

CHESS

by Alan Dommett

24 SEPT 2011

DIAGRAM 1

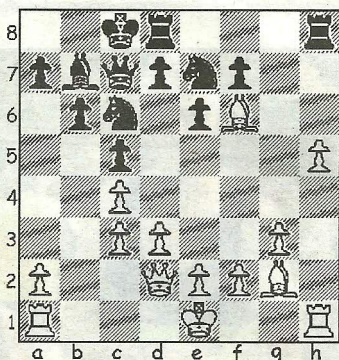
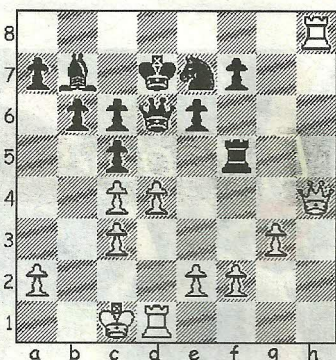


DIAGRAM 2



The Two Towns Match, the traditional fixture to open the season between Bournemouth and Poole, was held last week and 56 players took part in yet another close contest.

There was fighting chess all the way with only 4 draws out of the 28 games played and the overall result swung one way then the other before 5 individual games remained of a match nicely poised on a nail-biting 11.5-11.5 score that mirrored many of the battles of recent years. Bournemouth finally secured the match with the last game to finish when Terry Walsh, Southbourne's experienced veteran, defeated David Lockwood in an exciting time scramble.

Peter Svidler has won the FIDE World Cup in Khanty Mansiysk with a final game draw securing a 2.5-1.5 win against Alexander Grischuk. The play-off for third place was won by Vasily Ivanchuk who defeated Ruslan Ponomariov by a similar margin. The following game is Ivanchuk's only defeat of the fifth round and is a good example of strength of position being of more importance than material gain.

**Radjabov, T - Ivanchuk, V**  
 FIDE World Cup, 2011  
 Symmetrical English (A37)  
 1.Nf3 c5 2.g3 g6 3.c4 Bg7 4.Bg2 Nc6 5.Nc3 e6 6.d3 The main line alternative is 6. 0-0, but White has

a more aggressive plan in mind for his kingside... **6...Nge7 7.h4!?**...with this early pawn advance that prompts a cautious reply from his opponent. In Faraj-Boxal (Yerevan, 1996) Black countered in the centre and soon became fearful for his king, although after 7...d5 8.cxd5 exd5 9.Bf4 Bg4 10.Qd2 h6 11.Nb5 Kf8 12.Rc1 Qb6 13.a4 a6?? 14.Bc7, it was his queen that was lost. **7...h6 8.Bd2 b6 9.h5 g5 10.Nxg5!?** An imaginative sacrificial response to Black's attempt to set up a solid defence and in the next passage of play his strategy unfolds. **10...hxg5 11.Bxg5 Bxc3+ 12.bxc3 Bb7 13.Qd2 Qc7 14.Bf6! 0-0-0 (Diag 1) 15.0-0-0!** Most club players would not have hesitated over winning the exchange here, but White believes his bishop has the greater influence in this position and his faith is soon rewarded. **15...Rhg8 16.Bxc6 dxc6 17.h6!** Suddenly the piece becomes a prelate by protecting an unstoppable passed pawn. **17...Rg6 18.h7 Rxf6 19.h8Q Rxh8 20.Rxh8+ Kd7 21.d4!** White rounds off a forcing combination with a threat of carnage on the d-file. **21...Qd6 22.Qg5 Rf5 23.Qh4 (Diag 2) cxd4** Taking the king out of the firing line fares no better, as **23...Kc7 24.dxc5 Qxc5 25.Re8** wins a knight that cannot move because **26.Qd8** mates. **24.Rxd4 Rd5 25.cxd5 Qa3+ 26.Kb1 cxd5 27.Rh7 Qxc3 28.Rxf7** and it was here, faced with either tame defence of the pinned knight or spite-checking for a couple more moves, that Black resigned.

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