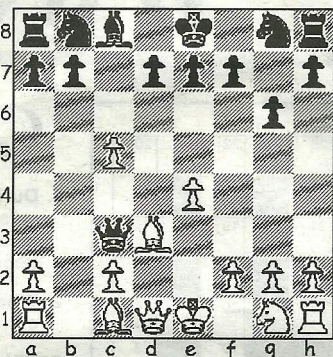


CHESS

by Alan Dommett

DIAGRAM 1



The first main entry deadline date for the 98th British Championships, to be held in Sheffield (Sunday 24th July to Saturday 6th August), is in two days time and three local league players are listed to compete in the event. Bruce Jenks (Southbourne) qualified as winner of the Frome Congress, Martin Simons (Southbourne) from the Paignton Congress, while Allan Pleasants (Wimborne) is on the reserve list of what promises to be one of the most closely contested Championships for many years.

The B&DCL's Annual General Meeting will be held at Tuckton Social Club on Tuesday (7.30pm start) and members attending are advised that the agenda details may be late being distributed, so they have been reproduced in full on the Wimborne club website.

The following game, taken from a previous British Championships, features an unusual early exchange that ultimately proves to be sounder and than it looked after the opening six moves.

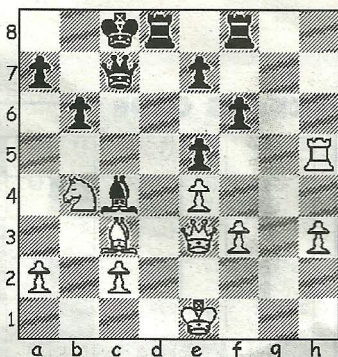
Gavriel, T - Storey, C

Torquay, 2009

Modern Defence (B06)

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.Nc3 c5 Regular readers will recall reference to the so-called 'Sniper' approach a few weeks ago and here it is the author of the book on this defence that is about to put his principles to the test. **4.dxc5 Bxc3+!**? **5.bxc3 Qa5 6.Bd3 Qxc3+ (Diag 1)** As will be seen in the next few moves, Black's choice of pawn recapture is a secondary consideration when compared to the importance of keeping off his opponent's bishops off favoured diagonals. **7.Bd2**

DIAGRAM 2



Qxc5 8.Rb1 d6 Black is now three moves behind in development, but White's pieces are on non-aggressive squares and tempi will be lost in moving them to threatening positions.

9.Rb5 Qc7 10.Qa1 Nf6 11.Bh6 In Jones-Storey (Scarborough, 2004) White took the long diagonal instead with **11.Bc3**, going on to win in 58 moves, despite a desperate struggle to obtain what turned out to be little or no compensation for his pawn throughout. **11...Rg8 12.Bd2 Nbd7 13.Ne2 Nc5 14.f3** Completing the pawn chain, but also providing a target for Black to exploit by expanding on the kingside...**14...b6 15.Qd4 g5! 16.h3 h5 17.h4?!...**prompting this risky attempt to obtain counterplay by contesting the open file. **17...gxh4 18.Qf2 h3 19.gxh3 Nfd7 20.Rg1 Rf8** Still a pawn to the good and with White's centre soon to be overwhelmed by a flood of minor pieces, Black can afford to simply vacate the g-file! **21.Rg5 Ne5 22.Nf4 Ncxd3+ 23.Nxd3 Ba6 24.Rbxe5** The threat to both rook and c-pawn sees White give up the exchange, although such is the superiority of Black's position, there is no real hope of recovery. **24...dxe5 25.Nb4 Bc4 26.Qe3 0-0-0 27.Bc3 f6 28.Rxh5 (Diag 2) Rg8!** White may have levelled material, but the irony is that Black can now retake decisive control of the open file and have both his rooks dominate the board. **29.Nd5 Bxd5 30.exd5 Rxd5** and it was here that, powerless to prevent an eventual breakthrough on the back rank after Black brings his queen into the attack, White resigned.

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