

**CHESS** by Alan Dommert

DIAGRAM 1

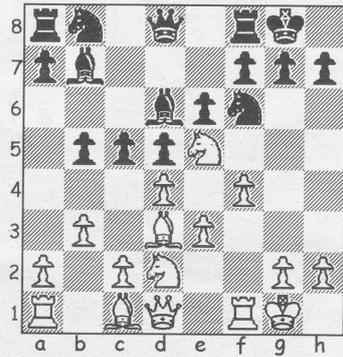
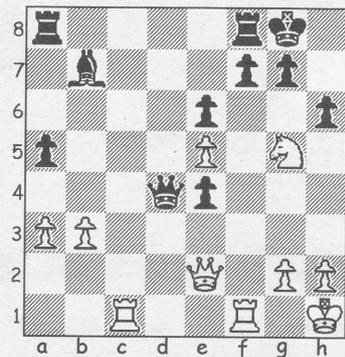


DIAGRAM 2



The 97th British Chess Championships are nearing completion with England's No 1, Michael Adams, leading the field on a 7.5/8 score with three rounds remaining.

In the first week of games the former world championship finalist simply out-classed most his rivals and he is now in a position to re-take the title he first won in 1989. Up to this point in the event only Nick Pert, the No 2 seed, has managed to hold Adams to a draw and his one and a half-point lead over the rest of the field is a gap that is looking more likely to widen rather than close.

The following game is taken from the fifth round and is a dismissive win with the black pieces for Adams against Alexei Slavin, a Russian FM with an elo rating above 2400, who adopts a overcautious approach in the opening and suffers the consequences.

**Slavin, A – Adams, M**

British Championship, 2010  
Colle System (D05)

**1.d4 Nf6 2.Nf3 e6 3.e3 b6 4.Bd3 Bb7 5.0-0 d5 6.Ne5** The hallmark move in what is a somewhat slow and unwieldy opening set up for White.

The advanced knight is established and supported, having in mind a gradual attack against a castled king. **6...Bd6 7.f4 0-0 8.Nd2 c5 9.b3 b5!?** (Diag 1) The start of an immediate queenside counterattack by Black and now, if 10.Bxb5

cx d4 11.ex d4 Qb6, White has a whole host of threats to contend with. **10.c3 b4 11.cxb4 cx d4 12.ex d4 Bxb4 13.Bb2 Nc6 14.Qe2 Qb6**

Suddenly White's centre is under attack and Black is dictating the play. **15.Ndf3 Bd6 16.a3!?** Offering a pawn to the black queen in the hope of trapping her, but the move only serves to weaken White's queenside.

Indeed, in view of the following passage of play, the non-committal 16.Kh1 would have been a far better option. **16...a5 17.Rac1 Bxe5 18.fxe5** White would have preferred to recapture with the d-pawn, but the pin prevents it and Black takes full advantage by offering a deadly pawn of his own. **18...Ne4! 19.Bxe4 dxe4 20.Ng5?** This turns out to be the losing move, but the alternative (20.Qxe4) is as risky as it looks because, after 20...Ne7, the queen's defence of the b-pawn will eventually be loosened by a black rook contesting the c-file. **20...Nxd4 21.Bxd4 Qxd4+ 22.Kh1 h6** (Diag 2) **23.Nxf7?** Flattering to deceive, due to the need to guard against a back rank mate. **23...Rxf7 24.Rxf7 Kxf7 25.Rc7+ Kg8 26.Rxb7 Qa1+** and White, having in effect fallen on his sword, resigned.

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