

CHESS

by Alan Dommett

18/9/2010

DIAGRAM 1

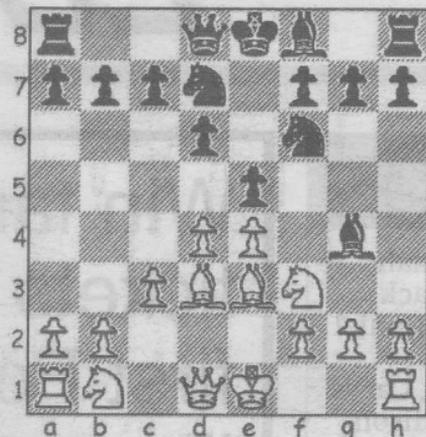
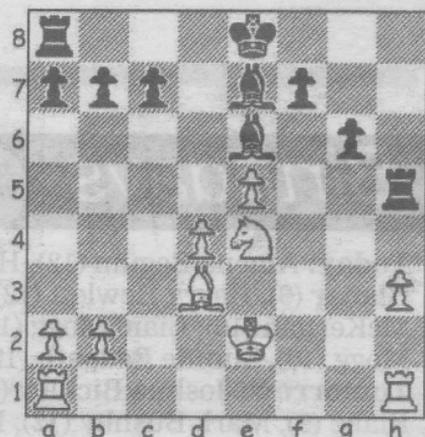


DIAGRAM 2



THE Paignton Jubilee Premier has been won by GM Keith Arkell with an impressive 6.5/7 score that saw him already assured of the title with a round to spare.

No fewer than seven players challenged for the runners-up position which eventually went to Richard Almond (Hastings) when he registered the only win among the chasing pack, the full point taking him to a 5/7 score.

Fine overall performances by local league players Martin Simons (Southbourne) and Bruce Jenks (Lymington) gave both a share of third place, a half-point adrift, but their meeting in the final round led to a draw that hardly helped the individual cause of securing a second place finish.

The following game is taken from the fourth round and features an interesting battle in which standard development in the opening is matched up against some imaginative destabilising tactics.

Brown, A – Simons, M
Paignton, 2010
Tartakower System (A41)

1.Nf3 d6 2.d4 Bg4 This early bishop sortie signals what has become known as the Sidestep approach to the Queen's Pawn Opening and is, in effect, an attempt to circumvent its mainline theory. **3.e4 Nf6 4.Bd3 Nbd7 5.Be3** In Gourlay-Simons (4NCL Div 2, 2008) White opted to remove the pin, but, after **5.h3 Bxf3 6.Qxf3 g6 7.Be3 Bg7**, Black had a comfortable game, going on to win in 42 moves. **5...e5 6.c3 (Diag 1) d5!** Revealing the inherent potential for surprise in a defence that is still relatively theory-free. For instance, **7.dxe5 Nxe4** and **7.exd5 e4!** are both central pawn exchange minefields that White does

well to avoid, although he still cannot stop his opponent instigating them himself to emerge from the opening with a clear initiative. **7.Nbd2 exd4 8.cxd4 dxe4 9.Nxe4 Bb4+!** A useful intermezzo check that leaves White an unenviable choice between a minor piece retreat or a dash for cover for the king. **10.Kf1 Be7 11.Ng3 Nd5** A strong outpost for the knight... **12.h3 Be6 13.Nf5 Bf6...** that also allows Black to maintain his bishop pair by vacating the f6 square. **14.g4 g6 15.Ng3 Nxe3+ 16.fxe3 Nb6 17.Ne4 Be7** If **17...Bg7**, followed by castling short, the kingside may look secure, but **18.Nc5 Rb8 19.Nxe6** equalises all too easily and Black has it in mind to expand on the kingside anyway. **18.Ke2 h5 19.Ne5 Nd7 20.gxh5?** Pre-empting Black's own advantageous exchange, White misses a line that leaves him struggling to cover up an ever-growing number of pawn weaknesses. **20...Nxe5 21.dxe5 Rxf5 22.Qa4+ Qd7 23.Qd4 Qxd4 24.exd4 (Diag 2) 0-0-0!** Much better than the immediate pawn grab which, after **24...Rxf3 25.Rxf3 Bxf3 26.Rh1 Bg4+ 27.Bh3**, gives White some semblance of counterplay. **25.Ke3 Rfh8 26.Nf2 c5!** Striking at White's fragile centre without fearing the pin after **27.Rac1** because **27...Bg5+** picks up the rook. **27.Be2 cxd4+ 28.Kxd4 Rd8+** and it was here that White resigned, as **29.Kc3** gives up the vital e-pawn, **29.Ke4 Bd5+** loses the exchange and **29.Ke3 Bc5+** **30.Kf4 Rf5+** wins the knight.

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