

HERTFORDSHIRE

CHESS

ASSOCIATION

HERTFORDSHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION 1977-78

President

B.A. Fewell

Honorary Vice-Presidents

H.L. Palmer	H.J. Warren
W.E.B. Pryer	Prof.G.S.A.Wheatcroft
F.B. Roberts	Mrs. A.Wheelwright
J.S. Russell	

Vice-Presidents

T.W.Y. Alderton	H.M. Lawrance
B.L. Ayers	C. Lean
W.J. Battell	E.J. Leyns
S.T. Berry	E. Leyns
A.G. Burrows	Mrs. H. Pattison
H.S. Campbell	Dr. J.E. Priddle
G.H. Canton	A.P. Primett
S.R. Capsey	R.J.S. Robinson
J. Cook	J. Sharp
S.J. Cooley	O.V. Stobart
B.G. Drury	Mrs. Stobart
R. Forst	P. Thornton
J.E. Gateley	A.W. Torry
T.K. Hemingway	Dr. B. Turner
H.R. Hurd	G.W. Valentine
E.S. Judge	G. Ward
N.D. Lampin	K.L. Woodland
N.H.S. Lavers	D.P. Young

HERTFORDSHIRE CHESS ASSOCIATION 1977-78Officers

President: B.A. Fewell 41 Station Road, Harpenden, Herts.
Tel. Harpenden 67227.

Secretary: O.V. Stobart 77 The Ryde, Hatfield, Herts.
Tel. Hatfield 64251.

Treasurer & Registration
Secretary: C. Lean..... 47 Benslow Lane, Hitchin, Herts.
Tel. Hitchin(0462) 33248.

League Secretary: E.S. Judge 34 Cranborne Avenue, Hitchin.
Tel. Hitchin 33520.

Tournament Secretary: B.G. Drury 46 Astwick Road, Stotfold, Hitchin.
Tel. Hitchin 730611

Congress Organiser: J.G. Jones 7 Kipling Close, Hitchin.
Tel. Hitchin 54171

County Grader: R. Talbot 9 Sadleir Road, St. Albans.
Tel. St. Albans 63177.

Junior Chess Secretary: P. Glass 7 Marlow Court, Willesden,
London N.W.6. Tel. 01-459-2502.

Magazine Editor: A.C. Cooper Tam O'Shanter Cottage, Coopers End,
Takeley, Bishops Stortford, Herts.
Tel. Bishops Stortford 870513.

Match Captains:

S.C.C.U. Championship: J. Cook 6 Gibbs Close, Cheshunt.
Tel. Waltham Cross 33837.

Montague-Jones Trophy: D.P. Young 29 St. David's Drive, Broxbourne,
Herts. Tel. Hoddesdon 62376.

Chilterns League: K.L. Woodland 22 Birley Road, London N.20.
Tel. 01-445-5104.

Mr. Woodland is also County Fixtures Organiser, Curator of Equipment
and Team Tournament Organiser.

Correspondence Chess: E.G.D. Crowden.. 39 Puller Road, Barnet.
Tel. 01-400-6007.

AFFILIATED CLUBS

<u>Club</u> (<u>Club Night</u>)	<u>Venue</u>	<u>Secretary</u>
Allen & Hanbury's (Thursday)	Allen & Hanbury's, Ware.	N.F. Hayes, 201 Whitehall Road, Hitchin. Tel. Hitchin 4572.
Barnet (Monday)	Harold Fern Room, W.R.V.S. Centre, Salisbury Rd., Barnet.	N.B. Holland, 76 Ashurst Road, Finchley. Tel. 01-445-0635.
Bishop's Stortford (Thursday)	British Legion Club, Bishop's Stortford.	S.R. Capsey, 21 Kingsbridge Road, Bishop's Stortford. Tel. Bps. St. 56582.
British Aerospace Dynamics, Hatfield. (Thursday)	Sports & Social Club, Manor Road, Hatfield.	B. Newberry, 29 Cherrycroft, Welwyn Garden City.
British Aerospace Dynamics, Stevenage. (Wednesday)	Sports Club, Gunnels Wood Road, Stevenage.	M. Burton, 25 Park Drive, Little Paxton, Huntingdon.

2.

Hemel Hempstead (Tuesday)	Sports Centre, Park Road, Hemel Hempstead.	S.J. Cooley, 30 Oakdene Road, Hemel Hempstead.
Hertford (Wednesday)	Shire Hall, Hertford.	J. Kitchen, 51 Wellington Street, Hertford.
Hilltop (Tuesday)	Hilltop Centre, 91 Bishops Rise, Hatfield.	O.V. Stobart, 77 The Ryde, Hatfield. Tel. Hatfield 64251.
Hoddesdon (Thursday)	"Lowewood", High Street, Hoddesdon.	D.P. Young, 29 St. David's Drive, Broxbourne. Tel. Hoddesdon 62376.
Letchworth & Baldock (Monday)	Kayser Bondor Sports Centre, Baldock.	A.G. Burrows, 85 Pixmore Way, Letchworth. Tel. Letchworth 3104.
Lucas Aerospace	(Hemel Hempstead)	P. Dunks, 42 New Park Drive, Hemel Hempstead.
P.E.R.M.E. (Wednesday)	The Institute, Powdermill Lane, Waltham Abbey.	R.R.P. Jones, 16 Quendon Drive, Waltham Abbey, Essex. Tel. Lea Valley 711812.
Pin Green	(Stevenage)	K.N. Mason, 24 Durham Road, Stevenage.
ROTHAMSTED (Monday)	Rothamsted Experimental Station, Harpenden.	P.J. Zemroch, Tel. Harpenden 63133.
St. Albans (Wednesday)	Goat Inn, Sopwell Lane, St. Albans.	J. Leake, 26 Oakfield Road, Harpenden. Tel. Harpenden 3170.
Stevenage (Tuesday)	Times Club, London Road, Stevenage.	M. Richards, 4 Brighton Way, Stevenage. Tel. Stevenage 61889.
Watford (Wednesday - matches) (Monday - club)	Darby & Joan Club Exchange Road, Watford.	W. Sanderson, 31 Rudolf Road, Bushey. Tel. 01-950-2807.
Welwyn Garden City (Tuesday)	Woodhall Community Centre, Mill Green Lane, Welwyn Garden City.	S. Murphy, 15 Moorlands, Welwyn Garden City. Tel. Wel.Garden 26026.

CAPEL CUP 1977-78

Position	(Club)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	Total	Sos	Sonn Berg
1	C W Pickard (Stevenage)	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{1}{2}$	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1								6	29 $\frac{1}{2}$	
2	P V Byway (Hilltop)	$\frac{1}{2}$		1	0	1	1	1	1				1							5 $\frac{1}{2}$	30 $\frac{1}{2}$	
3	C H Watson (St Albans)	$\frac{1}{2}$	0		1	1	1	1	1							1				5 $\frac{1}{2}$	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	
4	B Turner (Letchworth & B)	0	1		0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1					1	1	1	5	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	
5	N H S Levers (St Albans)	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1											4	29	
6	C McSheehy (St Albans)	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1									1	1	4	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	
7	R Thompson (Stevenage)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	0				1	1	1	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
8	D Pinch (Hemel Hempstead)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						3 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 $\frac{1}{2}$	9
9	M N Jones (Old Elizabethans)	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1						3 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	
10	P R Scott (Stevenage)	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1			3	28 $\frac{1}{2}$	
11	B G Drury (Letchworth & B)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						3	24	
12	H F Liberty (Watford)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	1	3	21 $\frac{1}{2}$	
13	A C Jeffries (Welwyn Gdn City)	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1						3	20 $\frac{1}{2}$	
14	B S Bowie (Old Elizabethans)	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1			1	1	1	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	
15	P Newstead (Stevenage)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1			1	0	1	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	
16	M Burton (HSD (Stev))	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1				1	1	2 $\frac{1}{2}$	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	
17	M Richards (Stevenage)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1			1	1	1	2	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	
18	R W Aggett (Berkhamsted)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0			0	0	0	1	23 $\frac{1}{2}$	

Games with White are underlined
 Sos is Sum of Opponents Scores

HSD = Hawker Siddeley Dynamics
 Sonn Berg = score under the Sonneborn-Berger tie break system.

This year there were more stronger players in the tournament, which gave a much closer competition. The best four drew away from their weaker brethren, but at the start of the last round any of these four could have won. Pickard and Turner on 5 points each were drawn against each other, whilst Byway and Watson on 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ each both had slightly weaker opponents. They both won, but to no avail as Charles Pickard beat Brian Turner in a tight middle game struggle to emerge as County Champion. Congratulations to him and commiserations to Paul Byway who narrowly failed to win his third consecutive title.

B. G. Drury

BURN CUP 1977-78

R Aggett (Berkhamsted)	R Aggett	R Talbot	R Talbot
W Batelle	R Talbot		
R Talbot (Hilltop)	P W Newstead	D P Young	
J G Jones (Letchworth)	D P Young	B G Drury	
O V Stobart (Hilltop)	B G Drury	R W Parles	
P W Newstead (Stevenage)	M Brozicevic	B J P Weston	
H W F Liberty (Watford)	B J P Weston		
D P Young (Hoddesdon)			
B G Drury (Letchworth)			
J Robertson (Letchworth)			
R W Parles (Watford)			
M Richards (Stevenage)			
M Brozicevic (Letchworth)			
A C Jeffries (Welwyn Garden)			
B J P Weston (Old ES)			
J R Richard (Unattached)			

This competition was again keenly fought, although nevertheless the early rounds proceeded very much to gradings. The semi-finals produced a great struggle between Roy Talbot and Dane Young, with the former admitting that he rode his luck to survive the first game and then to win the second with the black pieces. Meanwhile our modest Tournament Secretary had proceeded to the final, where he avoided any accusations of fixing by giving a model lesson in how not to play the French Defence. He was also gallant enough to congratulate Roy Talbot on his efficient endgame play to take advantage of this and win the Burn Cup.

Herts Knock-out Tournament 1977-78

P. E. R. M. E. Hoddesdon)		
	)	P. E. R. M. E.	
	)	Hemel Hempstead	Hemel Hempstead
	)	Watford	Rothamsted
	)	Rothamsted	Rothamsted
	)	Hilltop	St. Albans
	)	Stevenage	St. Albans
	)	Letchworth & Baldock	St. Albans
St. Albans)		
Welwyn Garden City)		

The entry for this tournament saw all the big names, namely, Stevenage, St. Albans, Hilltop and Letchworth enter, and they all came out of the hat in one half of the draw. (The Editor would suggest a little more horticulture as a cure). Of these giants St. Albans played the most consistent chess to emerge into the final.

Meanwhile Rothamsted, newcomers to the League and as such in Division 3 of the League, demonstrated some small strength by disposing of Watford and Hemel Hempstead to reach the final in the other half of the draw.

Thus the stage was set for a classic final situation of giant versus minnow. After a strongly fought match the score was 2-2 with two games for adjudication. The situation was such that Rothamsted would win if both were drawn, whereas St. Albans would win if they won board 2 and drew on board 5.

The adjudicators indeed gave a win for St. Albans on board 2 and a draw on board 5. Therefore St. Albans presumed themselves the winners; Rothamsted however disputed the adjudication result on board 2 and their appeal was upheld, this game finally being declared a draw. Rothamsted accordingly were victors in their first-ever season in Herts. chess - a great performance; naturally the St. Albans team were left a little disappointed.

The Tournament Secretary was pleased to report that the top two divisions of the League ran very smoothly; by contrast the two lower divisions were marred by a large number of defaults. Amongst these were occasions in the Fourth Division when the Tournament Secretary bravely defaulted both teams because of their inability to agree upon a suitable date for the match. The league tables show these but not more "normal" cases of default when merely one team failed to turn up!

The First Division saw a very exciting contest; all four top teams had a good chance of winning. Of these Stevenage I performed best against the other three but faltered badly against the more lowly Watford team, thus wasting a great opportunity. Letchworth and Baldock narrowly failed to gain enough points either, so that it was apparent that the clash between St. Albans and Hilltop at the very end of the season would decide the championship. At first the title seemed to belong to St. Albans after an adjudication awarded to them made the match 3-2 in their favour; but Hilltop appealed against this decision. After a long delay it was finally discovered in early September that the appeal had been upheld and thus St. Albans once more had a trophy wrenched from their grasp at the very last opportunity. Our congratulations to Hilltop whose team showed a remarkable resurgence after the debacle of last season. St. Albans 2 struggled gamely at the bottom but were clearly outclassed by the other teams and are duly relegated.

In Division 2 Letchworth and Baldock 2 rocketed away at the start of the season and never looked likely to lose ground thereafter, running out decisive winners. The rest of the Division, as may be seen from the results, was very evenly matched and this resulted in an epic struggle to avoid relegation. Once again the matter rested upon an end of the season clash between Letchworth & Baldock 3 and Hoddesdon; a poor performance by the Hoddesdon players on the night doomed them to relegation however, and in the end they were a trifle lucky to secure a draw from a match they badly needed to win, although it was difficult to believe until the final tables were brought out that a team could be relegated with 9 match points.

The three first teams in the next Division (3) were clearly better than the rest but the most recently formed team, Rothamsted, narrowly ousted the challenge of Hertford 1 to take the Division at the end of the season. Our congratulations to Rothamsted for winning two trophies in the first year of their participation in the County events. Hertford 2 secured their relegation place long before the end of the season while the internecine struggle between St. Albans 3 and St. Albans 4 in the middle of the table was resolved in favour of the weaklings.

Like Rothamsted, Hawker Siddeley (Stevenage) deservedly won their division in their first year of competition. The rest of the Division was rather chaotic and the placings thereafter reflect as much upon organisational ability as upon any ability to play chess.

The success of newcomers will, we hope, encourage other clubs in Hertfordshire to participate in the main County League in the forthcoming season and thus obviate the need to call upon 5th teams that are incapable of sustaining themselves throughout the season.

A report from overseas or The N.C.L.

E.R.D.E. changed their name to the even more mysterious P.E.R.M.E. and thus encouraged succeeded this year in winning the North Circular League after several years of being runners-up; not of course without strong competition from other North London teams and especially from the Barnet team. For some reason P.E.R.M.E. fail to play with quite the same conviction or strength in Hertfordshire competitions!

HERTS. LEAGUE Division 1 1977-78

	HTP 1		St.A 1		STV 1	L&B 1	WTF 1	St.A 2		W	D	L	Match Pts.	Game Pts.
	H	A	2 1/2-2 1/2	2 1/2-2 1/2	4 1/2-2	3-2	3-2	2 1/2-2 1/2	2 1/2-2 1/2					
HILLTOP 1	X		2 1/2-2 1/2	2 1/2-2 1/2	4 1/2-2	3-2	3-2	2 1/2-2 1/2	2 1/2-2 1/2	5	3	2	13	28 1/2
ST. ALBANS 1	2 1/2-2 1/2		X		1-4	2 1/2-2 1/2	4-1	4-1	4-1	4	4	2	12	28 1/2
STEVENAGE 1	3-2		3 1/2-1 1/2		1 1/2-3 1/2	2 1/2-2 1/2	2-3	3 1/2-1 1/2	3 1/2-1 1/2	6	0	4	12	26 1/2
LETCHWORTH & BALDOCK 1	3 1/2-1 1/2		2 1/2-2 1/2		3 1/2-1 1/2	X	2 1/2-2 1/2	2 1/2-2 1/2	2 1/2-2 1/2	4	4	2	12	26
WATFORD 1	2-3		2 1/2-2 1/2		1 1/2-4 1/2	X	3-2	3 1/2-1 1/2	3 1/2-1 1/2	3	1	6	7	21 1/2
St. ALBANS 2	1 1/2-3 1/2		1-4		2-3	1 1/2-3 1/2	4-1	X	X	1	2	7	4	19

Division 2

	L&B 2		WGC 1	HYP 2	STV 2	L&B 3	H.H.	H.D.	W	D	L	Match Pts.	Game Pts.
	H	A	4-1	3 1/2-1 1/2	3 1/2-1 1/2	4-1	3-2	4 1/2-1 1/2					
LETCHWORTH & BALDOCK 2	X		4-1	3 1/2-1 1/2	3 1/2-1 1/2	4-1	3-2	4 1/2-1 1/2	9	1	2	19	41
WELWYN GDN. CITY 1	0-5		X	3 1/2-1 1/2	1-4	3 1/2-1 1/2	3 1/2-1 1/2	3-2	7	2	3	16	30
HILLTOP 2	1-4		X	2 1/2-2 1/2	3-2	3-2	3-2	2 1/2-2 1/2	3	5	4	11	28 1/2
STEVENAGE 2	1 1/2-3 1/2		2 1/2-2 1/2	2 1/2-2 1/2	X	2 1/2-2 1/2	2 1/2-2 1/2	1 1/2-3 1/2	3	4	5	10	29 1/2
LETCHWORTH & BALDOCK 3	2 1/2-2 1/2		1 1/2-3 1/2	3-2	2 1/2-2 1/2	X	3-2	2 1/2-2 1/2	3	4	5	10	26 1/2
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD	3-2		2-3	2 1/2-2 1/2	2 1/2-2 1/2	4 1/2-1 1/2	X	2 1/2-2 1/2	2	5	5	9	28 1/2
HODDESDON	1-4		2 1/2-2 1/2	2 1/2-2 1/2	1 1/2-3 1/2	2 1/2-2 1/2	4-1	X	2	5	5	9	26

1978 Team Tournament - Puller Cup

A			B		
<u>P. E. R. M. E.</u>			<u>RANK XEROX</u>		
player	v.	scored	Player	v.	scored
1. Dr. P.H. Collins	<u>E2</u>	0	1. P. Barden	<u>E1</u>	0
2. J. Cook	<u>D2</u>	1	2. T.J. Perkins	<u>C2</u>	0
3. H.E. Poupard	<u>C3</u>	$\frac{1}{2}$	3. R.J. Arnot	<u>D4</u>	0
4. M.J. Cohen	<u>B4</u>	$\frac{1}{2}$	4. P. Bellack	<u>A4</u>	$\frac{1}{2}$
5. R.W. Torry	<u>D5</u>	0	5. M. Dyer	<u>C5</u>	1
6. A.J. Eley	<u>E5</u>	0	6. C. Bird	<u>E6</u>	1
7. F.C. Riley	<u>A7</u>	0	7. J. Allenson	<u>A7</u>	1
8. R.R.P. Jones	<u>C8</u>	0	8. H. Murphy	<u>D7</u>	1
		<hr/>			<hr/>
Total		2	Total		$4\frac{1}{2}$
		<hr/>			<hr/>
C			D		
<u>ST. ALBANS</u>			<u>STEVENAGE</u>		
player	v.	scored	Player	v.	scored
1. M. Lexton	<u>D1</u>	1	1. P.A.J. Brown	<u>C1</u>	0
2. C. McSheehy	<u>B2</u>	1	2. T.K. Hemingway	<u>A2</u>	0
3. C. Watson	<u>A3</u>	$\frac{1}{2}$	3. C. Pickard	<u>E3</u>	1
4. N. Lavers	<u>E4</u>	1	4. G. Palmer	<u>B3</u>	1
5. T.A. Sinkinson	<u>B5</u>	0	5. J.R. Holland	<u>A5</u>	1
6. R. Bauld	<u>D6</u>	1	6. R. Thompson	<u>C6</u>	0
7. P. Hamblett	<u>E7</u>	1	7. P. Scott	<u>B8</u>	0
8. J. Simmons	<u>A8</u>	1	8. J.H. Gittus	<u>E8</u>	$\frac{1}{2}$
		<hr/>			<hr/>
Total		$6\frac{1}{2}$	Total		$3\frac{1}{2}$
		<hr/>			<hr/>
E					
<u>WATFORD</u>					
player	v.	scored			
1. W.E.B. Pryer	<u>B1</u>	1			
2. A.D. Gregory	<u>A1</u>	1			
3. A.J.F. Riley	<u>D3</u>	0			
4. D. Towers	<u>C4</u>	0			
5. R.F. Riley	<u>A6</u>	1			
6. H. Liberty	<u>B6</u>	0			
7. R.W. Parles	<u>C7</u>	0			
8. B. Osland	<u>E8</u>	$\frac{1}{2}$			
		<hr/>			
Total		$3\frac{1}{2}$			
		<hr/>			

The named player had White where his opponent's code is underlined.

The tournament was held at Rank Xerox, Welwyn Garden City (on 8th April 1978).

Once again the entry for the Puller Cup was disappointingly small, this year perhaps due to a clash with a more famous football event. The usual close contest ensued, but St. Albans emerged with a large margin of victory. The underdogs of Rank Xerox, obviously lacking strength at the top, nevertheless finished second by virtue of a fine performance on the lower boards. The strong Stevenage team and a moderate P.E.R.M.E. team both collapsed to reach relatively unheard-of depths, and no doubt inquests were set afoot afterwards. The Watford top boards performed valiantly as is traditional in this event but overall their team was too weak to be able to expect any chance of winning. A thoroughly deserved win for St. Albans then, to compensate for their narrow failure in other competitions this season.

C O U N T Y T E A M SFirst team report 1977-78

by J. Cook

This was a rather moderate season compared with the previous one. It was clear from the beginning that the other counties would be taking Hertfordshire very seriously, so that we would be faced with somewhat stronger opposition than usual.

Even so, the only counties to beat us heavily were Kent and Essex, the S.C.C.U. Champions and runners-up respectively, and we managed to finish as the highest placed non-metropolitan county.

The best team performance was undoubtedly the 10-10 draw with Middlesex, who fielded their strongest team of the season. In fact their team was trailing 5-8 at one stage and if an appeal against an adjudication had been upheld we would have won. The worst performance was of course the loss against Berkshire, even although our team was weak as a result of the distance to this away match.

The win against Surrey was gratifying insofar as they were the only southern county we failed to beat in the 1976-77 season. We also recorded our first away win against Cambridgeshire for many years, although it must be admitted that our opponents fell short of their usual high standard.

Our congratulations must go to Kent, who again won all their matches to retain the Southern Counties' Championship, and our condolences to our neighbours Buckinghamshire who struggled bravely, losing three matches by the narrowest possible margin and finally being relegated (to the second division whence they came - Ed.)

The Flear trophy was won by Dr. B. Turner of Letchworth & Baldock with a score of 5/7. As this followed a performance of $7\frac{1}{2}$ out of 10 in the 1976-77 season, which was insufficient to win the trophy on that occasion, the award was well deserved.

County ties were won by :	C.J.M. McSHEEHY	(St. Albans)	$3\frac{1}{2}/7$
	Dr. M.J. LEXTON	(St. Albans)	3/3
Other notable performances :	D.A. Lemoir	(Hemel Hempstead?)	$3\frac{1}{2}/4$
	C.W. Pickard	(Stevenage)	4/5
	C.H. Watson	(St. Albans)	$4\frac{1}{2}/8$
	J. Sharp	(Berkhamsted?)	$2\frac{1}{2}/3$

Match record

Hertfordshire	$7\frac{1}{2}$	Essex	$12\frac{1}{2}$	Loss
Berkshire	11	Hertfordshire	9	Loss
Hertfordshire	10	Middlesex	10	Draw
Cambridgeshire	8	Hertfordshire	12	Win
Buckinghamshire	9	Hertfordshire	11	Win
Hertfordshire	9	Sussex	11	Loss
Hertfordshire	$10\frac{1}{2}$	Surrey	$9\frac{1}{2}$	Win
Hertfordshire	$6\frac{1}{2}$	Kent	$13\frac{1}{2}$	Loss

S.C.C.U. Final Table - Division 1 (abbreviated)

	played	match pts.	game pts.
1. Kent	8	8	$103\frac{1}{2}$
2. Essex	8	6	$94\frac{1}{2}$
3. Middlesex	8	$5\frac{1}{2}$	$84\frac{1}{2}$
4. Surrey	8	4	80
5. Hertfordshire	8	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$75\frac{1}{2}$
6. Sussex	8	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$72\frac{1}{2}$
7. Berkshire	8	3	74
8. Cambridgeshire	8	2	$70\frac{1}{2}$
9. Buckinghamshire	8	$\frac{1}{2}$	65

For those among us interested in further events, of the two Southern Counties which went on to compete in the National Counties' Championship, Essex were well beaten by Lancashire in their quarter-final and Kent cruised through to the final where they also met and were defeated by Lancashire, by the decisive margin of $12\frac{1}{2}-7\frac{1}{2}$ to Lancashire.

County Second Team Report

by D.P. Young

S.C.C.U. Division II - Montague-Jones Trophy

One disquieting but intriguing fact about running a chess team is that you never know what sort of season lies ahead. After our mixed fortunes last year, a season as successful as this was amazing. Our opening match against Essex II augured badly, for I had to reshuffle the team at the last minute, and we lost badly $5\frac{1}{2}$ - $14\frac{1}{2}$. In retrospect, Essex turned out to be the third strongest team we played, so this was only a form result.

A month later we did battle again, this time against Surrey II, who beat us $9\frac{1}{2}$ - $10\frac{1}{2}$ last season. This time the result was never in doubt, and we won convincingly 13-7, aided by $4\frac{1}{2}$ points from the five middle boards, K.L. Woodland, S.R. Capsey, M. Krawczynski, J. Sharp and B. Drury. After this encouraging result, we faced the formidable might of Middlesex II. This was at a new venue, Rank Xerox at Welwyn Garden City. It turned out to be excellent for our gourmets, as the sandwiches were plentiful and appetising. However, the chess was less attractive, for we were crushed $4\frac{1}{2}$ - $15\frac{1}{2}$, our worst loss in about thirty matches.

The next week we played Oxfordshire away in the remote Western wastes. Our morale was still low, and we lost $7\frac{1}{2}$ - $12\frac{1}{2}$ against an improving team, whereas we drew last year. Oxfordshire had a strong team, outgrading us by an average of more than 20 points per player. Indeed, they went on to win the Division, a welcome change from the monotony of wins by Middlesex II. About six weeks later, after Christmas, we travelled North and East for a change, and played Norfolk at Norwich. I admired the city and the fine museum, but the chess was less remarkable; we lost $7\frac{1}{2}$ - $12\frac{1}{2}$.

Now, however, we had at least met the three strongest teams and the worst was over. Against Kent II our luck changed; Kent defaulted on three boards, and we won 11-9. This was a really remarkable result as we had lost 6-14 in the previous season. Heartened by this, we travelled hopefully South to play Sussex II. To our great satisfaction (and my stunned disbelief) we reversed last year's result exactly, winning $10\frac{1}{2}$ - $9\frac{1}{2}$. Our top boards scored a fantastic (and unique) $4\frac{1}{2}$ out of 5, after three of them had suffered transport problems. Is there a moral here - "breaking down concentrates the mind wonderfully" ?

By now we had great ambitions, and we enjoyed our visit to Bury St. Edmunds enormously. A really solid performance saw us level at 9-9 at the end of play, and both adjudications were wins for us, thus the match was won 11-9 - a fine result. Our final match was against Bedfordshire at Bourne End. As teaboy, I had an interesting spectator's view of our fine performance in winning 12-8.

In conclusion, this must be summed up as a very successful season in terms of results. Congratulations to R.J. Thompson of Stevenage who was our most successful player, scoring $5\frac{1}{2}$ /6 and winning the Fairchild Trophy. As far as team selection went, we lost several regulars, but the newcomers, especially the youngsters, played very well indeed.

County ties were won by K. Mahon, D.M. Rutter, D. Witt and T. Thurstan. I would like to thank all players who turned out to support the team, and Mr. Woodland for his work in arranging the matches.

As a brief postscript I would like to add that I will retire as County second team captain at the end of the 1978-79 season, and I hope a successor is forthcoming !

Dane Young

S.C.C.U. Division II table (abbreviated)

	Played	Match pts.	Game pts.
1. Oxfordshire	9	8	
2. Middlesex II	9	$6\frac{1}{2}$	
3. Essex II	9	$6\frac{1}{2}$	
4. Norfolk	9	6	
5. Hertfordshire II	9	5	82 $\frac{1}{2}$
6. Sussex II	9	4	
7. Kent II	9	4	
8. Suffolk	9	3	
9. Surrey II	9	1	
10. Bedfordshire	9	1	

County Third Team Report (The Chilterns League)

Hertfordshire III (The "Chilterns" team) played nine matches during the season and won three, drew one and lost five. In all the matches the opponents were county second teams. Bedfordshire were unable to find a match captain for a second team and so withdrew from competition, reducing our "Chilterns" matches to 4. Fortunately the Match Organiser was able to persuade Norfolk, Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire to play against us with their second teams. It is not clear whether these counties can count, or would want to count, as "Chilterns", but at least the arrangements for the matches were made by the acting Secretary of the Chilterns organisation. The arrangement is now established, and these four counties together with Suffolk will play each other next season at venues all within a 30-mile range of our base at Ashwell.

Forty-seven players altogether played for the Hertfordshire III team, and the competition for a place was very keen. A number moved up to the Second Team during the season and were generally able to justify their promotion without difficulty. By the middle of the season our teams were being selected as much on a geographical basis as on ability: teams from the middle and west of the County played against Berkshire and Oxfordshire, and teams from the east and north against Cambridgeshire and Norfolk. When the East Anglian group outlined above is in operation next season there may be a programme of 14 matches altogether for the third team. There is no lack of players to compose these teams, and also this will be financially possible since all the home matches will be played at either Ashwell or at Bourne End.

Results

Hertfordshire III	13	Berkshire II	7	Win	at Bourne End
Norfolk II	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	Hertfordshire III	11 $\frac{1}{2}$	Win	at Thetford
Oxfordshire II	12	Hertfordshire III	8	Loss	at Kidlington
Hertfordshire III	8	Buckinghamshire II	12	Loss	at Bourne End
Berkshire II	12	Hertfordshire III	8	Loss	at Maidenhead
Buckinghamshire II	13	Hertfordshire III	7	Loss	at Amersham
Hertfordshire III	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	Huntingdonshire II	6 $\frac{1}{2}$	Win	at Ashwell
Hertfordshire III	9 $\frac{1}{2}$	Oxfordshire II	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	Loss	at Bourne End
Cambridgeshire II	10	Hertfordshire III	10	Draw	at Cambridge.

Congratulations are due to six team players who won ties in the course of the season (for the uninitiated, a county tie is procured by winning three games in a row for the county without an intervening loss). They are:

P. Dunks	H.R. Hurd
R.J. Arnet	with a score of $6\frac{1}{2}/9$ this season
Dr. R.V. Dugdale	" " " " $4\frac{1}{2}/6$ " "
B.W. Rippon	" " " " $3/3$ " "
G.W. Valentine	" " " " $4\frac{1}{2}/7$ " "

Other notable performances were J.G. Jones' $3/5$ usually achieved on board 2, B.R. Saunders with $4/6$, J.F. Gittus with $4\frac{1}{2}/7$ and R. Forst with $3/4$ for the season.

K.L. Woodland

HERTFORDSHIRE CHESS CONGRESS

at Hitchin, October 1977

Premier Division

1st equal : J. Plaskett	(Bedford)	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ /5
	E. Teichmann (Perse School, Cambridge)	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ /5
3rd equal : C.S. Crouch	(Cambridge University)	4/5
	G. Hillyard (Cambridge University)	4/5
	T.K. Hemingway (Stevenage)	4/5
	D.E. Rumens (Old Coulsdon)	4/5

Grading prize : D. Barasi.

Challengers Section

1st equal : J. West	(Letchworth & Baldock)	4/5
	C. Lean (Letchworth & Baldock)	4/5
	J. Freeman (London University)	4/5
	S. Gidding (Rochester)	4/5
	M. Hughes (King's Lynn)	4/5
	P. Lowe (Thetford)	4/5

Major Section

1st : D. Stapleton	(Letchworth & Baldock)	5/5
2nd equal : A. Paxall		4 $\frac{1}{2}$ /5
	A. Gaffney	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ /5

Junior Section

1st : R. Riched		4 $\frac{1}{2}$ /5
2nd equal : M. Kerridge		4/5
	J. Emms (Norwich)	4/5

John Emms also won the prize for the best performance by an under-12.

Various other prizes were awarded, including that shared by six persons for achieving 4th equal in the Major and a special bonus prize for the best performance after managing only half a point in the first two rounds, but unfortunately for those seeking fame, the tournament organiser has not considered your names worthy of inclusion!

This year Hertfordshire Chess enjoyed its most successful annual congress to date, a particularly encouraging success considering that some other congresses have regressed recently. There were just over 200 entries which produced a prize fund of £450 and a small profit to nourish the County Chess Association. We understand that our impeccable County Treasurer was so overcome by his own personal success that he started to give away more prize money than had been intended, but fortunately less than £3 was thus generously donated, still leaving a useful profit for the Association.

The Premier consisted of 38 players and was certainly as strong as in any previous year, although the native champions were conspicuous by their absence; apart from Keith Hemingway the main Herts. star was Ray Edwards of Hilltop, although there were those such as Colin Watson of St. Albans and John Holland of Stevenage who could be reckoned to have a good outside chance.

The contingent from outside the County included Dave Rumens, an old lag of the tournament circuit, and Jimmy Plaskett, both of whom were expected to score highly in their search for points in the Cutty Sark Grand Prix; also a strong company from Cambridge and R. Lobo from Wood Green. These outsiders seemed rather stronger than the natives and indeed carried off most of the loot.

The first round nevertheless produced a famous victory for the natives when Keith Hemingway beat Dave Rumens (see games). Rumens exacted some revenge by a win over Ray Edwards in the last round. Both of the winners played consistently to reach their positions; unfortunately, due to the calibre of the other contenders they did not meet. Erik Teichmann had been held to a draw by Colin Watson in Round 2 and therefore slightly sneaked through from the back. Plaskett disposed of most of his main rivals, including a fine win over Colin Crouch in Round 4 (see games), and the Hert's challengers succumbed too. Keith Hemingway brought his fine tournament to a fitting climax with a victory over Lobo in the final round, securing the Hakansson Cup for the best performance by a Hertfordshire player.

The Challengers and Major section reflected the strength of the nearby Letchworth & Baldock club. A very even competition in the Challengers was eventually reflected in the sharing of the top prize amongst six, of whom John West collected the Davis Cup on the tie-break system from our County Treasurer Chris Lean, gaining some little reward for all his hard work for the Association. By contrast David Stapleton in the Major achieved the only outright win in the adult sections and the only 100% score. Behind him Tony Paxall and Tony Gaffney also emerged well clear from the rest of the pack.

A slightly smaller Junior section was convincingly won by Robert Riched, carrying on an almost ancient tradition of fine young players from St. Albans School. His glory was stolen a little by young John Emms of Norwich who was always a serious contender for the whole section as well as easily winning the under-12 prize.

A special word of thanks is due to the tireless and cheerful organisers, especially Chris Lean and Brian Drury who also bear other onerous posts, and not omitting the chief organiser, Glyn Jones. Some of the good games, as distinct from the nervous woodchopping that passes for playing in Congresses, now follow :

<u>PREMIER ROUND 1.</u>	<u>J. Plaskett v. D.L. Baragi.</u>	<u>Nimzovitsch Defence.</u>
1. P-K4	N-QB3	Cognoscenti will recognise the Black's best was
2. N-KB3	P-Q3	2. ... P-K4, but he seems intent on playing a
		Ruy Lopez rather than the Vienna.
3. P-Q4	B-KN5?	Not until he has castled!
4. B-QN5	P-QR3	
5. B-R4	P-QN4	
6. B-N3	P-K4	Too late - A better move and one more in keeping
		with the spirit of the opening was ... P-KN3
		planning to omit ... P-K4 for at least 5 moves.
7. P-B3	N-R4	
8. B-B2	Q-B3?	Not in a Ruy Lopez?
9. QN-Q2	P-KN3	
10. P-QR4	....	This move spells the end for Black's unco-ordinated
		pieces for all its seeming innocence.
10.	P-N5	
11. P-KR3	PxP	11. ... BxN 12. NxB N-B5 13. P-QN3 N-N3
		14. P-R5! N-B1 (not 14 ... N-Q2?? 15. B-N5 Q-K3
		16. P-Q5 winning the Q) is also distinctly unpleasant.
12. PxB	PxNoh.	
13. QxP!	N-B3	
14. Q-B3	P-Q4	Desperation.
15. PxKP	P-Q5	
16. PxQ	PxQ	
17. P-K5	PxP	
18. BxP	Resigns.	Black is moribund (or more bound as the annotator
		puts it); he cannot prevent the decisive P-K6; for
		example: 18. ...B-N5oh. 19.K-K2 N-Q1 20.N-N5 etc.

T.K. Hemingway v. D.E. Rumens (also Round 1)

- | | | | |
|-----|---------|----------|--|
| 1. | N-KB3 | P-KB4 | |
| 2. | P-K4!? | PxP | |
| 3. | N-N5 | N-KB3 | |
| 4. | P-Q3 | P-K4 | More conventional but just as wild would be
4. ... P-KR3 5. N-R3 P-Q4 6. PxP etc. |
| 5. | PxP | B-B4 | |
| 6. | B-QB4 | Q-K2 | |
| 7. | N-QB3 | BxPch. | |
| 8. | K-K2 | B-N3 | |
| 9. | B-B7ch. | K-B1 | 9. ... K-Q1 should be better for survival although
10. B-N3 R-B1 11. N-K6ch. wins the exchange. |
| 10. | N-Q5! | Q-B4 | |
| 11. | R-B1 | P-Q3 | Black is lost anyway. |
| 12. | B-R5 | N-B3 | |
| 13. | RxNch! | PxR | |
| 14. | N-K6ch. | Resigns. | For if 14. ... BxN 15. B-R6ch. K-N1
16. NxP mate. A victory for minor pieces! |

C.W. Watson v. E.O.M.C. Teichmann (Round 2)

- | | | | |
|-----|--------|--------------|--|
| 1. | P-K4 | P-K4 | |
| 2. | N-KB3 | N-QB3 | |
| 3. | B-B4 | N-B3 | An invitation to the Two Knights' Defence which
is refused. |
| 4. | P-Q4!? | PxQP | |
| 5. | N-N5 | .... | 5. P-K5 is met by 5. ... P-Q4! |
| 5. | .... | P-Q4 | |
| 6. | PxP | NxP?! | 6. ... N-R4 may be better - e.g. 7. QxP NxB
8. QxN QxP= or 7. B-N5ch. P-B3 etc.
The Black position is now dubious. |
| 7. | O-O | B-K3 | |
| 8. | R-K1 | Q-Q2 | |
| 9. | NxBP!? | | White wins the R but surrenders the initiative to
Black. Also possible is 9. NxB PxN 10. N-B3 PxN
11. BxN etc. but White should simply have won a
piece and the game by 9. NxB PxN 10. Q-R5ch! P-N3
11. QxN (or 10. ... Q-B2 11. RxPch. QN-K2 12. RxNoh.
BxN 13. QxQch. and 14. BxNoh or 10. ... K-Q1 with
great advantage to White. |
| 9. | .... | B-K2 | |
| 10. | NxR | O-O-O | |
| 11. | Q-K2 | B-KN5 | Perhaps better for White was 11. N-Q2.
Definitely better was 12. Q-K4. |
| 12. | P-B3? | .... |  |
| 12. | .... | B-QB4 | |
| 13. | Q-K4 | N-B3 | |
| 14. | B-K6 | BxB | |
| 15. | QxB | P-Q6 dis.ch. | |
| 16. | K-R1 | QxQ | |
| 17. | RxQ | PxP | |
| 18. | N-Q2 | RxN | |
| 19. | N-N3 | N-Q5 | |
| 20. | NxN | BxN | |
| 21. | R-K2 | R-K1! | Retains Black's winning chances. |
| 22. | RxRch. | NxR | |
| 23. | P-QR4 | P-B4 | |
| 24. | P-KN3 | N-Q3 | |
| 25. | K-N2 | N-B5 | |
| 26. | R-R2 | N-K6ch. | |
| 27. | K-B2 | N-Q4 dis.ch. | |
| 28. | K-K2 | N-N5 | |
| 29. | R-R3 | K-B2 | White's resourceful (or desperate) defence has
held so far. Here the players avoid an
interesting endgame in a level position by
agreeing the draw. |

Draw Agreed.

J. Plaskett v. J. Holland

(Round 3)

1. P-K4	P-KN3		
2. P-Q4	B-N2		
3. N -QB3	P-Q4		The tournament winner now
4. P-K5	P-KR4		proceeds to give a model display
5. B-Q3	N-KR3		of how to play against the Pirc.
6. N-B3	O-O		
7. O-O	N-B3	21. QxQP	R-Q1
8. P-KR3	N-QN5	22. Q-K3	K-B1
9. B-K2	P-QR4	23. R-R7	P-Q5
10. B-KB4	P-K3? (a)	24. Q-R3	K-K1
11. Q-Q2	N-B4	25. N-K4	Q-B1
12. P-KN4!	PxP	26. B-Q2	N-B3
13. PxP	N-R5	27. B-N5	BxKP
14. NxN	QxN	28. B-N4	Q-K1
15. K-N2	Q-K2	29. P-KB4	Resigns.
16. P-R3	N-B3		
17. P-N5	P-R5		- Black cannot avoid serious loss -
18. R-R1	N-R4		if 29. ... B-N2 30. RxB QxR.
19. R-R4	P-QB4		31. N-B6 ch. wins the Queen.
20. QR-R1	PxP		

A note

(a) Black fatally imprisons his own white bishop; it is better to develop it even if it must be given up for a N.

T.K. Hemingway v. R. Lobo

(Round 5)

1. N-KB3	N-KB3	20. NxBch.	QxN
2. P-QN3	P-Q3	21. QxQP	B-K3 (c)
3. P-N3	P-K4	22. QxRP	N-B3
4. B-KN2	B-K2	23. Q-B5	Q-R3
5. P-B4	P-B3	24. R-Q6 (d)	R-B3
6. B-N2	QN-Q2	25. KR-Q1	BxRP
7. N-B3	O-O	26. BxN	PxB
8. Q-B2	P-Q4	27. R-Q8ch.	RxR
9. PxP	PxP	28. RxRch.	K-B2
10. N-QN5 (a)	Q-N3	29. Q-B8ch	K-N3
11. N-B7	R-N1	30. Q-K8ch.	K-B4
12. NxBP	NxN	31. P-K4ch.	K-N5
13. BxN	N-N5	32. Q-Q7ch.	R-K3
14. P-Q4	P-B3! (b)	33. R-K8	K-R4
15. O-O!?	PxB	34. Q-B7ch.	Q-N3 (e)
16. NxP	Q-Q3	35. Q-B3ch.	B-N5???
17. QR-Q1	PxP	36. Q-R1ch.	K-N4
18. Q-K4	B-B3	37. Q-R4 mate.	
19. P-KR3	N-K4		

Notes

(a) This is premature, as we shall see later.

(b) A refutation of (a), and indeed stronger than Lobo thought; for he analysed the reply 15.NxQP Q-R4ch. 16.Q-Q2 leaving White a pawn up. Hemingway however saw that 15.NxQP B-N5ch! wins if 16.NxB QxNch. 17.Q-Q2 QxQch. 18.KxQ PxB or 16.K-Q1 NxPch. 17.K-B1 B-R6ch. wins - or 16.K-B1 PxP! 17.NxQ 18.N-K6ch. and 19. ...NxQ wins. So Hemingway had to give up the pieces for pawns. Black could perhaps have bettered his play with 14. ...NxB 15.PxN B-N5ch. followed by 16. ...Q-Q5.

(c) This is a little over generous; better is 21. ... P-QN3.

(d) A strong answer to Black's grandiose designs.

(e) White has now gained a draw by repetition at least - he could have played more boldly for a win by 29. R-B8ch. K-N3 30. RxRch. PxR 31. QxP. Black however, perhaps trying to avoid the draw, now makes a terrible blunder. Sound of course was 35. ... Q-N3 again.

The next game is a tribute to one of the stalwarts of the County team and of the Letchworth & Baldock 1st team.

V. Tabakiernik v. B.A. Jones

- | | | |
|-----|---------|----------|
| 1. | P-K4 | P-KN3 |
| 2. | P-Q4 | B-N2 |
| 3. | P-QB3 | P-N3 |
| 4. | B-K3 | B-N2 |
| 5. | N-Q2 | N-KB3 |
| 6. | P-B3 | .... |
| 6. | .... | O-O |
| 7. | N-R3 | P-Q3 |
| 8. | Q-N3 | P-QR4 |
| 9. | P-QR4 | P-K3?! |
| 10. | N-B2 | QN-Q2 |
| 11. | R-Q1 | Q-K2 |
| 12. | B-QN5!? | .... |
| 12. | .... | P-K4 |
| 13. | P-Q5 | N-R4 |
| 14. | N-Q3! | P-KB4 |
| 15. | B-B6 | QR-N1 |
| 16. | BxB | RxB |
| 17. | O-O | P-B5 |
| 18. | B-B2 | P-KN4 |
| 19. | Q-B4 | QN-B3 |
| 20. | P-QN4 | P-N5 |
| 21. | B-R4! | .... |
| 21. | .... | Q-Q2 |
| 22. | BxN | NxB |
| 23. | Q-B6 | Q-B1 |
| 24. | R-N1 | R-R2 |
| 25. | PxRP | RxP |
| 26. | N-B4 | R-R1 |
| 27. | P-R5 | PxRP |
| 28. | R-N7 | PxP |
| 29. | PxP | N-K1 |
| 30. | N-B2 | R-B3 |
| 31. | KR-N1 | R-N3ch. |
| 32. | K-B1 | R-KR3 |
| 33. | P-R3 | RxP? |
| 34. | NxQP | NxN |
| 35. | RxP | R-R8ch. |
| 36. | NxR | Q-R6ch. |
| 37. | K-K2 | R-Q1 |
| 38. | N-B2 | Q-N7 |
| 39. | R-Q7 | RxR |
| 40. | QxR | B-B1 |
| 41. | Q-N4ch. | QxQ |
| 42. | NxQ | P-R5 |
| 43. | NxP | P-R6 |
| 44. | K-Q3 | P-R4 |
| 45. | R-N8 | K-N2 |
| 46. | R-R8 | N-N4 |
| 47. | P-B4 | N-Q3 |
| 48. | RxP | Resigns. |

Hertfordshire v. Yorkshire
National Counties' Semi Final
28th May 1977.

A rather unusual system for Black to adopt.

Another unusual move, maintaining an odd symmetry, instead of the conventional
5. ... B-Q3

White's strange move brings forth an equally obtuse answer - better was 8. ... N-B3 planning P-K4 and then ...N-K2 in answer to P-Q5

A little unnecessary.

The genesis of a weird idea, best answered by 12. ... P-B3 and 13. ... P-B4

What else?

A useful way of increasing the pressure on Black.

Delusions of grandeur; Black's K-side attack is hardly worth pursuing.

Desperation? - Black's position is hopelessly defensive.

Black should have resigned here.

HERTFORDSHIRE JUNIOR CHESSJunior CongressesSecondary Schools' Congress at Alleyne's School, Stevenage :Under 18 Section : Lee-Johnson Cup

- 1st= P. Barden (Welwyn Garden City)
 A.M. Stook (Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet)
 3rd= A.A. Brooklehurst (Alleyne's School, Stevenage)
 K.A. Hendry (Alleyne's School, Stevenage).

Under 15½ Section : Guy Arnold Cup

- 1st M. Munday (Meridian School, Royston)
 2nd K. Perrett (Meridian School, Royston).

Under 14 Section : Flitcroft Cup

- 1st= E.L. Cohen (Queen Elizabeth's School, Barnet)
 M.J. Uniacke (Mountgrave School, Potters Bar).

Under 13 Section : Daish Cup

- 1st I.G. Simpson (St. Albans School, Abbey Gateway)
 2nd= S.J. Hill (Longdean School, Hemel Hempstead)
 M. Leahy (St. Michael's School, Stevenage).

=====

The traditional Easter Congress once again produced encouraging signs of the quality of junior players in Hertfordshire, but one rather disappointing feature was the somewhat smaller entry than in previous years, especially in the top two age groups, where many well-known junior club players were absent. Many of them succumbed to the lure of adult congresses over Easter offering lucrative prizes; in some ways a rather less profitable exercise however as the Junior Congress would have done much more to improve their chess, both because of the book prizes and because the games there are played to the finish under reasonable time limits, nowadays a feature rare in adult congresses.

We congratulate all the prizewinners, especially I. Simpson, the younger brother of Alastair Simpson, on carrying on the family tradition. In the Under-18 Section for once the trophy will be held jointly by the two winners, because the traditional play-off could not be arranged due to the fact that P. Barden had to return to a far away boarding school. Perhaps due to the absence of their strong players, there was little challenge for the Schools trophy from such traditional chess strongholds as St. Albans or Queen Elizabeth's; instead the trophy was deservedly won by new forces from the north:

Schools' Trophy

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------|----------|
| 1st | Meridian School, Royston | 22 pts. |
| 2nd | Alleyne's School, Stevenage | 19½ pts. |

Our thanks are due to Alleyne's for hosting us; and we are glad that their players received some encouragement from the Congress, and to the team of organisers led by the indefatigable Mr. Woodland.

Primary School Congress at Grove School, Harpenden :Ashwell Trophy

- 1st A.A. Smith (Grove School, Harpenden)
 2nd G. Meitiner (St. Mary's School, Royston)

This year for the first time a separate congress was held for primary school children, because of their ever increasing numbers, and

indeed a magnificent entry of 72 turned up! From this it can be seen that A.A. Smith's win was achieved against great competition and in no way a reflection on the venue of the Congress! Once again we remember the generosity of the hosts and also that of Ashwell School which has recently donated a fitting trophy for the primary school boys (and girls!) to compete for.

=====

SCHOOLS CHESS 1977-78

Local Zone Stages Under-14 Competition

<u>Watford & Rickmansworth Zone</u>				<u>Barnet Zone</u>			
		<u>M pts.</u>	<u>G pts</u>			<u>M pts</u>	<u>G pts</u>
1st	Watford	14	39 $\frac{1}{2}$	1st	Cheshunt	10	25
2nd	C. Danes	14	35	2nd	Q.Elizabeth's,Barnet	8	24
etc	Wm. Penn	10	27	etc	Ashmole	6	17 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Fr. Combe	9	26		Turnford	2	7 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Merchant Taylors	7	23 $\frac{1}{2}$		Mount Grace	0	6 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Queens	7	18 $\frac{1}{2}$				
	B. Hall	4	15 $\frac{1}{2}$				
	Joan of Arc	4	15				
	B. Meads	3	13				

M pts = March Pts. (2 for a win, 1 for a draw). G pts = Game Pts.

<u>St. Albans Zone</u>				<u>Hertford Zone</u>			
1st	St. Columbia	10	24 $\frac{1}{2}$	1st	Simon Balle	11	26 $\frac{1}{2}$
2nd	Longdean	6	20	2nd	St. Edmunds	10	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
etc	St. Albans	6	15 $\frac{1}{2}$	etc	Highfield	8	19 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Verulam	6	13 $\frac{1}{2}$		Heathcote	6	22 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Beaumont	1	8		Heronswood	3	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Cavendish	1	7		St. Audrey	1	10

All the teams above the line passed on to the next stage.

* * * * *

Under-16 Competition

* * * * *

<u>Watford & Rickmansworth Zone</u>				<u>Barnet Zone</u>			
1st	Watford	6	14	1st	Mt. Grace	10	23 $\frac{1}{2}$
2nd	Wm. Penn	5	15	2nd	Broxbourne	8	19
etc	Merchant Taylors	4	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	etc	Ashmole	5	15
	Queens	3	10		Queen Mary	5	14
	Fr. Combe	2	3 $\frac{1}{2}$		Riversmead	2	10 $\frac{1}{2}$
					Turnford	0	8
<u>St. Albans Zone</u>				<u>Hertford Zone</u>			
1st	St. Albans	6	14	1st	Alleyne's	6	13 $\frac{1}{2}$
2nd	Berkhamsted	4	10 $\frac{1}{2}$	2nd	Richard Hale	3	11
etc	St. Columbia	2	7 $\frac{1}{2}$	etc	Francis Osborne	3	7
	Cavendish	0	4		Heathcote	0	4 $\frac{1}{2}$

* * * * *

Under-19 Competition

* * * * *

<u>Watford & Rickmansworth Zone</u>				<u>Barnet Zone</u>			
1st	Watford	4	10	1st	Q.Elizabeth's,Barnet	3	9
2nd	Wm. Penn	2	4 $\frac{1}{2}$	2nd	Mount Grace	3	7
etc	Merchant Taylors	0	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	etc	Turnford	0	2
<u>St. Albans Zone</u>				<u>Hertford Zone</u>			
1st	St. Albans	8	19 $\frac{1}{2}$	1st	Richard Hale	8	21 $\frac{1}{2}$
2nd	Berkhamsted	5	14 $\frac{1}{2}$	2nd	Highfield	4	14 $\frac{1}{2}$
etc	St. Columbia	3	10	etc	Simon Balle	4	12 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Verulam	3	9		Haileybury	4	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
	Cavendish	1	7		Heathcote	0	2

The schools chess scene is encouraging; in the 1977-78 season 34 schools in all entered a team or teams, an increase of 12 over the previous season. Because of the large numbers the teams were divided into four local zone leagues which you may see above; all the matches in these local zones were played in the first term of the school year. The top teams from each league, those above the dividing lines, then went on to play in the interzone stages in the spring term. The interzone stage itself consisted of small zone leagues which led to a knock-out competition consisting of semi-finals and a final. Unfortunately, for reasons of space we are not able to include details of these interzone leagues, and so pass straight on to the dramatic happenings in the final stage, the knock-out competition.

In the under-14 section, from the tremendous number of entries Watford (Boys School), St. Albans, St. Columbia and Cheshunt Schools reached the semi-finals. St. Albans, as one would expect from a school of such strong chess traditions, disposed of St. Columbia; meanwhile a portent for the final was provided by the defeat of a strong Watford team by Cheshunt. Indeed, Cheshunt then proceeded to beat St. Albans convincingly in the final, reviving after a considerable gap the old prestige of this school in the chess world.

The under-16 semi-finals were contested by Mount Grace v. Watford and Richard Hale v. St. Albans. The traditional schools won through and in the final a very close struggle ensued; St. Albans eventually emerged triumphant to take the trophy.

More familiar names were seen in semi-finals of the Under-19 section: St. Albans, Queen Elizabeth's (boys) School, Barnet, Watford and Richard Hale. This time St. Albans lost out and Watford met Queen Elizabeth's in the final and beat them easily on the day.

Queen Elizabeth's were also at the wrong end of a 6-0 score in the final of the knock-out Cup competition (which takes place in addition to all these age group competitions), losing to St. Albans. The beaten semi-finalists were Alleyne's School, Stevenage and Merchant Taylors School.

The strength of Hertfordshire junior chess was displayed when we entered a team for the Southern Counties Junior Jamboree; we scored $7\frac{1}{2}$ points and came 2nd behind Middlesex's total of 9 points. This, we hope, augurs well for the County team in the future. At present the most successful junior in the County teams is Alistair Simpson of St. Albans who scored $3\frac{1}{2}/7$ for the County First Team this season.

P. Glass

Sunday Times Knockout Competition

St. Albans School performed magnificently to win their zone and reach beyond this to attain the semi-finals of this, the premier junior national tournament. In the semi-final they met Blue Coat School, Liverpool :

<u>St. Albans</u>		<u>Blue Coat</u>		<u>St. Albans</u>		<u>St. Paul's, London</u>	
A. M. Simpson	1	J. E. Beatty	0	A. M. Simpson	0	J. M. Hodgson	1
H. W. Murphy	1	R. S. G. Makin	0	H. W. Murphy	0	W. N. Watson	1
J. R. Nellist	0	N. E. Martin	1	J. R. Nellist	0	R. F. Holmes	1
R. E. Rickard	$\frac{1}{2}$	G. O. Roberts	$\frac{1}{2}$	R. E. Rickard	$\frac{1}{2}$	M. J. Benjamin	$\frac{1}{2}$
H. J. Slater	1	J. M. Williams	0	H. J. Slater	0	D. B. Rosen	1
T. M. Grummitt	1	A. L. J. Baker	0	T. M. Grummitt	$\frac{1}{2}$	P. Bowness	$\frac{1}{2}$
	<u>$4\frac{1}{2}$</u>		<u>$1\frac{1}{2}$</u>		<u>1</u>		<u>5</u>

As you can see they were outgunned by St. Paul's in the final. Nevertheless it was a very fine performance by the team, and the first time that we can recall that a Hertfordshire school has reached the final of the Sunday Times Tournament.

On behalf of all the members of the Hertfordshire Chess Association we would like to pay tribute to the chess career of "Jack" Russell who recently retired as Correspondence Chess Captain of the County due to ill-health. He has given many years of service to the County both as a player and as an administrator. He has played for the County teams since the 1920's and in his heyday was one of the strongest players in the County; he won the County Championship (the Capel Cup) in 1950. Since 1946 he has been a Vice-President of the Association. Also he has for many years past been one of the prominent lights of the Barnet club. We wish him well in his semi-retirement from chess affairs and pray that his health will improve.

In his time Mr. Russell scored victories over many renowned players, both in over-the-board and in postal chess. We now give one of the most instructive of his victories, against D.V. Hooper, himself British Champion in the war year 1944 and famous as author of a useful book on the Petrov Defence. We hope to include another example of Mr. Russell's play in a future issue of the magazine.

D.V. Hooper	v.	J.S. Russell	Nimzovitsch Defence.
1. P-Q4		N-KB3	
2. P-QB4		P-K3	
3. N-QB3		B-N5	
4. Q-B2		N-B3	
5. N-B3		....	5. P-K3 is better perhaps, preserving the option of KN-K2
5.		P-Q3	
6. P-QR3		BxNoh	
7. QxB		P-QR4	
8. P-QN3?!		....	This way of developing White's B is too slow - the promise of the long diagonal never materialises - again better is 8. P-K3, then B-Q3 and O-O
8.		O-O	
9. B-N2		R-K1	
10. P-N3		....	Now 10. P-K3 would have given Black's next move more
10.		P-K4	impetus.
11. P-Q5		N-N1!	A good hyper-modern move.
12. B-N2		P-B3?!	An adventurous strategy, as Black's QP may become weak later - also possible was 12. ...QN-Q2 followed by ...N-B4 with a good game.
13. PxB		NxP	
14. O-O		P-Q4	Black dare not delay this - White should answer 15.PxB NxP 16.Q-B2 with reasonable chances.
15. KR-Q1?		P-Q5	
16. Q-B2		Q-K2	
17. KR-K1		....	17.P-K3 loses to PxB and ...N-N5 ^{P-K3} or to 17. ...P-Q6 if 18.QxP
17.		B-N5	
18. N-B4		P-K5	
19. P-B3		Q-B4	With an obvious threat.
20. K-R1		P-KN4!	
21. P-K3		....	Desperation - 21.PxB PxN is hardly appealing.
21.		PxN	
22. PxB		NxP	
23. QR-Q1		P-Q6	Not 23. ...NxP 24.RxN! PxR 25.Q-B3 with good chances for W.
24. Resigns.			White is completely cramped - if 24.Q-Q2 PxP wins quickly - if 24.Q-B3 QN-K4 also wins quickly.

F i n a l N o t e s

Although no Hertfordshire club distinguished itself in the National Club Knock-Out tournament, St.Albans did very well in the Plate Tournament, for first round losers in this competition, reaching the semi-final and losing narrowly 2½-3½ to Bradford in it.

Please note that the Editor is disappearing, only temporarily I hope, to the calmer atmosphere of Manchester University for a year. Would all reports intended for him please be directed to our benevolent General Secretary Oliver Stobart until my return in June 1979. We are glad to see that the S.C.C.U. has recognised Oliver's worth by electing him President of the S.C.C.U.