Chess



Warm welcome from Ireland

Any event involving ICU president Eamon Keogh, a long-standing supporter and sponsor of Irish chess, will provide great entertainment on and off the board. So the Dun Laoghaire Masters. including the first closed GM tournament ever to be held in Ireland, is a welcome new development. We check out

some good moments from

the local players below:



Bischoff, K - Quinn, M Dun Laoghaire 2010

65.Qb8-b2 After 65.Qb8-e8 Ra3-a2+ a draw is on the cards, but this error allows some neat geometry. Ra3-e3+

65... This alert move convinced White to resign as 66.Ke2xe3 Ne5-c4+. 66.Ke2-f1 Re3-e1+ 67.Kf1xe1 Ne5-d3+.or 66.Ke2-d1 Re3-e1+ 67.Kd1-c2 (67.Kd1-d2 Ne5-c4+) 67...Re1-e2+ all win White's queen.



Astaneh Lopez, A -Collins, S Dun Laoghaire 2010

The knight on h6 didn't look

great earlier in the game. but now it restricts the Black king effectively and a sneaky withdrawal of the bishop sets up problems on the long diagonal.

31.Bf4-c1 If 31...Be7-d6 32.Ra1-d1

Nd7-e5 Bd6-f4 (32...Bd6-e5 33.Be2-a4 is strong) 33.Rd1xd7+ Bc8xd7 34.Bc1-b2+ is a nice tactical finish, Relatively best, although not very appetising was 31...Rf8-f2

32.Bc1-b2 Be7-d6 33.Ra1-d1 **Bd6-b8** 34.Be2-a4 Swapping the bishop causes a complete collapse. 34... Bc8xa4 After 34...a7-a5 35.Ba4xc8

32.Be2-g4 Kg7-f8 33.e4-e5.

38.Rd 1-d8 Bb8-c7 39.Nf6-e8+ is one simple 35.Nh6xq4 Rf8-e8 36.Rd1-d7+ Ka7-h8 The king can't retreat in the

Rc8-e8 37.Ng4-f6 Re8-e7

Rf8xc8 36.Nh6-a4

other direction as 36...Kg7-f8 is met by the deadly 37.Bb2-a3+. 37.Rd7-b7 Bb8-d6 38.Na4-f6

Simon Ansell was in good form in the accompanying IM event.

1-0



Fitzsimons, D - Ansell, S Dun Laoghaire 2010

25.Ne3-c2

The knight is doing a good

iob here, so 25.Qa5-c7 was wiser 25 Nh6-f5 26.Qa5-c7

26.Bg3-f4 keeps black bottled up. 26... Qh7xc7 27.Ba3xc7 Ba7-h6 A crucial move, grabbing

control of an important diagonal. 28.a2-a4 29.Re1-h1

Rf8-a8 It's not particularly easy to give good advice: 29.Nc2-e3 doesn't look pretty, but challenges the influential kniaht.

29... a7-a6 30.Nc2-a1 Not a good sign. 30... Ra8-a4

Even worse, Black has a clear plan to execute. 31.Na1-b3 Re8-c8 32.Bc7-b6 Rc8-a8 With White's bishop banished to the edge of the board the rooks double up. 33.a2-a3 Bh6-f4 33...Nf5xg3 34.f2xg3

looks very dangerous, but increasing the pressure is also strong. 34.Rh1-h2 h7-h5 The 'h' pawn battering ram signals the beginning of the end. 35.Nf3-h2 Rq4-q7

h5-h4

Rq4xq3+ 35.Kq1-f2 Bd7-f5

e7-e5 37.Ka2-f3 37...h4xq3 was decisive. but the thematic central advance is hard to resist. 38.d4xe5 f6xe5 39.Bb6-c7

36.Kg1-g2

39.a3xf4 e5-e4+ 40.Re2xe4 d5xe4+ 41.Kf3xe4 Ra8-e8+ leaves the White pieces lacking the co-ordination to resist. 39... h4xa3 40.f2xg3 Rg7xg3+ 41.Kf3-f2 Bf4-e3+

precise finish, but this is good enough. 42.Re2xe3 Rg3xe3 43.Nh2-f1 Re3-e4

44.Nb3-d2 Re4-f4+ 45.Nd2-f3 Ra8-e8 0-1

41...Rg3-g1 was a more