

s and castles

their executive committee. Some four years ago, he organised the first Surrey County Junior Chess Tournament. It was held at Beverley School, Malden.

"A chess clock is an essential for every serious game," he said. "This is in fact virtually two clocks in one. As each move is made the player presses a button which stops his own clock and starts his opponents. Thus accurate time keeping is ensured. The two clocks are mounted together to form one piece of apparatus."

"The normal club game is 24 moves in the first hour, and six moves every quarter of an hour thereafter."

"All the games played in matches in this area are sent to the Southern Counties Chess Union. From these results, every member is given a grading."

This year, the Kingston club's president is Mr. George Roberts. The club's secretary is Mr. Philip Clenow, of The Fairway, Malden.

Among early members was Mr. Richard Doddridge Blackmore (1825-1900), author of the classic "Lorna Doone," a romance of Exmoor in the late 17th

century.

"Many of our stronger players began as school-boys and have returned sometime later in life while others have gone on to international fame," said Mr. Waterton.

"Playing in the club today we have Ken Inwood. He began while a boy at Tiffin School. He won the under-18 London championship and is now a county player—and a crack motor-cyclist, riding in the annual T.T. races."

"Another of our players is John Nunn, who at 15 went to Oxford University as the youngest undergraduate since Cardinal Wolsey. He is now just on 18. His successes include playing in the Young England team. His father is also a member of the Kingston chess club."

"Going back to the pre-war days, in 1936 the club's players included Mr. R. P. Mitchell, a British Master, and his wife, Mr. J. H. Blake, a British championship player and Elaine Saunders (now Mrs. Pritchard), a girl prodigy."

"The man who was for over 25 years the leading light in Kingston chess," added Mr.

● Club leaders left to right Mr. George Roberts, president, Mr. William E. Waterton, treasurer, and Mr. Edward Stevenson, member for 37 years with their only woman member—Mrs. Primrose Westcombe.

Waterton, "was Mr. James M. Ellam. His name is perpetuated by a cup in the Surrey County Chess Association competitions and also by a trophy in the annual North of the Thames versus South of the Thames contest."

At present the captain of Kingston Club's first team is Mr. Mike Sheehan. The second team is led by Mr. Bill Booth. The club's secretary, Mr. Philip Clenow leads the third team. The fourth team is captained by Mr. John Fennessey.

Although over the years there have been a number of women members of the club, today there is only one—Mrs. Primrose Westcombe of Knights Park, Kingston. She is a player of ability and a member of Mr. Fennessey's team.

In two years' time the club will be 100 years old. By then perhaps more women chess players will have joined in time for the "centenary" games.

MARGARET BELLARS.