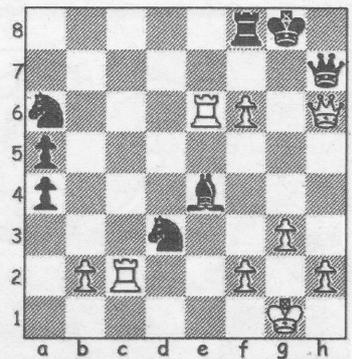
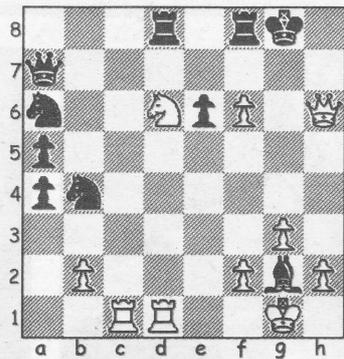


CHESS by Alan Dommert

DIAGRAM 1 *8 MAY 2010* DIAGRAM 2



THE 15th Dorset Team Rapidplay Championships take place at Tuckton Social Club on Friday May 28 (7.15pm start) and full details of this 7 round Olympiad style competition can be obtained from Martin Simons (01202 513504)

The World Championship match between Vishy Anand and Veselin Topalov has just passed the halfway stage with the reigning champion holding a 4-3 lead and the following game is the fourth and most emphatic win so far.

Anand, V – Topalov, V
WCh Sofia, 2010
Catalan (E04)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nf3 d5 4.g3 dxc4 5.Bg2 Bb4+ In the second game of the match 5...a6 was played and 5...c5 is the other main line alternative. **6.Bd2 a5 7.Qc2 Bxd2+ 8.Qxd2 c6 9.a4 b5 10.Na3!** A novelty that flies in the face of the old adage declaring "knights on the rim are dim" and a move sets a sharp tactical tone for the rest of the opening phase...**10...Bd7 11.Ne5** ...as evidenced by 11.axb5 cxb5 12.Qg5 h6! 13.Qxg7 Rh7! being an early trap that would have lost White his queen! **11...Nd5 12.e4 Nb4 13.0-0 0-0 14.Rfd1 Be8?! 15.d5!** Taking full advantage of Topalov's cramped position, Anand threatens to break open the centre. **15...Qd6 16.Ng4 Qc5 17.Ne3 N8a6** The only sensible developing square left for the knight, but the move merely adds to the general queenside congestion. **18.dxc6 bxa4 19.Naxc4 Bxc6 20.Rac1 h6?** Risky, whereas 20...Qe7 21.Nxa5 Rfd8

22.Nxc6 Nxc6 23.Qc3 would have given White only a slight edge. **21.Nd6 Qa7 22.Ng4!** Most Catalan openings are usually resolved on the queenside, but suddenly it becomes clear that this one is likely to break the mould. **22...Rad8 23.Nxh6+!** A crushing knight sacrifice delivered on a kingside devoid of defenders. **23...gxh6 24.Qxh6 f6** At first glance it appears that Black can feed in support along the seventh rank, but, as the following combination shows, the reigning champion has seen further. **25.e5 Bxg2 26.exf6! (Diag 1)** A lovely intermezzo that forces Black to change his plans to prevent 27.Rc4/g4 and a mating attack. For instance, 26...Qh7 27.Qg5+ Kh8 28.Rc4 Rg8 29.Nf7+ Qxf7 30.Rh4+ Qh7 31.Rxd8! Rxd8 32.Qg7 mate would have been one elegant finish. **26...Rxd6 27.Rxd6 Be4 28.Rxe6 Nd3 29.Rc2** Calmly closing the door on 29...Qf2+ and threatening both 30.Rxe4 and 30.Re7 in the process. While Topalov still has his initial saving move available (and plays it) he will also have seen the following brilliant move sequence that wraps the game up for Anand. **29...Qh7 (Diag 2) 30.f7+! Qxf7** After 30...Kxf7 31.Rf6+ Ke8 32.Qxf8+ Kd7 33.Rd6, Black is mated and if 30...Rxf7 31.Rc8+ he suffers the same fate. **31.Rxe4 Qf5 32.Re7** and it was here that Topalov resigned rather than face 32...Rf7 33.Rc8+ Qxc8 34.Qg6+ Kh8 35.Qh5+ Kg8 36.Qxf7+ Kh8 37.Qg7 mate.

● Any enquiries regarding the Chess column should be addressed to Alan Dommert by emailing a.j.dommert@btinternet.com