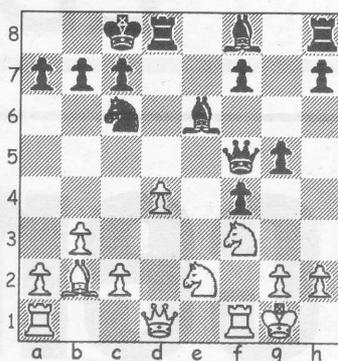


## CHESS

by Alan Dommett

DIAGRAM 1



GM Michael Adams duly won the 2010 British Championship after building on an opening week of superlative chess to compile a final score of 9.5/11 that equates to a 2757 elo rating performance.

Adams gave a masterly display and his margin of victory was just a half-point short of the record set in 1992 by former champion Julian Hodgson.

Nick Pert finished in the runner-up position 1.5 points adrift and Stuart Conquest, Andrew Greet, Jonathan Hawkins, Adam Hunt, Richard Pert and Alexei Slavin formed a logjam of players in third place with 7.5/11 scores. Congratulations are also due to Adam Hunt who secured his second GM norm with a 2624 rating and to Jovanka Houska who finished on 6.5/11 to become the British women's champion, two points ahead of Lateefah Messam-Sparks who takes the British Girls Under-18 title.

The following game, Michael Adams' opening round win, provides a good example of how he makes chess look simple, eschewing flashy moves and concentrating on the relentless exploitation of small advantages.

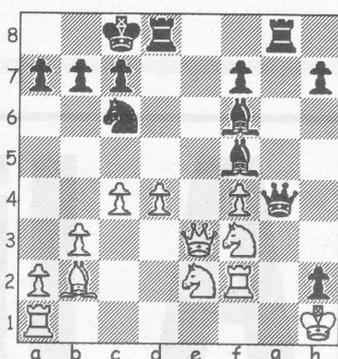
## Eames, R – Adams, M

British Championship, 2010  
King's Gambit Accepted (C36)

1.e4 e5 2.f4 exf4 3.Bc4 d5 4.Bxd5

Only four moves in and White is searching for unknown theoretical territory, but with little success. In fact, Adams has played the white side of this position before in Adams-Shirov (Tilburg, 1997), opting for the main line 4.exd5 Qh4+ 5.Kf1 Bd6 6.Nf3,

DIAGRAM 2



after which the game was drawn in 26 moves. 4...Nf6 5.Nf3 Nxd5 6.exd5 Qxd5 7.Nc3 Qf5!? The most dominant square for the queen despite the scope restriction for the queen's bishop. 8.0-0 Nc6 9.d4 Be6 10.Ne2 g5 Cementing the material advantage when White is already showing signs of having none of the positional or developmental benefits associated with gambit play. 11.b3 0-0-0 12.Bb2 (Diag 1) Bg7 In Bolacky-Pinkas (Freydek Mistek, 1996) Black ignored the threat on the long diagonal and continued on the offensive with 12...Bd5 13.c4 Bxf3 14.gxf3 Rg8, going on to win in 26 moves.

However, Adams' approach leads to an even quicker win... 13.c4 g4... the difference being that here the knights can be targeted by the onrushing pawns. 14.Ne1 f3 15.gxf3 Rhg8 16.f4 After 16.fxg4 Qxg4+ 17.Kh1 Be5! Black's attack is irresistible. 16...g3! 17.Nf3 gxh2+ 18.Kh1 White decides to use his opponent's pawn as a shield, although this only serves to add to his problems along the open g-file. 18...Bf6 19.Qd2 Qg4 20.Rf2 Preventing mate at g2, but yet another piece is tied down to defensive duties while Black's minor pieces prepare for a final assault. 20...Bf5 21.Qe3 (Diag 2) Nb4 and it was here that White resigned, unable to stem the flood of knight fork threats at c2 and d3 and realising that 22.Rd1 is no solution because 22...Nc2 23.Qc3 Be4! is fatal.

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