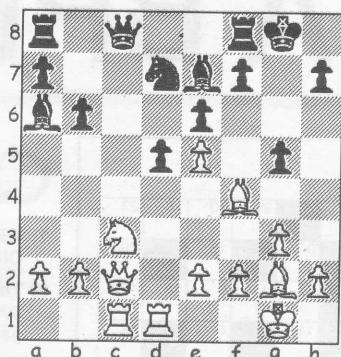


# CHESS

by Alan Dommett

DIAGRAM 1



THE 97th British Chess Championships are currently being held at the University of Kent in Canterbury and this is the first time the event has taken place in the county since 1929, when Ramsgate was the chosen venue.

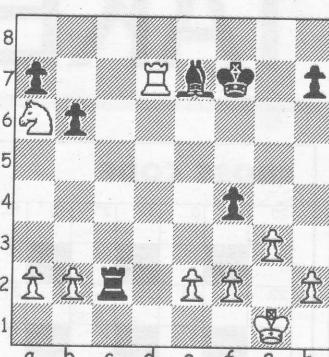
GM Michael Adams, Britain's No.1, heads a field containing several of the country's leading players, including former champion Stuart Conquest, and as the tournament enters its second week there are more than eight hundred players competing for various other titles.

The following game, taken from the recent Sparkassen Meeting in Dortmund, is a surprisingly one-sided defeat for the World No.4, Vladimir Kramnik, a player who has dominated the event in previous years. Rated all of 10 places below him in the FIDE list, the fast-improving Ruslan Ponomariov produces a fine attacking game and goes some way towards justifying his "Super Mario" nickname.

**Ponomariov, R – Kramnik, V**  
Sparkassen Dortmund, 2010  
Bogo-Indian (E11)

**1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.g3 Bb4+ 4.Bd2 Be7** A main line 4...Qe7 has often been the blunt weapon of choice for the quick GM draw, as in Polugaevsky-Schulman (Lugano, 1968) which continued 5.Bg2 Nc6 6.Nf3 Bxd2+ 7.Nbxd2 d6 8.0-0 before the point was shared. **5.Bg2 d5 6.Nf3 0-0 7.0-0 c6 8.Qc2 b6 9.Rd1 Ba6 10.Ne5!?** An interesting alternative to protecting the pawn with 10.b3 and one that targets Black's backward c-pawn. **10...Qc8 11.Nc3 Nbd7 12.Rac1 Nxe5!?** **13.dxe5 Nd7?** In the post-match analysis it was shown that 13...Ng4

DIAGRAM 2



14.Bh3 h5! was better but 14...Nxe5 15.cxd5 cxd5 16.Nxd5? would have handed White the initiative and was probably the reason Black rejected the line. **14.cxd5 cxd5 15.Bf4 g5 (Diag 1)** An ugly attempt to force his opponent onto the defensive, but such is the potential in White's position he can ignore the threat to the bishop in favour of the following centre-busting sacrifice. **16.Bxd5! exd5 17.Nxd5 Qd8** Despite his material advantage, Black is left with a horrid game, while White's almost plays itself! **18.Nc7 Rc8 19.e6!** Still the bishop remains en pris, as White continues to pile on the central pressure. **19...fxe6 20.Qc6 Qe8 21.Qxe6+ Qf7 22.Qxf7+ Kxf7** Recapturing with the king leads to some counterplay, whereas 22...Rxf7 23.Nxa6 Rxc1 24.Bxc1 leaves all Black's minor pieces marooned on the second rank. **23.Nxa6 gxf4 24.Rxc8 Rxc8 25.Rxd7 Rc2 (Diag 2)** The dust settles with White two pawns ahead, an advantage he soon converts into a win in an instructive endgame. **26.Nb4 Rxb2 27.Nc6 Rxе2 28.Rxa7** The two-pawn lead is halved, but White has a grip on the pinned bishop that means he can choose the precise moment to liquidate the position further... **28...f3 29.h4 h5 30.Rxe7+ ...and switch to a straightforward king and pawn ending.** **30...Rxe7 31.Nxe7 Kxe7 32.g4!** Returning a second pawn to create a passed pawn. **32...hxg4 33.Kh2 Ke6 34.Kg3 Kf5 35.a4** and it was here that Black resigned as the g-pawn must fall and the f-pawn will follow.

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