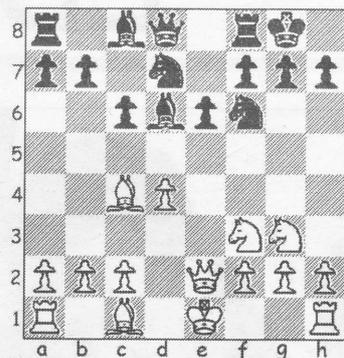


CHESS

by Alan Dommett

DIAGRAM 1



WIMBORNE B are on the brink of causing another major upset in Division 1 of the Bournemouth League after taking a 2-1 lead in their match against Ringwood A last week.

Proving that the opening round victory over their A team was no fluke, Wimborne B got off to a disconcerting start when Steve Wood, way behind on the clock, resigned in a difficult position against Ken Harman, but recovery was at hand when Mike Lewis defeated Martin Clancy at the first time control and Chris Bellers converted the slightest of advantages to secure a win against Mike Yeo.

This leaves the top board encounter, between Wimborne's Graham Willetts and Iuan Ward, still to be resolved and at adjournment, in an unclear position, Willetts was defending the black side of a Closed Sicilian and looking to secure at least a half-point required for a result that would see his team head the table going into their match with reigning champions Southbourne A early next month.

The following miniature, taken from the recent Bournemouth Open, is an emphatic opening round win for one of the eventual runners-up in the event.

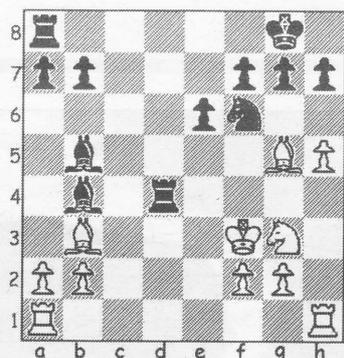
Taylor, G – Bennett, D

Bournemouth Open, 2010

Caro-Kann: Modern Line (B17)

1.e4 c6 2.d4 d5 3.Nd2 dxe4 4.Nxe4 Nd7 The hallmark move of a variation that, notwithstanding its name, was first played at the highest level by Aaron Nimzovitch in 1914. **5.Bc4 e6** Black plans to avoid the popular continuation **5...Ngf6 6.Ng5** and it soon becomes clear that his opponent is also prepared to deviate from main line theory... **6.Nf3 Ngf6 7.Ng3?! ...prefer-**

DIAGRAM 2



ring to steer clear of exchanges in search of some tactics in the opening. **7...Bd6 8.Qe2 0-0 (Diag 1) 9.Ne5?** However, this attempt at complications simply flatters to deceive and although the first chance to win material is missed by Black he doesn't shun the next opportunity. **9...c5?! 10.c3 cxd4 11.cxd4 Nxe5 12.dxe5 Qa5+** An intermezzo check that picks up the e-pawn, making a mockery of White's ill-advised fork. **13.Bd2 Qxe5 14.Be3 Bb4+ 15.Kf1** A sad necessity, unless White returns the bishop, thereby allowing a number of unfavourable exchanges that would also leave his king vulnerable in the centre. **15...Rd8 16.h4 Bd7 17.Bg5** Accepting that a queen swap, exposed king or not, is the only way to activate his rooks, but Black has a significant positional advantage already and his bishop pair are destined to control the board. **17...Qxe2+ 18.Kxe2 Bc6 19.h5 Rd4** White had hoped for **19...Bxg2**, when **20.Rhg1 Bc6 21.h6** might have muddied the waters a little. **20.Bb3 Bb5+ 21.Kf3 (Diag 2) e5!** Instigating a king hunt, safe in the knowledge that **22.Bxf6** can be answered by **22...Rf4+ 23.Ke3 Bc5+ 24.Kd2 Rxf2+ 25.Kd1**, whereupon the bishop is captured and White's second rank is at Black's mercy. **22.Rh4 e4+ 23.Kf4 Bd6+** and it was here that White resigned rather than face **24.Ke3 (24.Kf5 Bd7+ 25.Be6 fxe6 mate) Rd3+ 25.Ke2 Rxc3+** and a massive loss of material.

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