

**CHESS** by Alan Dommett

DIAGRAM 1

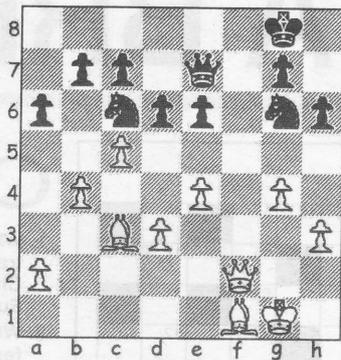
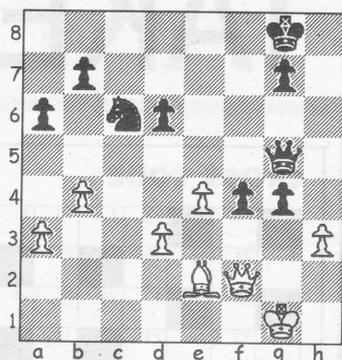


DIAGRAM 2



WESSEX 1 failed to improve on their current lowly position in the 4NCL Division 2 relegation zone following the latest round of matches last weekend.

After losing a close contest 4.5-3 to AMCA Dragons, with a default on bottom board, the team suffered a much heavier 2.5-5.5 defeat against an improving Bristol 1 side.

Wessex 2 performed marginally better in Division 3 by registering a crushing 5-1 win against Icenl, but unfortunately this was followed by a below-par performance and a 1.5-4.5 defeat to Cambridge University, a result that leaves the team ninth in the table, two points adrift of the promotion places.

The following game, another from the Dorset Major, is a fine win for Southbourne's Petra Burilova in which, in contrast to last week's featured game, knights take centre stage rather than bishops.

**Cornes, D – Burilova, P**  
Dorset Major, 2010  
English Opening (A28)

**1.Nf3 Nc6 2.c4 e5 3.Nc3 Nf6 4.d3 Bb4 5.Bd2 Bxc3** Black normally needs to be encouraged into this exchange in the Four Knights Variation, as in Mueller-Braun (Bayern Ch, 1998) where 5...0-0 6.a3 Bxc3 was followed by a combative 7...e4!? and, after 8.Nd4 Ne5 9.e3 Re8 10.h3 d5 11.Qc2? exd3 12.Bxd3 dxc4, Black held on to his early pawn advantage to win in 30 moves.  
**6.Bxc3 d6 7.g3 0-0 8.Bg2 Be6** A similar 8...e4!? central break as in the previous note was played in Padevsky-Gajic (Smederevska Palanka, 1978) leading to 9.dxe4 Nxe4 10.Rc1 Nxc3 11.Rxc3 and an eventual draw in 17 moves. **9.e4 Qd7 10.Ng5 h6 11.Nxe6 fxe6!? 12.0-0 Qf7 13.Qd2?!** An immediate 13.f4 would have targeted the black queen on the f-file instead of giving her the opportunity

to reach a strong outpost. **13...Qh5 14.f4 exf4 15.Rxf4 Ng4!** Black is making full use of her knights while safe in the knowledge that the open file is contested. **16.h3 Nge5 17.Raf1 Ng6 18.Rxf8+ Rxf8 19.g4 Rxf1+ 20.Bxf1 Qh4** The dust settles on what soon becomes a battle between knights and bishops and the next passage of play sees Black take on the role of aggressor. **21.Qf2 Qe7 22.b4 a6 23.c5 (Diag 1) e5!** The scope of both bishops is now limited, allowing Black to dictate the play. **24.a3 Nf4 25.Bd2 Qg5 26.Be3 h5 27.cxd6 cxd6 28.Bxf4** With no real alternative (due to its dominance) White has to remove the advanced knight at the expense of the better of his two bishops. **28...exf4 29.Be2 hxg4 (Diag 2) 30.Qg2?** Speculative, bearing in mind not only Black's powerful reply, but also the fact that 30...f3 31.Bxf3 was the probable trap that would have been sprung by 31...Qe3+, picking up the bishop for two pawns. **30...g3 31.Bg4 Qe5 32.Qa2+ Kf8 33.Kg2 Ne7** The knight retreats to guard against 34.Bc8 and White is left with little by way of counterplay. **34.Kf3 Ng6 35.Qd5 Nh4+ 36.Ke2 Qxd5** An exchange of queens that, together with Black's next move, signals the end of any chances of recovery for White. **37.exd5 b6 38.a4 a5** Clinical to the last, Black ensures that both her queenside pawns are placed on black squares and out of harm's way of the bishop. **39.b5 Ke7 40.d4 Kf6 41.Kf1 Nf5** and White, powerless to prevent further pawns dropping due to having to guard against 43...g2, resigned a few moves later.

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