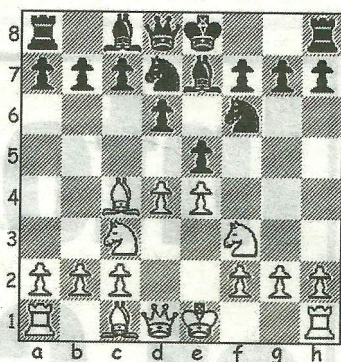


## CHESS

by Alan Dommett

DIAGRAM 1



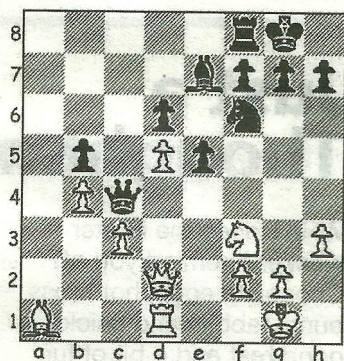
THE Mayor of Bournemouth Schools League finals took place at Highcliffe Marriott Hotel at the beginning of the month with the Junior finalists being Bethany Church School and Moordown St Johns C of E School. Bethany won the opening match 3-1, but St Johns rallied in the second with several close games ensuing. However, despite St Johns valiant efforts, Bethany went on to repeat their win of the previous round to take the trophy. Individual prizes went to Andres Pena of Bethany and Max Burrowes of St Johns for scoring 5/7 throughout the tournament.

The Senior final was once again between defending champions Portchester and Bournemouth School for Boys, however preliminary matches between the two teams had shown that BSB were favourites on this occasion and so it proved with the team registering a 4-0 win in the first match. Portchester then showed their fighting spirit in the rematch to come back into the contest, but a 3-1 winning margin was not enough to stop BSB becoming champions. The individual award for the best senior performance went to BSB's Alex O'Neill with an impressive 5/5 score.

The Sir George Meyrick trophies were presented to the winning teams by the Mayor of Bournemouth, Councillor Barry Goldbart and a presentation was also made to the individual winners, with thanks being expressed to the organisers Ian Clark and Chris Ambrose and the Bournemouth & District Chess League.

The following game, taken from the 4NCL top division match

DIAGRAM 2



between Wood Green Hillsmark and Oxford, features IM Andrew Greet displaying his expert knowledge of a defence that has become the popular choice for several of our local league players.

White, M - Greet, A  
4NCL Wokefield Park, 2011  
Philidor Defence (C41)

1.e4 d6 2.d4 Nf6 3.Nc3 e5 4.Nf3 Black indicated his wish to switch from a Philidor into the specialist Lion Defence with his previous move and had White responded with 4.dxe5 the early removal of the queens would have led to an appropriately-named 'Lion's Yawn' variation. 4...Nbd7 5.Bc4 Be7 (Diag 1) 6.0-0 White declines the 'Lion's Roar', a tempting 6.Bxf7+ Kxf7 7.Ng5+ sacrificial line that requires a great deal of care. 6...0-0 7.a4 c6 8.Ba2 Black completes the standard Hanham position after 8.Re1 Qc7, so White seeks to vary the play. 8...b6 9.h3 a6 10.Re1 Rb8 11.d5 Inviting the capture, which would only serve to strengthen White's grip on the centre, or 11...c5, whereupon Black has voluntarily cramped his queenside. However, as can be seen in the next passage of play, the third option offers good prospects...11...Bb7!? 12.dxc6 Bxc6 13.Nd5 b5 14.axb5 axb5 15.c3 (Diag 2) Ra8! ...of freeing Black's game and this quiet rook return to the a-file leads to real problems for his opponent. 16.b4 Bxd5 17.exd5 Qc7 18.Bb2 Now it is White who finds his minor pieces gasping for air! 18...Nb6 19.Qd2 Nc4 20.Bxc4 Qxc4 21.Red1 Rxa1 22.Bxa1 Ra8! Control of the a-file is restored, but this time with the threat of 23...Nxd5 and even though White avoids the immediate loss of material with his next move a follow-up pin soon leads to his resignation. 23.Bb2 Ra2 24.Nh2 Qb3 0-1

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