

South Lakes Congress 2011

Best Game

White Alexander Crombie (Newark) v Harry Baxter (Alwoodley)

Played in round 4 of the open section with annotation by IM Jonathan Hawkins who judged the competition (thanks to Ernis Lazenby who donated the prize).

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 g6 3.Nc3 d5 Black open with the popular Grunfeld defence. **4.cxd5 Nxd5 5.e4 Nxc3 6.bxc3 Bg7 7.Nf3 0-0** An inaccurate move order, it is better to start with 7...c5. **8.Be2 c5 9.Rb1** Transposing to a well known position, but it is possible to exploit black's 7th move with 9.0-0! the point being after 9...Nc6 10.Be3 Bg4 white can play the very powerful 11.d5! **b6** A well analysed line continues 9...cxd4 10.cxd4 Qa5+ 11.Bd2 Qxa2. Another popular move is 9...Nc6. The move played is also well known to theory. **10.0-0 Bb7** Black's strategy is to calmly develop his pieces and try to survive into the endgame where his queenside pawn majority will give him good chances_ At the moment though white is better developed and has more space. **11.Qd3 Qc7?!** The best square for the black queen in this line is a4, so the queen is misplaced here. **12.g3 Ba6** A key idea for black. Black hopes to ease his defensive task by exchanging bishops. **13.Qe3 Bxe2 14.Qxe2 Nd7 15.Bb2 Rfc8 16.d5 c4** Black does not wish to see a white pawn coming on c4 **17.Rfel Qc5 18.Rbd1 Ne5 19.Nxe5 Bxe5 20.Rcl b5 21.Kg2** Removing f2 pawn from the pin, and preparing to roll Toward in the centre beginning with f4. **Bg7 22.Rcd1 a5 23.f4 b4 24.e5** White erects a very impressive centre, but black has succeeded in creating some counterplay on the queenside. Creating a passed pawn with with 24...b3 comes into consideration here. **Bf8?** Very passive. After this mistake white begins to play very energetically. **25.e6!** White abandons his idea of d5-d6 creating a passed pawn and instead compromises black's king position. Now white threatens exf7+ followed by f4-f5, so black's response is forced. **f6 26.d6!** Excellent play! Relentlessly creating threats in the centre. **exd6** Understandably black did not wish to allow d6-d7 **27.e7 Qc6+ 28.Kgl Bg7 29.Qe6+ Kh8 30.Rxd6 Qc5+ 31.Kg2 Qb5 32.Red1** Very logical and strong, 32.Qxc8+ was perhaps a quicker way to win. **Re8 33.Rd8 Qb7+ 34.Kh3 b3 35.Qd7** Forcing black into huge material loss, the remainder of the game was simple for white. **Qxd7+ 36.R1xd7 Kg8 37.Rxa8 Rxa8 38.Rd8+ 1 - 0** An excellent display of tactical and positional chess, black made one mistake and was given no second chance.

[Hawkins,J]