 1 c4, g6; 2 e4, Bg7; 3 d4, d6; 4 Nc3, Nc6; 5 d5, Nd4; 6 Be3, c5; 7 Nge2, Qb6; 8 Qd2, Bd7; A trap which is by now well known is: 8 ... Bg4; 9 f3! Bxf3? 10 Na4, Qa6; 11 Nxd4, cxd4; 12 Bxd4, Bxd4; 13 Qxd4, Nf6; 14 c5! Qa5+ 15 Nc3, dxc5; 16 Qe5, Bg4; 17 d6, 0-0-0; 18 dxe7 etc. as in Timman v. Suttles at Hastings a few years ago. But in view of his next move, Black could play a waiting move here such as ... a6. 9 Rd1. I didn't really believe Black

would move his bishop a second time, so took a risk. Objectively 9 h3 is probably best. 9 ... Bg4(!) 10 h3. After 10 f3, Black really can take the pawn since White's KN would then be pinned. 10 ... Bxe2; Interesting would be 10 ... Bf3!? though it somewhat loses its point when there is no pawn to capture on that square. 11 Bxe2, Nxe2; Black should not surrender his best placed piece so readily. I expected ...e6 or ...e5. 12 Qxe2, Bxc3+? Another poor exchange from Black's point of view. He will now have to take the risky course of castling Q-side. 13 bxc3, Qa5; 14 Qc2, Qa6; 15 Rb1! b6; 16 Rb5, Nf6; 17 Bh6, Nd7; 18 f4, 0-0-0; Here I anticipated ...f6 to discourage e5 and temporarily box in the bishop on h6. 19 a4, Qb7; 20 0-0, a5; 21 e5. Virtually deciding the game - White threatens to drive away the knight on d7 and then gang up on Black's Q-side. Black therefore decides to shed a pawn. 21 ... e6; 22 dxe6, fxe6; 23 Bg5, Rdf8; 24 exd6, Rf5; 25 g4, Rxc5; Desperation, but if the rook retreats White takes control of the whole board with 26 Qg2. 26 fxc5, Qc6; 27 Qg2. The d-pawn is not too important, but since there is no immediate breakthrough it may be simplest to defend it. 27 ... Qxd6; 28 Rbb1, Kc7; 29 Rbd1, Qe7; If 29 ... Qe5; 30 Rxd7+! etc. 30 Qg3+ Kc6; 31 Rd2, e5; 32 Rfd1, Rd8; 33 Qe3, Qe6; 34 Qe4+ Kc7; 35 Qd5, Qxd5; 36 Rxd5, e4; 37 Rd6. And not 37 Rxd7+ Rxd7; 38 Rxd7+ Kxd7; 39 Kf2, Ke6; 40 Ke3, Ke5; 41 h4, Kd6; 42 Kxe4, Ke6; when despite the extra pawn, White cannot win as his king has no entry. 37 ... e3; 38 Re6, Rf8; 39 Rxe3, Resigns.

And now two games from the Drunken Knights match:

Game No. 49 W & W v. Drunken Knights 3.10.79 Board 1 Alan Potter v. M.J. Staples
Vienna Opening. Notes by Alan Potter. 1 e4, e5; 2 Nc3, Nf6; 3 Bc4, Bc5; 4 d3, c6; More usual is ...Nc6, or ...d6. 5 Nf3, d5; 6 exd5, cxd5; 7 Bb3, Nc6; 8 0-0, Bg4; Probably ...0-0 is better as Black's central pawns are under pressure. 9 h3, Be6; 10 Nxe5! Nxe5; 11 d4, Bd6; 12 dxe5, Bxe5; 13 Ba4+ Kf8; This is the point of White's 10th move: if 13 ... Nd7; 14 Nxd5, or if 13 ... Bd7; 14 Bxd7+ Qxd7; 15 Re1! wins. 14 Qf3, Qc7; 15 Re1. I thought the "two bishops" were worth suffering doubled pawns. (In any event 15 Ne2, d4 gives Black good play - Ed.) 15 ... Bxc3; 16 Qxc3, Qxc3; 17 bxc3, Rc8; 18 Bb2, h5; 19 Bb3, h4; 20 Rad1, Rh5; 21 Rd4, Ne4; 22 c4, dxc4; 23 Bxc4, Rxc4; Draw agreed. (After 24 Rxc4, Bxc4; 25 Rxe4, Bxa2; 26 Ra4, Bd5; 27 Rxa7, f6 there is nothing further to play for.) Staples offered the draw and I could not refuse! (Staples is graded 207 - Ed.)

And with the next we reach the half century of First Rank games.

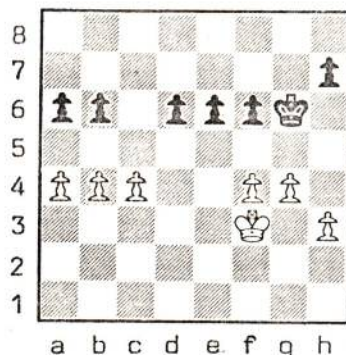
Game No. 50 W & W v. Drunken Knights 3.10.79 Board 3 P.T.R. Gasper v. G. Leyton
English Opening. Notes by Philip Gasper. 1 c4, e5; 2 Nc3, Nc6;
3 e3, f5; A popular but rather crude system. Black's main difficulty is where to put his KB. 4 g3, 4 d4 would allow Black to solve one of his major problems with 4 ... Bb4, but in an earlier game in which I allowed this the soundness of White's position still triumphed: (4 d4, Bb4;) 5 Ne2, d6; 6 g3, Nf6; 7 Bg2, 0-0; (...exd4) 8 0-0, Bxc3, 9 Nxc3, Qe8; 10 Nd5, Qf7; 11 b3, Kh8; 12 Bb2, exd4? (...e4) 13 exd4, Nxd5; 14 Bxd5, Qf6; 15 f4, Bd7; 16 Qd2, Rae8; 17 Bf3, Qf7; 18 d5, Nd8? (...Ne7) 19 Rae1, b6; 20 Qc3, a5; 21 Bh5, Rxe1; 22 Rxe1! Qf6; 23 Qxf6 gxf6; 24 Re7, Resigns. In the present game the same themes recur - control of d5 and the a1-h8 diagonal. 4 ... Nf6; 5 Bg2, Bc5; On this square the bishop is liable to be hit by a later b4 or d4, but e7 would be a very passive square and it is too late for the luxury of a K-side fianchetto. Finally, 5 ... Bb4 would now be met by 6 Nd5. 6 Nge2, e4?! Premature and rather anti-positional - Black should be trying for ...f4. 7 d3, exd3; 8 Nf4, d2+ 9 Qxd2, d6; 10 a3, a5; 11 b3, 0-0; 12 0-0, Ne5; 13 Rb1, Kh8; 14 Rd1, Ba7; 15 Bb2, Qe8; 16 Nfd5. White's pieces cooperate so well that the position virtually plays itself. In contrast Black's only decent bits are his knights. He now moves his bishop from a silly square to an even sillier one. But he's got to protect c7 somehow e.g. if 16 ... Qf7; 17 Nxf6 followed by Nd5 and Qxa5. 16 ... Bb8; 17 Nxf6, Rxf6; 18 Nd5, Rf8; 18 ... Rh6 would be a futile gesture which would only weaken Black's back rank. 19 Qc3. This embarrassing pin of Black's only active piece leaves his position quite hopeless. 19 ... Qf7; 20 c5, Ra6; 21 Nf4, Bg6; 22 Nh5, Ne5; 23 Nf4, Ng6; 24 Nxc6+ Qxc6; 25 cxd6, Rxd6; Or 25 ... cxd6; 26 Rbc1 and the b-pawn will drop. 26 Rxd6, cxd6; 27 Rc1. Not 27 Qxe5? f4. 27 ... Be6; 28 Qxa5, Bxb3; 29 Qb6, Be6; 30 Qxb7, f4; 31 exf4, d5; 32 Bd4, Bxf4; A last fling. I was hoping for something like 32 ... Bd6; 33 Bxd5, Bxd5; 34 Qxd5,

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"An excellent result with several members of the team playing well. Roy Wagstaff was a late substitute (Roy's first ever game for the second team? - Ed.) and was impressed by his opponents play. Simon Lee's opponent got himself into a tangle and Simon did all that was required of him but did it very well (game follows). Edward Lee played well but with a winning rook and pawn ending tried to finish over the board rather than give the adjudicators the satisfaction of

N.P. O'Connor



Peter Smith
White to play and win.
(Mate in 9)

winning it for him but slipped up allowing the draw. Peter Smith had a fairly nondescript game but a fine ending which is featured in the diagram on the left. (The answer to this is given overleaf - no peeking! - Ed.) Howard Anderson was satisfied with a draw after having slightly the worse of it. Stuart Skelsey's opponent never seriously challenged the centre which is to ignore the birthright of Pirc's defence. George Gooding has a fairly solid claim for a draw after having the worse of it. Simon Leary just managed to keep the wolves from the door. His opponent had two united passed pawns in a rook and pawn ending - still don't know how he did it."

In answer to the query posed at the start of this report, no this isn't Roy Wagstaff's first appearance for the second team. The club's records show him as having taken board 1 against Briggs Motor Bodies 1st team in Essex League division 2 on Thursday 14th February, 1946, and on a number of other occasions in the club's early years. It's just that Roy has been a leading light for so long it's difficult to imagine him ever having been anything else.

Game No. 51 Board 2 S.R. Lee v. A. Steptoe Owen's Defence. 1 e4, b6; 2 d4, Bb7; 3 Bd3, e6; 4 Nf3, Nf6; 5 e5, Nd5; 6 a3, h6; 7 c4, Ne7; 8 Nc3, d5; 9 exd6 ep, cxd6; 10 Bf4, a6; 11 O-O, Ng6; 12 Bxg6, fxg6; 13 Re1, Qf6; 14 Qd2, Be7; 15 d5, e5; 16 Nxe5! dxe5; 17 Bxe5, Qf7; 18 Bd6, O-O; 19 Rxe7, Qf6; 20 Re6, Resigns.

Division 3

'A' Team

Played 3rd October, 1979 Away

Wanstead & Woodford 3A				v P.E.R.M.E.			
1	S. Skelsey	1	v	M. Cohen		0	
2	P. Barclay	0	v	R. Torry		1	
3	S. Leary	$\frac{1}{2}$	v	H. Braemer		$\frac{1}{2}$	
4	J. Duggan	$\frac{1}{2}$	v	T. Robinson		$\frac{1}{2}$	
5	J. Franklin	1	v	J. Hulbert		0	
6	Miss K. Part	0	v	C. Isterwe		1	
<hr/>				<hr/>			
3				3			

Played 23rd October, 1979 at Wanstead

Wanstead & Woodford 3A				v East Ham			
1	P. Barclay	0	v	B. Young		1	
2	S. Leary	1	v	M. Grieve		0	
3	J. Franklin	1	v	I. Morgan		0	
4	J. Duggan	$\frac{1}{2}$	v	P.M. Harris		$\frac{1}{2}$	
5	Miss K. Part	1	v	B. Glennard		0	
6	A.W. Birks	1	v	R. Royal		0	
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4 $\frac{1}{2}$				1 $\frac{1}{2}$			

This means that the 2nd team, 3A team and the 3B team (see below) have all beaten East Ham. We will have to wait until January 3rd to see if the 1st team can make it a clean sweep.

Played 8th November, 1979 at Ilford

Wanstead & Woodford 3A				v Ilford			
1	J. Franklin	1	v	R. Trood		0	
2	J. Duggan	1	v	R. Benn		0	
3	A.W. Birks	0	v	P. Toogood		1	

4	D. Filer	0	v	C. Thompson	1
5	P. Barclay	adj	v	R. Tomlinson	adj
6	Miss K. Part	0	v	D. White	1
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2 + 1adj				3 + 1 adj	

'B' Team

Played 30th October, 1979 at Wanstead

Wanstead & Woodford 3B			V	P.E.R.M.E.	
1	Peter J. Smith	$\frac{1}{2}$	v	P. Rose	$\frac{1}{2}$
2	R. Hawkins	0	v	H. Braemer	1
3	J.S. Langford	$\frac{1}{2}$	v	R.R.P. Jones	$\frac{1}{2}$
4	C. Whittaker	1	v	J. Hulbert	0
5	H. Fell	1	v	C.T. Sterne	0
6	J. Goodwin	1	v	F.C. Riley	0
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4				2	

In the match against East Ham (4th October) the unfinished game was won by Vic Morris thus giving us the match by 4-2.

Division 4

Played 30th October, 1979 at Wanstead

Wanstead & Woodford			v	Chadwell Heath	
1	D.C. Bennett	$\frac{1}{2}$	v	R. Hessing	$\frac{1}{2}$
2	A.F. O'Regan	0	v	B.S. Virk	1
3	F.B.R. Crick	0	v	J. Davis	1
4	R. Smith	0	v	C.L. Guiste	1
5	A.J. Rosenbloom	0	v	R. Singh	1
6	S. Bendon	1	v	DEFAULT	0
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$1\frac{1}{2}$				$4\frac{1}{2}$	

Played 7th November, 1979 Away

Wanstead & Woodford			v	Grays	
1	D.C. Bennett	0	v	I. Pheby	1
2	J.S. Langford	adj	v	Mrs. M. Pheby	adj
3	A.F. O'Regan	0	v	G. Bolt	1
4	R. Smith	1	v	M. Bradford	0
5	A.J. Rosenbloom	0	v	C. Tant	1
6	S. Bendon	0	v	G. Chandha	1
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4 + 1adj				4 + 1 adj	

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Peter Smith won the ending in the diagram on page 4 by forcing a passed pawn on the Q-side: 1 a5, bxa5; 2 b5, axb5; 3 cxb5, a4; 4 b6, a3; 5 b7, a2; 6 b8 = Q, a1 = Q; Of course this position would most likely be drawn were it not for White having an immediate mating continuation: 7 Qg8+ Kh6; 8 g5+ Kh5; 9 Qxh7 mate. At least I assume this to be the case. Stuart Skelsey gave me only the basic diagram, I had to work it out for myself too. At least it fits the stated requirement.

Ian Humble