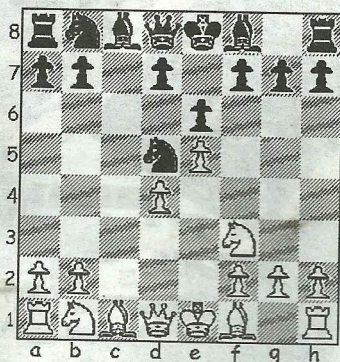


## CHESS

17 SEP 2011

DIAGRAM 1



Local league players maintained their recent good record at the Paignton Congress last week when David Burt (Bournemouth) won the Minor event with an impressive 5.5/7 score. No less than eight of his rivals shared the runners-up spot, a half-point adrift, leaving David to take home a first prize of £350, a sum that matched the amount paid to the winners of the other two sections.

The Premier event was won by GM Keith Arkell (6/7) with Ian Clark (Wimborne) taking a share of seventh place after remaining unbeaten against strong opposition and reaching a 4.5/7 score. Martin Simons (Southbourne) was also unbeaten throughout the tournament, but a preponderance of draws in a 4/7 score served to mirror his performance in the British Championships two months ago.

The following game is taken from the third round of the Premier and Ian Clark battles hard to share a point in an exciting contest between two attacking players.

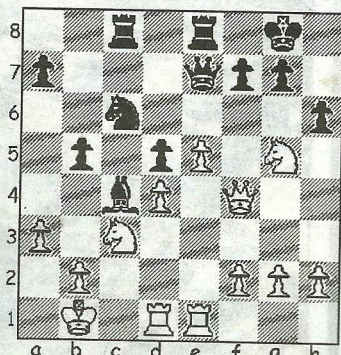
**Kemp, P - Clark, I**

Paignton Congress, 2011

Sicilian: 2.c3 (B22)

1.e4 c5 2.c3 Nf6 3.e5 Nd5 4.d4 cxd4 5.Nf3 e6 6.cxd4 (Diag 1) b6 A viable alternative is 6...d6, to contest the centre, but Black must not to

DIAGRAM 2



overlay his hand, as in Christensen-Berestetsky (Alborg, 1991) when, after 7.a3 dxe5 8.dxe5 Qa5+ 9.Bd2 Qb6 10.Nc3 Qxb2?? 11.Na4, the Black queen was lost. **7.Bd3 Bb4+ 8.Bd2 Bxd2+ 9.Qxd2 Ba6 10.Be4!**? A move that seemingly forces the bishop to retreat to avoid doubled pawns on the d-file, but, instead of taking an immediate backward step, Black opts for minor piece activity instead. **10...Nc6 11.Bxd5 exd5 12.Nc3 0-0 13.0-0** Even though his opponent has stuck to his principles and was prepared to let the d5-pawn go, White declines, preferring to find a safe haven for his king. **13...Rc8 14.Kb1 Nb4?!** Better is **14...Ne7**, taking a possible **15.a3** out of the equation. However, White delays that move, thereby gifting his opponent enough time to improve his position... **15.Qe3 Re8 16.a3 Nc6 17.Nxd5 Bc4 18.Nc3 d5!**...to such an extent that the pawn advantage is now offset by Black's queenside mobility. **19.Qf4 b5 20.Ng5 Qe7 21.Rhe1 h6 (Diag 2) 22.Nge4?!** A bold attempt to muddy the waters that has a gambler's look about it... **22...dxe4 23.Nxe4 Nxe5?** ...yet it nevertheless proves effective because Black, worrying over Nf6+ mating threats and without realising that his queen (installed on the f8 square) would defend comfortably, sacrifices his material lead back without due cause. **24.dxe5 Qxe5 25.Qxe5 Rxe5 26.Nc3 Rce8** and, with dust settled and rooks about to be exchanged, a draw was offered and agreed upon, no doubt with a measure of relief on both sides!

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