

**CHESS**

by Alan Dommett

23 OCT 2010

DIAGRAM 1

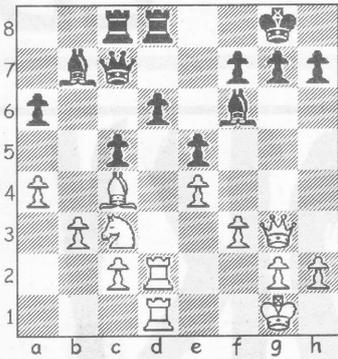
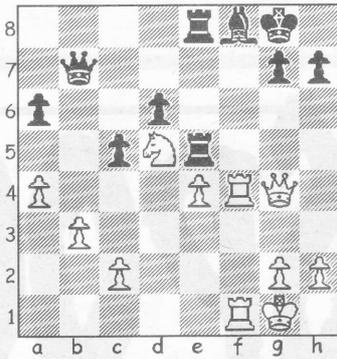


DIAGRAM 2



THE Open event at the recent Bournemouth Congress may have been won by a local league player, but the other sections were commanded by a whole host of players from all over the country who were visiting the town for this inaugural event. After a cagey opening round that featured a string of drawn games, the Major finished in a five-way tie for first place with Martin Bush (Wantage), Brendan O’Gorman (DHSS), Roger Greatorex (Llangollen), Richard Desmedt (Netherton) and Ian Matthew (Portsmouth) compiling 3.5/5 scores.

In the Minor event Timothy Crouch (Kings Head) and Roger Walker (Belper) were joint winners on impressive 4.5/5 scores after breaking clear of the chasing pack of Richard Newton (Winchester), John Lowther (Bournemouth) and Ray Hunt (Bognor and Arun), all of whom finished a half-point adrift and shared third place.

The following game, taken from the third round of the Major event, is a quiet handling from the white side of a Sicilian by one of the co-winners that suddenly springs into life.

**Bush, M - Waldock, A**  
Bournemouth Major, 2010  
Sicilian Scheveningen (B80)

1.e4 c5 2.Nf3 d6 3.d4 cxd4 4.Nxd4 Nf6 5.Nc3 a6 6.a4 White prefers to keep his options open and defers development of both bishops. 6...e6 7.Be3 Be7 8.Bd3 The popular alternative is 8.Be2, because the bishop is more vulnerable to attack at d3, but during the next passage of play Black labours over his attempt to take advantage of White’s set-up.

8...Nbd7 9.Nb3 b6 10.0-0 Bb7 11.f3 0-0 12.Qe1 The queen heads for the kingside, meanwhile Black continues to build pressure on the opposite wing. 12...Qc7 13.Qg3 Rfe8 14.Rad1 Rac8 15.Rd2 Nc5 16.Nxc5 bxc5 17.Bc4!? A simple transfer of the bishop prevents any attempt at a pawn roller and Black soon starts to tread water. 17...Qb6 18.b3 Qc7 19.Rfd1 Red8 20.Bg5 e5? With no real plan to put into operation Black blunders away a pawn... 21.Bxf6 Bxf6 (Diagram 1) 22.Bd5 ...but White, seemingly content with his positional advantage, fails to spot that 22.Bxa6! Bxa6 23.Nd5 Qb8 24.Nxf6+ secures it. 22...Be7 23.Bxb7 Qxb7 24.Nd5 Bf8 Although White was never going to swap his dominant knight for an ineffective bishop, Black decides to keep it on the board and use it in a purely defensive role. 25.f4 exf4 26.Qxf4 Re8 Eyeing the isolated e-pawn, the only weakness in White’s position. 27.Rf2 Re6 28.Rdf1 f6 The threat to the f-pawn is nullified. However, as one door is shut, another opens. 29.Qg4! Rce8? Initial defence of the rook with the king was Black’s only way of saving the pawn that now drops, whereupon 29...Kf7 30.Qh3 h6 31.Qh5+ Kg8 leaves his opponent still searching for a breakthrough move. 30.Rxf6 Re5 31.R6f4 (Diagram 2) Be7? Having felt the harmful effects of one pin, Black walks straight into another! 32.Rf7 Rg5 33.Qe6! and, realising that avoiding the discovered check ends in a heavy loss of material, while 33...Re5 34.Rf8+ is fatal, Black resigned.

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