FIRST RANK

Editor Ian Hunnable

A bulletin of the activities of Wanstead & Woodford Chess Club

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SECRETARY'S NOTE - THE PRESIDENCY

MR JONATHAN MASON, OUR LATE PRESIDENT

The death last year of Mr. Mason severed a very long connection with the Club, he having been one of our founder members and our President for 25 years.

He retired from competetive chess after the 1972/3 season but hitherto had been a very active member of the Club playing imaginative chess and winning many games for us in the Essex League Division 1 as well as successes in the Club Championship. Moreover, in earlier years he was a great teacher of the game, so that the Club owed over the years a big debt to him for his contribution to its success.

he was father—in—law to the late Mr. J.C. Hunnable, another of our longest serving members who, whilst not taking an active part recently in our affairs, was still a very interested Hon. Vice—President until his recent death.

At an Extraordinary General Meeting held on 11th December, 1979 the position of President was filled with the election of Mr. Roy Wagstaff. This is a very apt appointment, Mr. Wagstaff having been one of the founders of the Club and having at one time or another filled all the main offices with distinction. We are very pleased still to have the benefit of his enthusiasm and experience.

The position of Chairman consequently became vacant and the election, at the same meeting, of <u>Ian Hunnable</u> to that post perpetuates appropriately his family's long service to our chess.

D.C. Bennett Hon. Secretary.

I have prepared a selection of Mr. Mason's games for publication and these will appear shortly with an Appreciation by Roy Wagstaff. - IH.

ESSEX KNOCKOUT

Round 1
Played 9th January, 1980 Away
W & W had white on the odd numbered boards

	Wanstead & Woodford		V	Gra	ays	
1	Alan J. Potter 158	0	V	I.	Pheby 172	1
2	P.T.R. Gasper 187	1	v	G.	Bolt 126 J	0
3	P. Pritchard 171 WECU	adj	V	€.	Tant 101	adj
4	W.T. Franklin 159	1	V	R.	Prickett 101	0
5	R.A. Wagstaff 156	dia.	V	Μ.	Bradford 101	1.
6	G.W. Fernie 147	1	V	G.	Chadha -	Ō
	, ****	-			07	delitarion constitue
		$3\frac{1}{2}$ -	+ 1	adj		$1\frac{1}{2} + 1$ adj

The absence of a number of names from our list was of little consequence in this first round match against Grays who don't appear in the Essex League above Division 4.

Two quick easy wins from Philip Casper and Bill Franklin set us on the road. Alan Potter however overlooked the possibility of an advantageous recepture by his opponent in the centre, giving Black the advantage of active piece play. George Fernie was on the right end of a blunder to give us a 3-4 lead. But in k.o.

competitions that seemingly safe situation can be deceptive if, as here, the wins are on the lower boards, since reverses in the remaining games (and accidents do happen) would lose the match on tie-break. With this in mind Roy Wagstaff agreed a draw although having a plus, clinching our place in the next round. Paul Pritchard is to resume having 3 pawns for a sacrificed piece.

LONDON LEAGUE - DIVISION 2

Played 12th December, 1979 at St. Bride's W & W had white on the oddnumbered boards

	Wanstead & Woodford		V	East Ham	
1	P.T.R. Gasper 187	1	V	R. Watts 1.74	0
2	G. Speed 191	0 .	V	W.J. Stirling 192	1
3	A.T. Marshall 190	1	V	K. Warren 180	0
4	P. Pritchard 171 WECU	1	V	H.I. Woolverton 177	$\frac{1}{2}$
5	I.D. Hunnable 178	Ô	V	L. Green 168	1
6	Dr. D.C. Hick 169	0	ν	J. Sargent -	1
7	T.D. Whitton 167	0	v	S.J. Abbott 153	1
8	E.S. Lee 138 J	1	ν	K.R. Spencer 146	0
9	S.R. Lee 138 J	0	V	M. Bautista -	1
10	R.A. Wagstaff 156	0	v	S. Hunt 146	1
	-		•		-1
		$3\frac{1}{2}$			62

Since we won our first two matches against strong opposition we've gone into our shells and now have lost three in a row. East Ham's side sports a number of additions by comparison with their Essex League team (one might almost call them Upminster!) We were struck by the misfortune of Alan Potter having to withdraw on the day of the match, but Roy Wagstaff was on hand to fill the breach.

Roy Watts placed himself on board 1 intending that Champions should meet as they would have but for the previously mentioned circumstance. Philip Gasper once again demonstrated his thorough knowledge of the English opening as can be seen from the game that follows. Paul Pritchard found himself playing his seventh black in eight games for us; nowadays he has given up grumbling - he just asks what board he's on and sits whichever side the black pieces are set! Alan Marshall outplayed Warren with his favourite Vienna producing a neat combination to expose the black king. Graham Speed found Bill Stirling too much to handle and was overrun by pawns. Ian Hunnable reached a winning ending (extra pawn) but was mortified to see his flag fall while making the time control move! David Hick is not nearly so happy with black and was never in the game. Terry Whitton raced away making more than a dozen moves in two minutes. But after reaching a winning position messed it up on virtually the last move of the session. Edward Lee was brought in for his London League debut in our colours and must be one of the youngest players to appear in the League at this level. Spencer appeared to be on top in the early stages but fighting like a tiger, Edward pushed a passed rook's pawn to full effect, finishing the ending in the second session. Brother Simon on the next board went two pawns down and could find no way to recover.

Game No. 56 Board 1 P.T.R. Gasper v R. Watts English Opening. (Philip's notes to this game are written with a certain amount of tongue—in—cheek!)

Since this was my first game on board 1 for Wanstead since September 1977 it deserves to be committed to posterity! 1 c4. e5; 2 Nc3 Nc6; 3 e3, The first significant moment — obviously White's plan is to push the d-pawn as far as possible.

3 ... g6; The second significant point — White now has a second strategy to follow: swap off the dark square bishops and infiltrate with the king to f6 or h6. 4 d4, exd4; 5 exd4, Bg7; 6 Nf3, d6; 7 d5, Ne5; 8 Nxe5, dxe5; 9 Be2, Ne7; 10 0-0, 0-0; 11 f4, 11 ... Nf5; 12 Bg4, h5; 13 Bxf5, Bxf5; 14 fxe5, Bxe5; 15 Bf4, Bxf4; 16 Rxf4, An important part of the winning plan is accomplished. 16 ... Qd6; 17 Qd4, c6? Allowing White to accomplish the first—stated part of his strategy. The rest is technique. 18 c5, Qd8; 19 Re1, Re8; 20 Rxe8+ 0xe8; 21 Ne4, Bxe4; 22 Rxe4, Od7; 23 d6, Re8; 24 h3, Rxe4; 25 Oxe4, f5; 26 Qe5, Kf7; 27 h4, b6; 28 b4, bxc5; 29 bxc5, Qd8; 30 q3, Qd7; 31 Kf2, Qb7; 32 Kf3, a5; 33 Uc3, Qa6; 34 Kf4, Qa6; 35 Oc4+ Kf6; 36 Qd4+ Kf7;

37 d7, Qb8+ 38 Qd6, Now after 38 ... Qb4+ 39 Kg5, Qg4+ 40 Kh6, the d-pawn reaches the eighth rank and White will have achieved both the plans begun at move 3. Therefore BLACK RESIGNED. (Argue with that if you can: - Ed.)

Adjudications/Adjournments

Before we move on to some Essex League reports there are some oddments to clear up:

London League Div. 2 v. Willesden - 19.10.79: Kinder $\frac{1}{2}$ v Demming $\frac{1}{2}$ ($2\frac{1}{2}$ - $7\frac{1}{2}$)

Essex League Div. 1 v. Ilford - 15.11.79: Pritchard 0 v Novik 1 S. Lee 1 v Dorn 0 $(6\frac{1}{2}-3\frac{1}{2})$

v. Romford 26.11.79: Gasper $\frac{1}{2}$ v Elmes $\frac{1}{2}$ Pritchard $\frac{1}{2}$ v Corish $\frac{1}{2}$ Skelsey 0 v Eisenberg 1 $(3\frac{1}{2}-6\frac{1}{2})$

ESSEX LEAGUE

DIVISION 1

Played 3rd January, 1980 Away
W & W had white on the odd numbered boards

	Wanstead & Woodford		ν	East Ham	
1	Alan J. Potter 158	adj	V	J. Sargent -	adj
2	P.T.R. Gasper 187	1	v	H.I. Woolverton 177	0
3	G. Speed 191	adj	V	N.L. Carr 151J	adj
4	A.T. Marshall 190	1	V	R. Hatch 144	0
5	I.D. Hunnable 178	adj	V	S. Hunt 146	adj
6	T.D. Whitton 167		V	P. Smyth 145	1
7	W.T. Franklin 159	1	V	A. Compton 126	0
8	A.S. Kinder 164	1	V	A. Gascoyne -	0
9	G.W. Fernie 147	adj	v	P. Symmington 113 J	adj
10	S. Skelsey -	1	V	R. Tarrant 132	0
	P			-	
		5 +	4	adj	1 + 4 adj

When East Ham's team was declared, missing several names, it was clear they had little chance of repeating last year's draw, but a good match developed, containing a number of interesting games.

Alan Marshall was first to finish having disposed of Ron Hatch inside an hour and a half. Philip Gasper continued his excellent form of late with another win against Harry Woolverton. Philip sacrificed a pawn for open lines and soon gave up another eventually infiltrating the king's position (game follows). Terry Whitton transposed moves in the opening allowing Smyth to sacrifice the exchange for two pawns and a powerful minor piece attack. Terry had to give back the exchange to stay alive but was still 2 pawns down and tied up in knots. Bill Franklin pushed up a pawn roller against Black's castled king but the outcome of the game revolved around Black's attempts to free himself by counterplay on the other wing. Andrew Kinder's game had a most unusual appearance: Andrew had constructed a pawn'tent' on the king's side with most of his pieces inside it but but his king out in the cold on the queen's side. Somehow Andrew's king survived and when the 'tent' took off against the white monarch the issue was decided. Stuart Skelsey, a late substitute, was winning from the moment he took up occupation of the centre and was a piece up by adjournment.

From the adjourned games it looks as though we will collect another 2 or $2\frac{1}{2}$ points so the issue is not in doubt. Alan Potter, as always, pressed forward throughout and appeared to have chances in the adjourned K & P ending. On further study however it seems Sargent can hold it. Neil Carr accepted the Milner-Barry gambit, later gave up a piece for two more pawns and looked to be winning. But by adjournment the picture had changed And Speed now has two bishops in return for a rock and exposed black king. Ian Hunnable spoilt a promising position and now is

on the losing end of a Q & P ending. George Fernie landed a sucker punch and is justified in asking for a win.

When I stated in the November issue that we would have to wait until this match to see if we could complete a clean sweep over East Ham I had overlooked the London League match! But ignoring that, we have now completed a whitewash of East Ham in the Essex League.

I make no apology for presenting yet another Gasper gams — he is currently head and shoulders above anybody else in the side (with the possible exception of Alan Marshall) and his games are consequently of a cosistently high quality. You may be forgiven however for bemoaning yet another English opening, but this time Philip is black! There is an interesting background to this encounter in that Harry Woolverton (to whom I send the bulletin for press purposes) expressed interest on playing through Philip's game against G. Leyt n (game No. 49) and confessed he had learnt something concerning playing the nglish (considering Harry's vast experience this is indeed remarkable). Har: therefore took this first opportunity to put things to the test against his 'mentor' and this is what happened...

Game No. 57 Board 2 H.I. Woolverton v. RT.R. Gasper English Opening. Notes by Philip Gasper. 1 c4, c5; The last time I didn't move my c-pawn two squares on move one (with either colour) was over two years ago. 2 Nf3, Nc6; 3 Nc3, g6; 4 g3, 8g7; 5 8g2, e6; 6 d3, Nge7; 7 0-0, 0-0; 8 8f4, d5; 9 Qc1, Re8; This isn't given in Encyclopaedia of Chess Openings, so I presume its a TN (theoretical novelty) - at any rate I think it's a good move. The main point is to avoid the exchange of dark squared bishops, but I also had an idea that the rook might prove well placed on the e-file later on. 10 8h6, 8h8; 11 h4?! After the game my opponent told me that he thought this a good move, but I can't really believe that such a wing thrust is correct when Black's position is so well centralised. 11 ... b6; 12 h5, Bb7; 13 Nh4, Consistent, but White's forces are becoming somewhat decentralised... 13 ... Nd4; ... whereas the black pieces control the centre of the board. 14 e4! A very good move. Before things have gone too far, · White seeks to clarify matters in the centre, takes f5 away from the black knights, and prevents a possible later plan of Black's to capture on c4 and swap off the white squared bishops. The move also has the concrete threat of advancing the f-pawn to put further pressure on q6. But e4 also has its drawbacks - most notably Black's knight on d4 is now firmly established. I was now unwilling to prevent the advance of White's f-pawn by playing ...f5, as this would weaken my K-side. I decided instead to try an interesting pawn sacrifice in an attempt to exploit my slightly better central position. 14 ... b5!? 15 cxb5, c4! 16 dxc4, Or 16 exd5, Nxd5! e.g. 17 Qd2, cxd3; 18 Qxd3, Nb4; 19 Qd2, 8xg2; 20 Kxg2, Qd7; 21 a4, Qb7+ 22 Kg1, Rad8 with fine compensation for the pawn. $16 \dots dxe4$; The point is that this pawn is immune due to forking threats on e2. Black now has excellent central control. 17 Rd1, Qc8; 18 b3, Nef5; 19 Nxf5, exf5; 20 Rd2, White should probably look for an improvement around here - Black is now able to swap off light squared bishops and create mating threats. 20 ... Nf3+ 21 8xf3, exf3; 22 Nd5! f4! 23 Nxf4, Re4?! Too eager to justify my 9th move! Much better here would have been 23 ... Qg4 with very strong threats which I don't see how White can meet. 24 Qd1. Trying to exploit the slight weakness of my back rank, but possibly better would have been 24 Qf1. from now to the end of the game the play on both sides becomes rather inaccurate as the time control approaches. 24 ... Bc3; Although Black will now win the exchange the position remains complex as White's Q-side pawns will be strong compensation in an ending. 25 Kh2, Qe8; 26 Rc1, Bxd2; 27 Qxd2, Qe5; 28 Rd1, White should try 28 Qc3 here to exchange queens. 28 ... Re8; 29 Qd6, Qf5; Possibly not best since White should again force an ending with 30 Qd7. 30 hxg6, hxg6; 31 Nh3? Bc8; 32 Ng5, Qg4; 33 Qd5, Qh5+ 34 Resigns.

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INTERLUDE....The following passage appears in "Priciples of Chess" by James Mason, first published over eighty years ago, under the heading of General Principles: "In Chess many things fall out unforseen, favouring design — or the reverse. The player should be incessantly awake to these, or he will be unable to make the most of them. Presence of mind often discovers the first appearance of surprise to be neither its best nor worst. Coolness and concentration go far."

Division 2

Played 18th December, 1979 at Wanstead

	Wanstead & Woodford		V	Ilford	
1	G.W. Fernie 147	1 2	ν	J. Manley 153 J	1 2
2	S.R. Lee 138 J	1	V	D. Goorvitch 140 J	0
3	E.S. Lee 138 J	1	V	C.F. Dorn 139	0
4	Peter J. Smith 152	0	V	J. Page 137	1
5	H. Anderson 134	0	V	W.J. Hawthorn 150	1
6	S. Skelsey -	0	v	M. Sames 145 J	1
7	G.T. Gooding 125	1/2	V	N. Twitchell 125	1 2
8	J. Franklin 113 J	1	v	R. Trodd 123	Ō
		4	•		4

Dorn has now lost to both the Lee brothers!

Division 3

B' Team

P)	Layed 27th Novembe:	: Au	Jay		Pl	ayed 13th Dece	ember,	1979 Away	
	Wanstead 3B	v	Loughton			Wanstead 3B		Upminster	
1 2 3 4 5 6	V. Morris ½ S. Bradford 0 R. Hawkins ½ J. Langford 1 C. Whitaker 1 J. Goodwin ½	v v v v	M.L. de Jode J. Rayner	1 1 2 0 0	1 2 3 4 5 6	V. Morris K. Davis J. Langford C. Whitaker J. Goodwin R. Smith	0 v 1/2 v 0 v 0 v 0 v	S. Johal B. Gaze R. Allgood A. Hewitt	1 1 1 1
P]	3; ayed 16th January. Wanatead 3E	3	980 Away Roding	21/2	P1 1	ayed 22nd Janu	1/2 wary, 1	980 at Wanstea	5½ d
1 2 3 4 5	V. Morris 1 K. Davis a J. Langford 0 C. Whitaker 0 J. Goodwin 0	V V V V V	T. Cole G. Clarke R. Neogy E. Lodge D. Povey	0 a 1 1	2 3 4 5 6	S. Bradford R. Hawkins J. Langford C. Whitaker J. Goodwin	1 v 1 v 1 v 1 v	C. Thompson C. Bowers J. Metzger B. Knight M. Abrahams	0 0 0 1 2 0
6	R. Smith 0		M. Tyrrell	1	10	Wanstead 38	5	Ilford 3A	1

Division 4

Play	yed 27th Novem	ber,	1979 Away		b)	ayed 4th Decem	ber	, 1	979 at Wanstes	d
l	Janstead (V	Roding			Wanstead		v	Upminster	
1 /	A.W. Birks	$\frac{1}{2}$ V	R. Lane	1/2	1	A.W. Birks	1/2	v	S. Kelsey	$\frac{1}{2}$
2). Langford	1 V	M. Geoff	$\frac{1}{2}$	2	D.C. Bennett	1	V	Dr. Jackson	0
3 F	R. Smith	1/2 V	S. Burns	2	3	J. Langford	а	V	R. Francis	a
4 (C. Whittaker	0 v	Steve Johnson	1	4	F.B.R. Crick	0	V	C. Butterill	1
5 F	A. Rosenbloom	0 v	G. Cornwall	1	5	A.F. O'Reagan	0	V	S. Menon	1
6 5	6. Bendon	1 v	Scott Johnson	0	6	R. Smith	1	V	D. Chaplin	0
			19 Y	-				-	-	Surfessor Admirt
		$2\frac{1}{2}$		3½			$2\frac{1}{2}$	+	1a	2늘 +

Look out of the next issue of FIRST RANK - coming soon!

Jan Humadela