

CHESS

by Alan Dommert

DIAGRAM 1

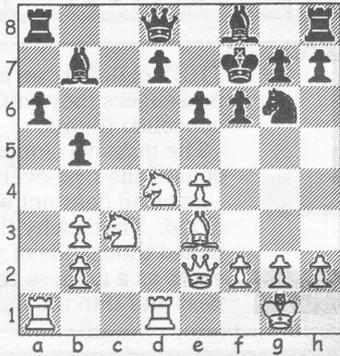
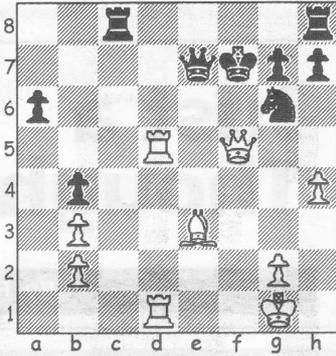


DIAGRAM 2



THE Bournemouth League 1st Division title race will once again be decided by the final match of the season between Wimborne A and Southbourne A due to the Ringwood A challenge to these two clubs supremacy seemingly fading over the last two months.

However, both Ringwood and Wimborne B will have a say in the relegation issue as their final matches are against Southbourne B and Lymington A respectively and these two teams prop up the table with just one win each this season.

The following game is taken from the opening round in the Dorset Congress and Ringwood's Martin Clancy provides a fine example of how to utilise the attacking potential inherent in gambit play.

Clancy, M – Clark, I
Dorset Closed, 2010
Morra Gambit (B21)

1.e4 c5 2.d4 cxd4 3.c3 dxc3 4.Nxc3 Nc6 5.Nf3 e6 6.Bc4 Nge7 A sub-variation of the Morra where main line alternatives are an immediate 6...a6, to curb the tactics surrounding a queen's knight advance to b5 and 6...d6, which guards against White establishing his e-pawn at e5, an important strategic element of the opening. **7.Bg5 f6 8.Be3 Ng6 9.0-0 a6 10.Qe2 b5!?** White could play 11.Na4!? in response to 10...Be7, transposing into a position reached in Adams-Watson (Eastbourne, 1990) which continued 11...Qc7 12.Nb6 Rb8 13.Rac1, when White took such a grip on the queenside he went on to win in 32 moves. **11.Bb3 Na5 12.Rfd1 Nxb3 13.axb3 Bb7** Black

emerges from the opening a safe pawn to the good and his opponent appears to have none of the sharp, thematic play associated with the gambit. However, appearances can be deceptive... **14.Nd4 Kf7 (Diag 1) 15.Nxe6?!...** and White suddenly produces a sacrificial bolt from the blue! The knight must be taken and during the next passage of play, despite the vulnerability of the king, Black protects his material advantage without too much difficulty.

15...Kxe6 16.Qg4+ Ke7 17.f4 b4 18.Nd5+ Bxd5 19.Rxd5 d6 20.Rad1 Kf7!? The king runs for cover, allowing the bishop to protect a d-pawn that is crucial to his defence. White continues to undermine it and it isn't long before the pressure tells. **21.e5 fxe5?** Leaving both pawns in situ and removing the pin with 21...Qe8! is a better option as the black king is now going to be exposed once more. **22.fxe5 Be7 23.Qf5+ Ke8** Forced, as 23...Kg8?? walks into 24.Qe6 mate. **24.exd6 Qd7 25.Qe4 Rc8 26.h4** Threatening 27.h5 Nf8 28.dxe7 Qxe7 29.Re5, winning the queen, so Black has to move his king again and with no safe squares available White not only recovers the piece, but is also presented with a clear route to victory **26...Kf7 27.dxe7 Qxe7 28.Qf5+ (Diag 2)** and Black resigned, as retreating his king loses a rook and, after 28...Qf6 29.Rd7+ Ne7 30.Rxe7+! Kxe7 31.Qd7+, both will fall.

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