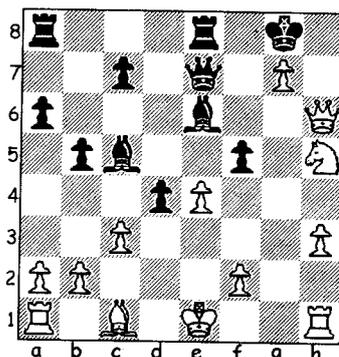
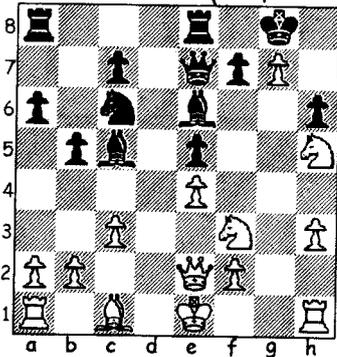


# CHESS by Alan Dommert

DIAGRAM 1 20/2/2010 DIAGRAM 2



THE Dorset League 1st Division title has been won by Southbourne A following a 3-1 win against Wimborne A that took the team to the top of the table, a single point ahead of runners-up Dorchester A, who finished a further two points clear of third-placed Weymouth A. The defeat left Wimborne A at the foot of the table, but this final league match of the season was much closer than the scoreline indicates.

After a quick draw was agreed between Graham White and Chris Bellers, Bruce Jenks converted the slightest of advantages against Ian Clark on top board to give Southbourne a vital lead. Russell Pegg then survived Jonathan Vause's raging attack by cleverly sacrificing a pawn to secure a draw and Len Laker emerged from an unfavourable opening against Peter Wilcock to win the exchange and clinch the title.

The following game, taken from the Dorset Closed Championship, is an opening round victory for the eventual trophy winner that hinges on some first-hand 4NCL knowledge of recent opening theory.

**Simons, M – Laker, L**

Dorset Closed Championship, 2010  
Giucco Piano (C54)

1.e4 e5 2.Bc4 Nc6 3.Nf3 Bc5 4.d3 d6 5.c3 Providing a break in the symmetry that 4.Nc3 brings to the main line. 5...Nf6 6.Nbd2 a6 7.Bb3 0-0 8.Nf1 d5!? While White re-routes his knight, Black seizes his chance to contest the centre. 9.Qe2 h6 10.h3 Re8 11.g4!? An interesting bayonet thrust in an otherwise cagey opening. In Rendle-Yeo (4NCL, 2010) a similar position was reached with White playing the more cautious 11.Ng3 before going on to win

in 32 moves. 11...Be6 12.g5 dxe4 13.dxe4 Bxb3?! The opportunity is taken to remove White's dangerous king's bishop, but it will be at the cost of a shattered kingside. 14.gxf6 Be6 15.fxg7 Qf6 Black should recapture the pawn immediately as this elaboration only serves to hasten White's development of his knight from the back rank to the h5 square and provides another target for the piece in the process. 16.Ng3 b5 Fearful of the attack that flows from 16...Qxg7? 17.Rg1! Kh8 18.Nf5, Black leaves the pawn alone and looks to counter with 17...Bc4, but White has the perfect response to negate the plan. 17.Nh5 Qe7 (Diag 1) 18.Qd2! Much better than 18.Bxh6, White moves his queen before it is challenged, threatening 19.Qxh6 followed by 20.Qxh8 mate. 18...Nd4!? 19.Nxd4 Black was hoping for an immediate 19.Qxh6, whereupon 19...Nxf3+ 20.Kf1? (20.Ke2!) Bc4+ 21.Kg2 Nh4+ 22.Kg3 f5 complicates matters rather unnecessarily for his opponent. 19...exd4 20.Qxh6 f5 (Diag 2) 21.Nf6+ All roads lead to Rome for White at this stage, but 21.Bg5! Qd6 22.Nf6+ Kf7 23.Qh5+ Kxg7 24.Qh7+ Kf8 25.Bh6 mate was the prettier route! 21...Kf7 22.Qh5+ Kxf6 23.Bg5+ Ke5 24.Bxe7 Rxe7 25.Qh8 Rg8 Allowing the bishop to defend the rook and preventing the primary threat (26.g8Q+), but, with Black's pieces still to be untangled, White can now bring his rooks into play to wrap up the game. 26.0-0! dxc3 27.exf5 cxb2+ 28.Kxb2 Rxcg7 29.Rhe1+ Kxf5 30.Qh5+ and with another piece destined to be lost, even after 30...Rg5 31.Qf3+, Black resigned.

● Any enquiries regarding the Chess column should be addressed to Alan Dommert by emailing [a.j.dommert@btinternet.com](mailto:a.j.dommert@btinternet.com)