

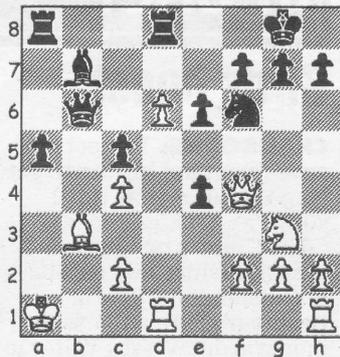
CHESS

by Alan Dommert

DIAGRAM 1



DIAGRAM 2



THE Bournemouth Bicentenary Congress (incorporating the 45th Dorset Congress) is to be held at the Bournemouth International Hotel, Priory Road, West Cliff, from Friday, October 8, to Sunday, October 10.

In addition to the Open Championship there will be Major (Under-160) and Minor (under-135) competitions and all tournaments will be five-round Swiss events with four-hour playing sessions. Full details and conditions of entry can be obtained from Norman Mackie (01202 721870).

The following miniature, taken from the 4NCL Championship Pool, provides a good indication of the strength in depth of the Wood Green club, whose first team were the eventual winners, as GM Neil McDonald, from his board 2 position in their second team, makes short work of English IM opposition in a 6-2 win against a relegated Ads team.

Taulbut, S – McDonald, N
4NCL Sunningdale, 2010
French Classical System:
McCutcheon Variation

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.Bg5 Bb4 5.Nge2 White could have challenged the knight with a main line 5.e5, but 7...h6 6.Bd2 Bxc3 7.bxc3 Ne4 leaves Black with everything he is looking for in a French, including doubled pawns on the c-file.
5...dxe4 6.a3 Be7 7.Qd2

Continuing to prefer quick development to the recovery of material

(7.Bxf6 followed by 8.Nxe4) so Black prepares to give the advanced pawn additional support.
7...b6 8.0-0-0?! Risky, as will be seen from the next passage of play, whereas in Vezzosi-Messa (Reggio Emilia, 1985) White took his chance to equalise and after 8.Bxf6 gxf6 9.Nxe4 Bb7 10.N4g3 the game drifted towards a draw in 31 moves.

8...Bb7 9.Ng3 Nbd7 10.Bb5 c6 11.Bc4 b5 12.Bb3 b4 13.axb4 Bxb4 14.Qe3 Qa5 (Diag 1) Despite all his efforts to build up on the pawn and capture it, White still cannot do so! For example, 15.Ngxe4? Nxe4 16.Qxe4 (16.Nxe4?? Qa1 mate) Bxc3 17.bxc3 Qxg5+ wins a piece. **15.Bxf6 Bxc3 16.bxc3 Nxf6 17.c4** Pushing a pawn that would fall if White made another attempt to level material with 17.Nxe4 Nxe4 18.Qxe4, but this only gives Black the opportunity to further weaken his opponent's queenside defences. **17...c5!?**

18.d5 0-0 19.Kb2 Qb6 Preparing to unleash the a-pawn on a bishop that is already looking sorry for itself. **20.d6 Rfd8 21.Qf4 a5 22.Ka1 (Diag 2) Qb4!** and this incisive queen move led to White's immediate resignation as, after 23.Qd2 Qa3+ 24.Ba2 Ra6 Black picks up another pawn and also threatens to strengthen his attack along either of the two open files.

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