

# FIRST RANK

Editor  
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A bulletin of the activities of  
Wanstead & Woodford Chess Club

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## ESSEX LEAGUE ~ DIVISION 1

After a late start to our Essex Division 1 programme we have made up time by fitting in three matches in as many weeks. However none of them are finished!

Played 15th November, 1979 at Gants Hill  
W & W had white on the odd numbered boards

Wanstead & Woodford				v	Ilford			
1	Alan J. Potter 158	$\frac{1}{2}$	v		G.M. Hayes 198	$\frac{1}{2}$		
2	P.T.R. Gasper 187	0	v		J.B. Howson 185	1		
3	A.T. Marshall 190	1	v		J.W. Roles 168	0		
4	P. Pritchard 171 WECU	adj	v		G.A. Novik 160 J	adj		
5	I.D. Hunnable 178	$\frac{1}{2}$	v		A. Chapman 150 J	$\frac{1}{2}$		
6	T.D. Whitton 167	1	v		P. Szabo 157	0		
7	G.W. Fernie 147	1	v		J. Manley 153 J	0		
8	Peter J. Smith 152	1	v		R. Grant 123	0		
9	S.R. Lee 138 J	adj	v		F. Dorn 139	adj		
10	E.S. Lee 138 J	$\frac{1}{2}$	v		W. Hawthorn 150	$\frac{1}{2}$		

Played 26th November, 1979 Away  
W & W had black on the odd numbered boards

Wanstead & Woodford				v	Romford			
1	Alan J. Potter 158	0	v		K. Warren 180		1	
2	G. Speed 191	1	v		N. Pelling 147 J		0	
3	P.T.R. Casper 187	adj	v		D. Elmes 171		adj	
4	P. Pritchard 171 WECU	adj	v		A.T. Corish 173		adj	
5	I.D. Hunnable 178	0	v		R. Purse 156		1	
6	T.D. Whitton 167	$\frac{1}{2}$	v		R.H. Langenham 156		$\frac{1}{2}$	
7	A.S. Kinder 164	0	v		M. Thomas 141		1	
8	W.T. Franklin 159	1	v		B. Bullwinkle -		0	
9	G.W. Fernie 147	0	v		R. Sztadhaus 130		1	
10	S. Skelsey -	adj	v		G. Eisenberg 128		adj	

lead.

Bill Franklin and Peter Smith both won without difficulty although Pete at first had to contend with a clock that went backwards! On board 5 Chisholm sacrificed unsoundly although, as can be seen from the score following this narrative, white was not without chances of going wrong.

Consideration of the adjourned games showed ample scope to gather the two more points needed. Philip Gasper, two pawns ahead in a R and minor piece ending, erred on his sealed move, giving a pawn back. Not a bad strategy really, so long as the error isn't too serious - Mike Bird had hardly considered the play following that pawn 'sac' and Philip reached adjudication the exchange up with a win. Alan Marshall had powerful passed pawns in return for the exchange and won without deviation from his adjournment analysis. Terry Whitton was left with a complex and none too favourable position to resume and had to work hard to secure the draw. Roy Wagstaff had a piece for two pawns - often technically difficult in the ending - but Roy had a powerful passed pawn of his own which rendered white's compensation totally ineffective. Simon Lee however was two pawns minus and faced with having to part with more, resigned without resuming.

Game No. 53 Board 5 I.D. Hunnable v. R. Chisholm Q.G.D. Lasker's Defence.  
1 Nf3, d5; 2 d4, Nf6; 3 c4, e6; 4 Bg5, Be7; 5 e3, O-O; 6 Nbd2?! h6;  
7 Bh4, Ne4; 8 Bxe7, Qxe7; 9 Nxe4?! dxe4; 10 Nd2, e5! 11 d5, Not 11 Nxe4? exd4;  
12 Qxd4, Rd8 etc. 11 ... Bf5; 12 Be2, c6; I expected 12 ... Nd7; 13 O-O, Nc5  
but Black can't yet reach d3 e.g. if (say) 14 Rb1, Nd3; 15 Bxd3, exd3; 16 e4, etc.  
13 dxc6, Nxc6; 14 a3, Rad8; Here 14 ... Qg5 seems best since White can't castle  
king's on account of 15 ... Bh3. 15 O-O, Qg5; Now it's different. 16 Re1, Rd6;  
17 Qc2, Bh3; 18 Bf1, I suppose 18 g3 is safer, but I thought the bishop would  
have to go here eventually and decided not to move the pawns until necessary (old  
maxim). Turns out I was right.... 18 ... Bxg2? I had expected Black to try for  
this after 18 ... Rg6; 19 Qxe4, f5; (19 ... Bxg2 transposes to the game) but then  
20 Qd5+ Kh7; 21 g3, (but not 20 Qf3, Bxg2; 21 Bxg2, e4; 22 Qg3, Qh5; 23 Qf4 or  
Qc7, Qh3 wins, which is presumably the line Black was trying for with his 18th.)  
Alternatively White has 19 g3. 19 Bxg2, Rg6; 20 Qxe4, f5; 21 f4, This is what  
Black had missed. 21 ... Qe7; 21 ... Qf6 or Qh4 were better. 22 Qf3, exf4;  
This helps White, but Black also needs the open lines if he is to get anything  
out of it. 23 exf4, Qf6; 24 Rab1, Simplest. 24 ... Rd8; 25 Qe3, Nd4; 26 Qe7, Qb6;  
27 c5, Qc6? At the time I thought this was a "!" move since I'd missed it, but  
White has a defence. Black had to back track with 27 ... Qf6. 28 Qxd8+ Kh7;  
29 Ne4, If now 29 ... fxe4; 30 Re3 White is safely a R ahead. But not 30 Kh1,  
Rxc2! 31, Kxc2, e3+ 32 Kg1 (best!), Nf3+ 33 Kf1, Nd2+ 34 Kg1, Nf3+ with perpetual check.  
29 ... Nf3+ 30 Kh1, fxe4; 31 Rbc1, Again simplest. Black cannot play 31 ... Nxe1;  
32 Rxe1, Re6; 33 Bxe4+! Rxe4; 34 Qd3, - a nice example of a counter cross-pin!  
31 ... Rg4; 32 Qd6, Qc8; 33 Bxf3, exf3; 34 Qd3+ Kg8; 35 Qxf3, Resigns.

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## LONDON LEAGUE ~ DIVISION 2

Played 19th November, 1979 at The National Liberal Club  
W & W had White on the odd numbered boards

Wanstead & Woodford			v	Athenaeum		
1	Alan J. Potter 158	0	v	R.G. Wade IM 211	1	
2	G. Speed 191	$\frac{1}{2}$	v	J.S. Walton 190	$\frac{1}{2}$	
3	P.T.R. Gasper 187	1	v	S. Dighton 161 J	0	
4	P. Pritchard 171 WECU	$\frac{1}{2}$	v	S.J.F. Walsh -	$\frac{1}{2}$	
5	A.T. Marshall 190	$\frac{1}{2}$	v	J. Cohen -	$\frac{1}{2}$	
6	I.D. Hunnable 178	0	v	G.J. Mason 165	1	
7	Dr. D.C. Hick 169	1	v	P. Hutchings -	0	
8	T.D. Whitton 167	$\frac{1}{2}$	v	C. Lamb -	$\frac{1}{2}$	
9	A.S. Kinder 164	$\frac{1}{2}$	v	L. Poll -	$\frac{1}{2}$	
10	S.R. Lee 138 J	0	v	R. Atkins 157	1	

In the lower order things did not look so good. All five bottom boards went to adjournment and only Dave Hick was winning. His opponent had replied to the Ruy Lopez with what can only be called "Marshall's Gambit Deferred"! Deferment of the Marshall is of course totally unsound and Dave ended the session with an extra piece and was not required to play on. The remaining games were all bad. Ian Hunnable having slipped up just before adjournment was left with a bad N & P ending which Mason played accurately. Terry Whitton also had a bad ending, but it wasn't quite so easy for White as it seemed and Terry took his chance to secure a  $\frac{1}{2}$ . Simon Lee's game was perhaps the least clear, but he was definitely defending. White however did not pick the best line and Simon tried for too much. Andrew Kinder was left to make the last ditch effort to save the match, but this was perhaps stretching optimism a bit far as his "opposite" bishops ending left no scope.

1 g3, d6; 2 Bg2, g6; 3 e4, Bg7; 4 f4, Nc6; 5 Nc3, e5; 6 fxe5, Nxe5?  
7 d4, Nc6; 8 Be3, Nge7; 9 Nge2, 0-0; 10 Qd2, f5; 11 0-0-0, ab; 12 n4, na; 13 Qnd,  
Qe8; 14 Bxg7, Kxg7; 15 exf5, Nxf5? 16 Nd5, Qf7; 17 Qg5, Be6; 18 Naf4, Kh7?  
19 Nxc7, Bxa2; 20 Nxa8, Rxa8; 21 Be4, d5; 22 Bxf5, Qxf5; 23 Qxf5, qxf5; 24 b3,  
Black Resigns. Spot the deliberate mistake? - K. Spencer v. R.A. Wagstaff.

Played 27th November, 1979 at Wanstead

Played 6th November, 1979 at Wanstead  
W & W had white on the odd numbered boards

Game No. 55 W & W 3B P. E.R.M.E. 30.10.79 Board 1. Peter Smith v. P. Rose.  
Sicilian Dragon. Notes by Peter Smith. 1 e4, c5; 2 Nf3, d6;  
3 d4, cxd4; 4 Nxd4, Nf6; 5 Nc3, g6; 6 Be3, Bg7; 7 Qd2(?) The sharp Yugoslav  
Attack calls for precise play on both sides. Here White has omitted the  
crucial 7 f3 and Black could have taken advantage with an immediate 7 ... Ng4!  
when there is no good square for the bishop and the threatened ...Qb6 is  
embarrassing. 7 ... Nc6(?) 8 f3. Back to the main line... 8 ... Bd7; ...and out  
of it again! Black should castle and White should then play 9 Bc4 avoiding an  
old and effective trap which runs (8 ... O-O;) 9 O-O-O? d5! 10 exd5, Nxd5;  
11 Nxc6, bxc6; 12 Nxd5, cxd5; 13 Qxd5, Qc7; 14 Qxa8, Bf5; 15 Qxf8+ Kxf8. MCO 11  
gives this position as equal, but the bishop pair and threats against the white  
king make it better for black in practical play - so far as I am concerned,  
anyway! 9 O-O-O, d5?! The break isn't nearly so effective now with the black  
king still in the centre. 10 exd5, Nb4; 11 Bc4, b5?! 12 Ndx b5, Rc8; 13 d6, O-O;  
Best. If 13 ... Rc4, 14 dxe7 followed by Nd6+ is overwhelming. 14 dxe7, Qxe7;  
15 Nd6, Be6; The best practical chance, although White should win comfortably  
from here. 16 Bxe6, Qxe6; 17 Nxc8, Rxc8; 18 Kb1? 18 Bd4 kills off any counter-  
play. 18 ... Ne4! 19 Qd8+ Forced, in view of the threatened R or B xc3 followed  
by Qa2. 19 ... Bf8; 19 ... Rxd3; 20 Rxd8+ Bf8; 21 fxe4 which White is winning.  
But not 21 Bh5 immediately, since Black gets in first: 21 ... Nxc3+ now a) 22 Ka1,  
Nxc2 mate; b) 22 Kc1, Nbxa2+ 23 Kd2, Qe2 mate; c) 22 bxc3, Qxa2+ 23 Kc1, Qxc2 Mate.  
20 Qxc8, Qxc8; 21 fxe4, and White maintains a decisive material advantage  
although a draw was eventually agreed to avoid adjudication (very sporting! - Ed.)

A happy New Year to all our readers!

Ian Hunter