

CHESS

by Alan Dommert

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DIAGRAM 1

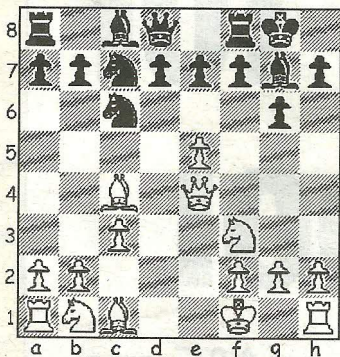
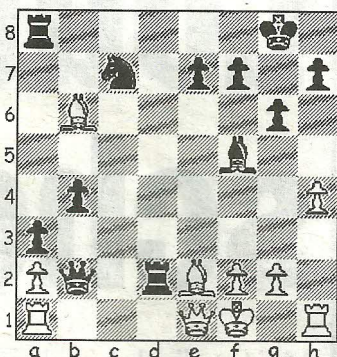


DIAGRAM 2



THE simultaneous display given by Meri Grigoryan in the Bournemouth Town Centre last Sunday proved to be both a major attraction and a great advert for chess in the locality. During the course of the day Meri took on 55 opponents, winning 48 of the games, drawing 3, losing only to three strong league players, Bruce Jenks, Petra Burilova (both Southbourne) and Ivan Willis (Bournemouth) and the spectacle of her playing 15 opponents at the same time was watched by a host of curious holiday-makers and shoppers.

At one moment during the afternoon session spectators surrounding the boards totalled almost 60 in number, so it is estimated that well over 1,000 people observed this challenging contest throughout the day and, as the event was staged to help raise money for the Cancer Research Charity through donations, the generous support of the public was much appreciated.

The following game, taken from the recent Yeovil Summer Open, is a good example of how unorthodox play can be punished severely, especially when there is no sound strategy supporting its use.

Bennett, D - Jenks, B
Yeovil Summer Open, 2011
Sicilian Defence (B27)

1.Nf3 c5 2.e4 g6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Qxd4
The main line alternative is 4.Nxd4 Bg7, when 5.c4 transposes into a Maroczy setup against Black's Sicilian Sniper. In contrast, recapture with the queen leads to a forcing line where the black knights will take centre stage. **4...Nf6 5.e5 Nc6 6.Qa4 Nd5 7.Qe4 Nc7** The aggressive **7...Ndb4!** is also playable and in Kozlova-Balduan (Pecs Suto, 1997) White stumbled straight into **8.Bd2? d5! 9.Qf4 (9.exd6 Bf5→) 9...Nxc2+ 10.Kd1 Nxa1 11.Bd3 Bg7 12.Bc3 d4** and a quick defeat. **8.c3 Bg7 9.Bc4 0-0 10.Kf1!**

(Diag 1) An odd square for the king, bearing in mind that castling is an obvious and inviting option, so White can only have it in mind to advance his h-pawn in the hope of opening the file for his entombed rook. However, this will prove to be a slow process and Black seizes his chance to take the initiative. **10...d5 11.exd6 Qxd6 12.Nbd2 Bf5 13.Qe1** White is already on the defensive and in the next passage of play is almost forced off the board! **13...b5 14.Bb3 a5 15.h4 a4 16.Bd1 a3!** With the majority of White's pieces lined up on the back rank, Black strikes at the base of his opponent's queenside pawns and threatens carnage on the long diagonal. **17.Nb3 Rfd8 18.Be2 b4 19.Nfd4** The pressure exerted by the bishop along the diagonal had to be eased, but Black can now carry out a series of exchanges to net a two pawn advantage. **19...Nxd4 20.Nxd4 Bxd4 21.cxd4 Qxd4 22.Be3 Qxb2 23.Bb6 Rd2! (Diag 2) 24.Bf3** The knight needed no lasting protection, as **24.Bxc7? Rxe2!** would have been a winning response. **24...Nd5 25.Bxd5 Rxd5 26.h5** White's plan is implemented at last... **26...Ra6 27.Be3 gxh5 28.Rxh5 Bd3+** ...only for it to result in the instant loss of the freed rook and an immediate resignation.

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