

**CHESS**

by Alan Dommert

DIAGRAM 1

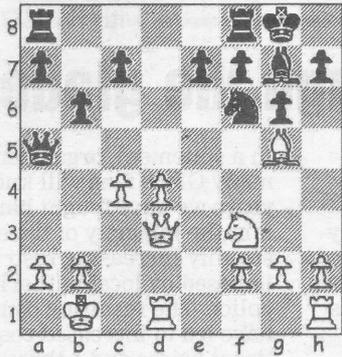
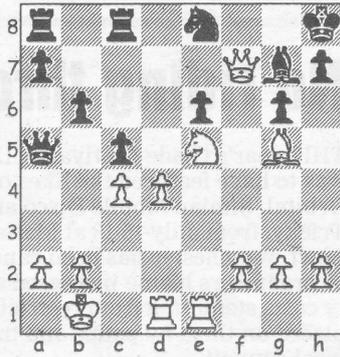


DIAGRAM 2



SOUTHBOURNE B look set for a remarkable escape from relegation to Division 2 of the Bournemouth League following their final match of the campaign against Ringwood A.

In a season of top-flight close finishes this match took on a similar pattern to Southbourne A's battle for the title with three games ending in draws, except that on this occasion a bottom board adjournment holds the key to the result.

The sharing of points for Len Laker, Brian Curran and Petra Burilova, matched up against Ken Harman, Tim Weir and Richard Perrin respectively, leaves John Harris nursing a favourable rook and pawn ending in his adjourned game against Peter Donaldson and Lymington A anxiously awaiting the outcome, as they will be relegated in the event of a Southbourne victory.

The following game, taken from the 4NCL Division 3 match between Wessex 2 and the Braille Chess Association, is a top board struggle for Bruce Jenks against one of the leading IMs in the country.

**Crouch, C – Jenks, B**  
4NCL Hinckley Island, 2010  
Torre Attack (D03)

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 g6 3.Bg5** Early development of the bishop that ensures play on the business side of the pawn chain and is the hallmark of the opening. **3...Bg7**

**4.Nbd2 d5 5.e3 0-0 6.Bd3 b6** Opting for a double fianchetto to avoid a theoretical line that is littered with quick draws at the high-

est level, one such example, after **6...c5 7.c3 cxd4 8.exd4 Qb6 9.Qb3 Qxb3 10.axb3 Bf5**, featuring in the 1968 Russian Championships (Mikenas-Geller, Riga) **7.Qe2 Bb7 8.e4 dxe4 9.Nxe4 Nbd7 10.0-0-0**

An improvement on castling short because the queen's rook is brought into the game immediately, but, as the following passage of play shows, White still has to deal with Black's quick mobilisation of forces on the queenside. **10...Nxe4 11.Bxe4 Bxe4 12.Qxe4 Nf6 13.Qd3 Qd5 14.c4 Qa5 15.Kb1**

(**Diag 1**) **c5?! Relying on the thematic break instead of 15...b5! 16.c5 (16.cxb5 a6! with a good attacking platform) 16...Nd5** when the e-pawn is defended and there is scope to increase the pressure on the enemy king. **16.Rhe1 e6 17.Ne5** A clever dual-purpose move that not only threatens to win the exchange with **18.Bxf6 Bxf6 19.Nd7**, but... **17...Rfc8 18.Qf3!**

...also has a sting in the tail as the attacked knight cannot be defended and, after it moves, the f-pawn is exposed. However, a lost pawn soon proves to be the least of Black's worries! **18...Ne8 19.Qxf7+ Kh8** (**Diag 2**) **20.Nxg6+!** A brutal piece sacrifice with fatal consequences. **20...hgx6 21.Re3** and Black resigned rather than face **21...Nf6 22.Bxf6** when a mating rook check on the h-file is inevitable.

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