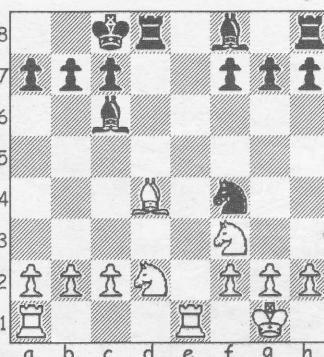


CHESS

by Alan Dommett

DIAGRAM 1 30 JAN 2010

DIAGRAM 2



THE Dorset League 1st Division title race has become a battle between Dorchester A and Southbourne A after a crucial defeat for Wimborne A away to Dorchester in the latest round of matches.

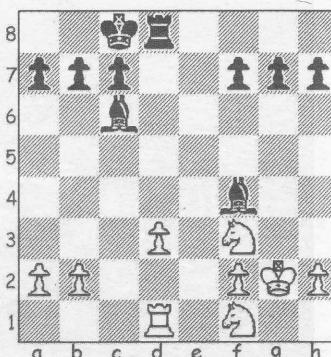
Draws for Phil Taylor-Bowd and Graham Willetts, against Andy Footner and Michael Lewis respectively, were followed by a loss on top board when Dorchester's Kevin Goater came through severe time trouble to win a piece and with it his game against Ian Clark.

This left Wimborne's Chris Bellers requiring a victory on bottom board to share the points, but, despite winning the exchange against Mike Waddington, he eventually had to give it back to salvage a draw in a quick-play finish. With Weymouth A at the foot of the table, leaders Dorchester A now head for their final league fixture of the season next month against second-placed Southbourne A, safe in the knowledge that the winners of that match will take the title.

The following game, taken from the latest round of 4NCL matches, is a quick win for Martin Simons in the defeat for Wessex 1 against divisional leaders Sambuca Sharks.

Varnam, L – Simons, M
4NCL Division 2, 2010
Nimzowitsch Defence (B00)

1.e4 Nc6 2.d4 d5 3.Nc3 dxe4 4.d5 Ne5 5.Qd4 Ng6 6.Be3 In Simmons-Simons (4NCL, 2005) White retook immediately and after 6.Nxe4 e5 7.Qa4+ Bd7 8.Bb5 a6 9.Bxd7+ Qxd7 10.Qxd7+ Kxd7, an exposed king proved to be no handicap, the game being drawn in 25 moves. **6...e5 7.dxe6 Bxe6 8.Nxe4** There is no



mileage for White in engineering the exchange of queens as, after 8.Qxd8+ Rxd8 9.Nxe4 Bd5 10.Nc3 Bb4 11.Bd2 12.0-0-0, Black has a slight edge due to his powerful bishops and in Bravo Sedamanos-Sierra (Peru, 1995) a draw was agreed in relative comfort.

8...Qxd4 9.Bxd4 N8e7 10.Nf3 Nc6 11.Bb5 Bd5! A useful dual-purpose move that defends against a shattering of the queenside pawns and also dictates the retreat square for the knight due to a similar threat to the kingside pawns. **12.Ned2 0-0-0**

13.Bxc6 Bxc6 14.0-0 The a-pawn is taboo as 14...Bxa7 b6 traps the bishop, but...**14...Nf4 15.Rfe1?** (Diag 1)...this rook development (to stop 15...Ne2+) ignores another accident waiting to happen! **15...Nxf2!**

16.Kxg2 Rxd4 17.Rad1 Prevented from recapturing by the pin, White has no option but to defend the tandem knight in order to stop lightning striking twice in the same combination.

17...Bc5 18.Re5 Bd6 19.Re3 Much-needed additional protection for the knight, but this rook is vulnerable to attack and in the next passage of play Black at first feeds off it to improve his position and then removes it to restore the vice-like grip on the pinned piece.

19...Bf4 20.Rd3 Rhd8 21.Nf1 Rxd3

22.cxd3 (Diag 2) g5! White's worst fears are realised as the hapless knight is targeted once again and this time there is no escape. **23.h3 h5**

24.N1h2 Bxh2 and finally lightning does strike for a second time, so White, destined to be a piece and a pawn down, resigned.

● Any enquiries regarding the Chess column should be addressed to Alan Dommett by emailing a.j.dommett@btinter.net.com