

CHESS

by Alan Dommett

DIAGRAM 1

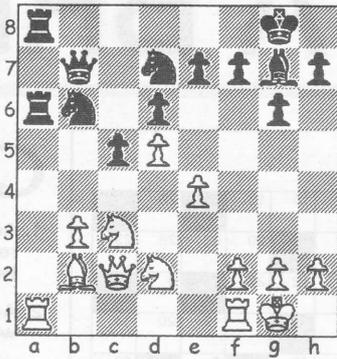
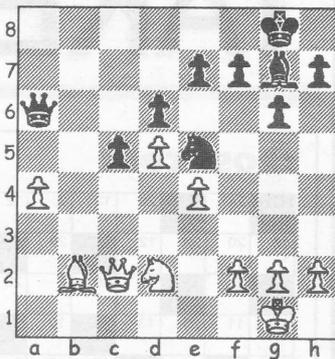


DIAGRAM 2



THE final weekend of matches in the 4NCL ended with the two Wessex teams maintaining their current positions in Divisions 2 and 3 after close promotion and relegation calls for both sides.

Caught up in the Division 2 Demotion Pool struggle, Wessex 1 ensured their eventual safety with comfortable wins against Guildford 3 and FCA Solutions while in Division 3 a brave attempt to gain promotion just failed as Cambridge University 2 edged Wessex 2 out of the fourth and final place in a Championship table comprising thirty-two teams.

B&DCL players are reminded that the annual general meeting is being held at Tuckton Social Club on Tuesday, June 15 (7.30pm start).

The following game, one of four middle board wins for Wessex 1 in their 5-3 defeat of FCA Solutions, features an over-cautious approach to the Benko that leads to a surprisingly quick finish.

Brown, A – Simons, M
4NCL Sunningdale, 2010
Benko Gambit (A57)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 c5 3.d5 b5 4.cxb5 a6 5.b6 a5 The main line is an immediate recapture, followed by 6.Nc3 d6, but this is a more modern approach that keeps open the option of playing 6...Ba6 before White advances his e-pawn... **6.e3?!** ...and in order to alleviate that perceived problem White tries to transpose into the Quiet Variation, locking in his queen's bishop in the process. **6...d6 7.Nc3**

g6 8.Nf3 Bg7 9.Be2 In Yilmaz-Ristau (U-20 Ch Germany, 1995) White developed differently with 8.Bc4 Bg7 9.Nge2 0-0 10.0-0, but after 10...Nbd7 11.e4 Ne5 Black had a comfortable game and went on to win in 31 moves. **9...0-0 10.0-0 Nbd7 11.e4 Nxb6 12.Nd2 a4 13.Rb1** White is having real difficulty mobilising his pieces even though there has been none of the pressure on the open b-file that is associated with the gambit. **13...Nfd7 14.Qc2 Ba6 15.Bxa6 Rxa6 16.b3 Qa8 17.Bb2** At last development is complete, but in the meantime Black has stolen the initiative. **17...axb3 18.axb3 Qb7 19.Ra1 Rfa8 (Diag 1)** Even without material advantage, it is clear that Black has control on the queenside and in the next passage of play White has no real plan other than liquidation. **20.Rxa6 Rxa6 21.Ra1 Rxa1+ 22.Bxa1 Qa6 23.Bb2 Ne5 24.Na4 Nxa4 25.bxa4 (Diag 2)** Exchanges over and White would have achieved his equalising objective... **25...Qe2!** ...if it wasn't for this brutal pin on the knight that threatens 26...Ng4 and a mating attack. **26.h3 Nd3!** and suddenly, with a double threat to the bishop, White's position collapses. Faced with the prospect of 27.Bxg7 Qf2+ 28.Kh1 (28.Kh2 Ne1 29.Nb1 Nf3+ 30.Kh1 Qg1 mate) Ne1 and the inevitable loss of his queen, White resigned.

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