FIRST RANK

Editor Ian Hunnable

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	1
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	ad j
.5	I.D. Hunnable 178	$\frac{1}{2}$	V	A. Chapman 150 J	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	$\frac{1}{2}$
		ATTENDED TO STREET			\$1000.00 Sections specimental response
		5½ -	+ 2 a	d j	$2\frac{1}{2} + 2$ adj
10	E.S. Lee 138 J	1/2	V		1 2

After the long wait to the opening fixture we made no mistake against our old rivals Ilford.

Alan Potter repulsed an early attempt at infiltration and thereafter took a solid grip on the centre to record an excellent result, making up a deficit of 40 grading points. Philip Gasper refuted Jim Howson's Sicílian Wing Gambit but allowed his advantage to deteriorate to a draw shortly before losing on the clock. Ian Hunnable had a fine opening and looked to be winning but in the end couldn't find a way through. Terry Whitton was assisted by his opponent's blunders but redeemed the game as a spectacle with a fine concluding combination (game follows). Manley neglected to secure his king and George Fernie mounted a crushing assault.

Four games went to adjudication. Peter Smith, a pawn ahead and with a clear winning plan of expansion of his K side pawn majority, was duly awarded the full point. In Simon Lee's game both sides think they are winning! But ours seems the better claim. Edward Lee after early K side pressure adjourned with R B & 4P each and was given the draw. But Paul Pritchard went astray in the middle game and his ending of B & N in return for a R & 2P is probably lost.

Game No. 52 Board 6 P. Szabo v. T.D. Whitton. 1 Nf3, Nf6; 2 g3, g6; 3 Bg2, Bg7; 4 d3, c5; 5 0-0, 0-0; 6 Nbd2, Nc6; 7 c3, d6; 8 e4, Rb8; 9 d4, 9 Nh4 followed by f4 etc is a more consistent plan. 9 ... Bg4; 10 Gc2, Gd7; 11 d5, Nd8; 12 Rd1, 12 Re1 is more to the point. 12 ... b5; 13 Nf1, a5; 14 Ne3, Bxf3; 15 Bxf3, Nb7; 16 a4, c4; 17 axb5, Qxb5; 18 Be2? 18 Qa4 seems to win a pawn. 18 ... Rfc8; 19 Nxc4?? Rxc4; 20 b3, Rxc3; The reply White overlooked. 21 Qxc3, Qxe2; 22 Re1, Qxf2+; 23 Kxf2, Ng4+ 24 Kg2, Bxc3 and WHITE scon RESIGNED.

This space at the bottom of the page is just big enough to include a notice before the next match report. The third annual friendly against Hastings is on Sunday 27th April, 1980 over 20 boards. Will all 1st & 2nd team players book the date, and also those who would like to play should there be a board evailable.

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. Gasper 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	1/2	V.	R.H. Langenham 156	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
	2 materials	Sept. of Principles			CONTRACTOR OF STREET
		$2\frac{1}{2}$ -	+ 3	adj	$4\frac{1}{2} + 3 \text{ adj}$

We don't usually have trouble with Romford and you have to go back to 1970/71 to find when we last lost to them when the score was $4\frac{1}{2}-5\frac{1}{2}$. But bolstered by former Upminster players on boards 3 & 4 they had an unpleasant surprise in store for us in this most recent meeting.

Alan Potter suffered through lack of control over his K3 square and lost a piece. Pelling played an inferior form of a black gambit and lost a rock. Ian Hunnable made a dog's dinner of the opening and missed a later chance to make a fight of it. Terry Whitton couldn't force matters despite a positional advantage. George Fernie had an overwhelming position from the opening but a blunder cost him dear. Andrew Kinder sacrificed unsoundly, but Bill Franklin had pressure throughout in the most consistently played game and gained the full point on adjudication.

In the unfinished games we are alas struggling to make up the deficit and Romford appear to be on course to repeat 70/71. Philip Gasper had a large plus until he allowed an enterprising pawn sacrifice, and now has to work hard to demonstrate a draw. Paul Pritchard had the edge throughout the session but it is difficult to show how this can be turned into a win on adjudication. Stuart Skelsey in a nondescript position which could have been abandoned as a draw suddenly lost a pawn to an ingenious combination. He has however reached the relative sanctuary of a R & P ending for adjudication.

All in all a dismal performance and the weather that evening wasn't too good either!

Played 5th December, 1979 Away
W & W had white on the odd numbered boards

		Wanstead & Woodford		v	Chadwell Heath	
	1	Alan J. Potter 158	0	V	C.F. Harding 181	1
	2	P.T.R. Gasper 187	adj.	V	M. Bird 162	adj
	3	A.T. Marshall 190	1	V	L.R. Parrott 143	0
	4	P. Pritchard 171 WECU	$\frac{1}{2}$	V	R.D. Manning 156	$\frac{1}{2}$
	5	I.D. Hunnable 178	1	V	R. Chisholm 136	0
	6	T.D. Whitton 167	$\frac{1}{2}$	V	A.E. Brumpton 138	1 2
	7	W.T. Franklin 159	1	v	R. Hessing 116	0
	8	R.A. Wagstaff 156	1	V	B. Emslie -	0
	9	S.R. Lee 138 J	0	V	B.S. Virk -	1
1	0	Peter J. Smith 152	1	V	C.L. Guiste -	0
		photocon	Andrew Line Parks		•••	Commitment delin-desirable
			6 +	1 ad	j	3 + 1 adj

After last year's debacle against Chadwell Heath we approached this match with some deliberation and minus the captain who had fallen ill (he's better now).

With only a short session, only half of the games were finished by adjournment but these were enough to set us on the right road with a $3\frac{1}{2}-1\frac{1}{2}$

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 stategy 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, 0-0; 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 0-0, Qq5; 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, Rxg2: 31, Kxg2, e3+ 32 Kg1 (best!), Nf3+ 33 Kf1, Nd2+ 34 Kg, 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 Od6, Oc8; 33 Bxf3, exf3; 34 Od3+ Kg8; 35 Oxf3, Resigns.

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 ½	V	J.S. Walton 190 $\frac{1}{2}$
3	P.T.R. Gasper 187 1	V	S. Dighton 161 J 0
4		V	S.J.F. Walsh - $\frac{1}{2}$
5	A.T. Marshall 190	V	J. Cohen 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 1/3	V	C. Lamb - $\frac{1}{2}$
9	A.S. Kinder 164	V	L. Poll - $\frac{1}{2}$
10	S.R. Lee 138 J 0	V	R. Atkins 157
	AND SIMPLE OF STATE	,	date ring particular support and rest rest rest rest rest rest rest rest

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With the return of the players who missed the Willesden experience we were back with our first choice side, but any confident feelings were given a severe jolt. Athenaeum were considerably weaker than when we met them last year and we somewhat stronger, but paper values don't always hold up.

The top half shared the honours: Philip Gasper's nicely played ending being countered by Alan Potter's expected demise. Alan Marshall however might have made it a plus in that region having picked up the exchange for a pawn; but Cohen collected a second pawn and things looked decidedly awkward for our man.

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.

ESSEX LEAGUE

Division 2

Played 6th December, 1979 Away
W & W had black on the odd numbered boards

	Wanstead & Woodford		V	Barking	
1 2 3 4 5 6 7	S.R. Lee 138 J E.S. Lee 138 J Peter J. Smith 152 S. Skelsey — G.T. Gooding 125 M.J. Goodwin — S. Leary 125 J	1 0 1 2 1 1 1 2 1	v v v v v	P. Harbott 163	
8	K. Davis -	0	V	J. Cooper 149 1	
				Mary substitute.	-
		5		3	

This is a comfortable win over what is Barking's first team since they are no longer in the 1st Division. Makes you wonder how they stayed there so long. Simon Lee had a good win on top board and Stuart Skelsey maintained his 100% record for the seconds.

This team now has 3 wins out of 4 matches. Good going.

As a supplement to the Upminster match report in the previous issue here is the top board game.

Game No. 54. W & W v. Upminster 8.11.79 Board 1. Wagstaff's Defence.

1 93. d6; 2 892, 96; 3 e4, 897; 4 f4, Nc6; 5 Nc3, e5; 6 fxe5, Nxe5?

7 d4. Nc6; 8 8e3, Nge7; 9 Nge2, U-U; 10 Ud2, r5; 11 0-0-0, ab; 12 n4, hb; 13 dnd,
Qe8; 14 8xg7, Kxg7; 15 exf5, Nxf5? 16 Nd5, Qf7; 17 Qg5, 8e6; 18 Nef4, Kh7?

19 Nxc7. 8xa2; 20 Nxa8, Rxa8; 21 8e4, d5; 22 8xf5, Qxf5; 23 Qxf5, qxf5; 24 b3,
Black Resigns. Spot the deliberate mistake? - K. Spencer v. R.A. Wagstaff.

Division 3

Played 27th November. 1979 at Wanstead

	Wanstead & Woodford	3A	V	Roding	
3	E.S. Lee J. Duggan J. Regan P. Barclay A.W. Birks Miss K. Part	1 1 1 1 2	V V V V V	R. Neogy T. Cole G. Hart E. Lodge D. Povey M. Tyrell	0 1 0 0 1 2 1
		BIS SERVICIOS SANDONO CONTROL DE			
		3흥		•	2호

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

	Wanstead & Woodford	3B	V	Brentwood	
1 2 3 4 5 6	Peter J. Smith V.G. Morris R. Hawkins K. Davis Ray Smith M.J. Goodwin		V V V V	T. Coote A. Tullet G. Daniel G. Benger A. Marie E. Newton	1 1 12 1 12
		11/2	noda		4 1 / ₂

Game No. 55 W & W 3B v. 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 8c4 avoiding an old and effective trap which runs (8 ... 0-0;) 9 0-0-0? 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 0-0-0, d5?! The break isn't nearly so effective now with the black king still in the centre. 10 exd5, Nb4; 11 Bc4, b5?! 12 Ndxb5, Rc8; 13 d6, 0-0; 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, 0xe6; 17 Nxc8, Rxc8; 18 Kb1? 18 Bd4 kills off any counterplay. 18 ... Ne4! 19 0d8+ Forced, in view of the threatened R or B xc3 followed by Qa2. 19 ... Bf8; 19 ... Rxd8; 20 Rxd8+ Bf8; 21 fxe4 which White is winning. But not 21 8h6 immediately, since Black gets in first: 21 ... Nxc3+ now a) 22 Kq1, 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 Humad