

CHESS

by Alan Dommett

DIAGRAM 1

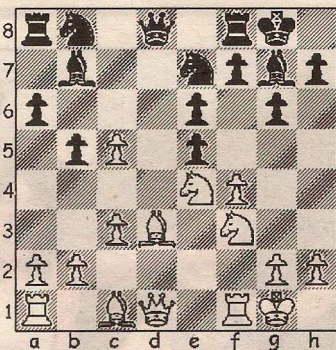
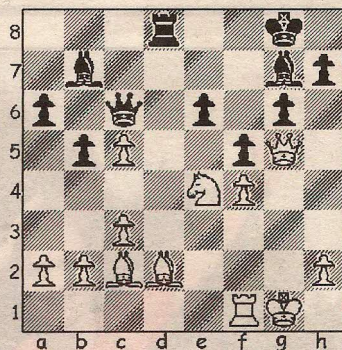


DIAGRAM 2



FOLLOWING a successful launch of the Mind Your Head Challenge, the Dorset Team Rapidplay Tournament was held last week with 6 teams playing a 5-round all-play-all followed by a final KO round to decide the top three places.

After a slow start Wimborne A came storming through as clear winners with a score of 17pts (from 24 games) with Southbourne and Weymouth coming equal 2nd on 13pts.

As well as receiving a cash prize the Wimborne Club also won four board positions to play Grandmaster Raymond Keene OBE in a simultaneous display on Sunday 12th August 2012 at Kingston Marward College, an event organised by the Mind Your Head Challenge team to coincide with the Olympic Games.

Results in full:- Wimborne A (17pts), Southbourne and Weymouth (13), Dorchester (11), Bridport (11.5) and Wimborne B (7.5) Best Individual scores:- P Taylor-Bowd (Wimborne) 5.5/6, A Footner (Dorchester) and C Leeson (Weymouth) 4.5/6.

The following game is taken from the British Championships and Wimborne's Allan Pleasants misses a golden opportunity to open his account during the first week.

Hegarty, S - Pleasants, A British Championship Sheffield, 2011 Modern Defence (B06)

1.e4 g6 2.d4 Bg7 3.f4 d6 Black avoids a pure Sniper (3...c5) against the Three Pawns Attack, thereby transposing into an f4 Schmid Benoni, but against such an aggressive set-up there is a need to contest the centre and the next few moves indicate a reluctance to do so.

4.Nf3 a6 5.Bc4 e6 6.e5 Ne7 7.0-0 b5 This queenside expansion simply serves to highlight the problem because neither fianchettoed bishop will have a future if ever the d-pawn is advanced and therefore White's central grip is virtually guaranteed.

8.Bd3 Bb7 9.c3 0-0 10.Nbd2 c5 11.dxc5?! White hands back the ini-

tiative, whereas 11.Ne4!? would have forced her opponent to give up the more potent of the bishops. 11...dxe5 12.Ne4 (Diag 1) Qc7? Better is 12...exf4 13.Nd6 Bd5 14.Bxf4 Nd7 when the doubled pawn is woefully weak and White's once powerful pawn centre is no more.

13.Nxe5 Nbc6 14.Nxc6 Qxc6 Black's counterplay for his pawn relies on queen and bishop threats on the long diagonal, but these are easily countered initially and in the next passage of play both sides complete development and consolidate.

15.Qe2 Rfd8 16.Bc2 Nf5 17.Bd2 Rd7 18.Rad1 Rad8 19.Bc1 White is seeking liquidation, but Black has other ideas... 19...Rd5 20.Rd2 Nh4 21.Qf2 Rxd2! ...and finds a subtle exchange sacrifice that should have turned the tables.

22.Bxd2 Nxc2 23.Qxc2 f5! The key move in the combination and now White, in an effort to retain her material advantage, blunders into further trouble. 24.Qg5? (Diag 2) Qd5?? Sadly for Black, he misses 24...Rxd2! 25.Nxd2 Bf6! 26.Qg3 Bh4 27.Qf3 Qxc5+ and a crushing win.

However, there is worse to come as White pursues a forcing, if somewhat unconvincing, line. 25.Bb3 Qxe4 26.Qxd8+ Bf8 Suddenly Black threatens mate in one (27.Rf2 merely altering the queen's choice of mating square) and so White opts for a sacrificial solution that pays off in remarkable fashion.

27.c6!? Bxc6 28.Bxe6+?! Rejecting the king hunt that follows 28.Kf2 Qg2+ 29.Ke1 Qe4+, White settles for being the exchange up after 28...Qxe6 29.Re1 Qxa2, albeit in a somewhat drawish position... 28...Kg7?? 29.Qd4+ ...only for Black to mistakenly believe he had more, overlook this queen swap, and resign.

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