

CHESS

by Alan Dommett

DIAGRAM 1

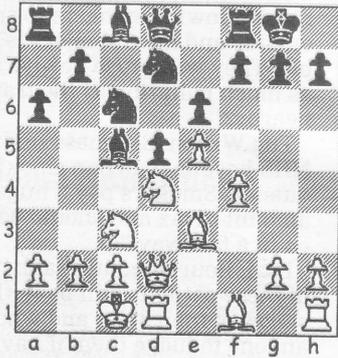
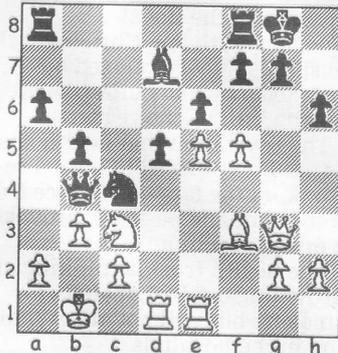


DIAGRAM 2



THE Bournemouth and District League AGM was held last Tuesday and a well-attended meeting was informed of a successful season, reflected in an increased number of players and the inclusion of new teams in the lower divisions.

The League Controller also reported that the trial season of four board teams throughout the league had produced close races for titles in almost every division and, when voted on, the proposal to continue with the format received the unanimous approval of the meeting.

Trophies were presented to the season's title-winning teams and also to the individual competition winners as follows: Brian Urry Cup Division 1 – Martin Simons (8/10); Boardman Trophies: Division 2 – Toby Miller (7/10), Division 3 – Paul Errington (9/12), Division 4 – Ron Crellin (6/10), Division 5 – Peter Bytheway (8.5/11)

The following miniature is taken from the 4NCL Division 1 match between Oxford 1 and South Wales Dragons and is a good example of the importance of taking the initiative when it is offered to you in the form of passive opening play.

Shaw, D - Morris, C
4NCL Sunningdale, 2010
French: Classical System

1.e4 e6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.e5 Nfd7 5.f4 c5 6.Nf3 Nc6 7.Be3 In the earliest theory on this system 7.Ne2 was favoured, but Black, with pragmatic play followed by a thematic opening of the f-file such as 7...Qb6 8.c3 f6 (Schallop-Paulsen, Leipzig,

1877) soon achieved a good game, primarily due to White's cramped kingside. 7...cxd4 8.Nxd4 Bc5 9.Qd2 0-0 10.0-0 a6 (Diag 1) 11.Kb1?! Overcautious about a future attack on the king along the open c-file when 11.h4 would have struck a far more aggressive chord. 11...Qc7 12.Be2 Another innocuous move that gives Black the opportunity to advance on the queenside without much fear of reprisal on the opposite wing. 12...b5 13.Nxc6 Qxc6 14.Bf3 Clearly the planned outpost for the king's bishop, but one that allows easy access to the c4-square for what will become a powerful black knight. 14...Nb6 15.Bxc5 Qxc5 16.Rhe1 Bd7 17.f5 Although threatening a mating net with 18.Qg5 and 19.f6, White fails to appreciate the speed with which his opponent can construct a more deadlier one of his own... 17...Nc4 18.Qg5 h6 19.Qg3 ...and he immediately falls into the trap by vacating the c1/h6 diagonal. 19...Qb4 20.b3 (Diag 2) Qa3! No longer able to respond with 21.Qc1, White must accept the sacrificed knight to prevent mate. 21.bxc4 bxc4 and it was here, realising there was no escape from 22...Rfb8+, that White resigned. Masking the check with 22.Nb5 appears to be the only try, but, after 22.Rfb8 23.Bxd5 Rxb5+, the queen is the last of a series of pieces that must be given up merely to delay the inevitable defeat.

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