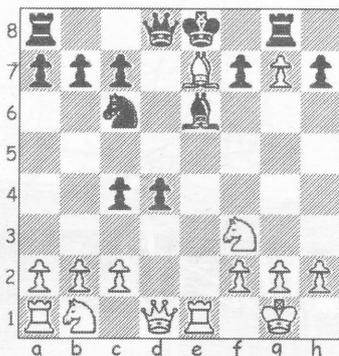


## CHESS by Alan Dommett

DIAGRAM 1



THE 44th Torbay Congress was held a fortnight ago and a number of local players took part in the various sections, ranging from the main tournament through to the Major (Under-170), Intermediate (Under-150) and Minor (Under-120) events.

The Open was won by GM Keith Arkell with a 4.5/5 score and Allan Pleasants (Wimborne) continued his good form with a share of second place, a point adrift. There was also a fine performance in the Intermediate from Peter Wilcock (Wimborne) who finished in a two-way tie for first place, on a similar 4.5/5 score, while in the Minor event Norman Mackie completed a trio of successes for the Wimborne club by compiling a 4/5 score and winning a grading prize.

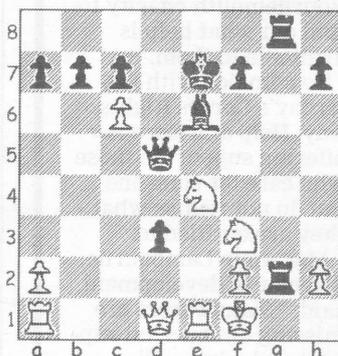
The following miniature, taken from the recent 4NCL Division 2 match between 3Cs 1 and Wessex 1, features Ringwood's Michael Yeo making short work of his opponent's attempt to undermine one of the oldest defences in the game.

Ashton, D – Yeo, M

4NCL, Daventry, 2010  
Two Knights Defence (C56)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Nf6 4.d4 exd4 5.0-0 The main line of the Modern Attack continues 5...Nxe4 6.Re1 d5 7.Bxd5 Qxd5 with White regaining the pawn after 8.Nc3, but here Black prefers a protection of the advanced pawn and a much sharper variation. 5...Bc5 6.e5 d5 7.exf6 dxc4 8.fxg7 Black could be given the opportunity to go wrong here, as in Novacek-Hrouda (Klatovy, 1996)

DIAGRAM 2



when 8.Re1+ Be6 9.Ng5 was answered with 9...Qd7?? (instead of 9...Qd5) and 10.Nxe6 fxe6 11.Qh5+ picked up the hanging bishop to end the game. 8...Rg8 9.Bg5 Be7 10.Re1 Be6 11.Bxe7 (Diag 1) Kxe7! Black judges that his king is safe in the centre and he can therefore retain the d-pawn. In Neumann-Winawer (Paris, 1867) a decision to let it go proved unwise as, after 11...Qxe7 12.Nxd4 Rd8 13.c3 Nxd4 14.cxd4 Rxd4 15.Nc3 Qg5 16.Qf3!, the black king was the more vulnerable and White went on to victory in 41 moves.

12.Nbd2 Qd5 13.b4? Preparing for a shot in the dark that ignores the storm about to break on the opposite wing. 13...Rxd7 14.b5 Rg8! 15.bxc6 Rxd7+ 16.Kf1 A necessity, as 16.Kh1? Rxd2+! 17.Kxh2 Qh5+ ends in mate. 16...d3 17.cxd3 cxd3 18.Ne4? (Diag 2) White plans to trap his opponent's rook with 19.Ng3, but... 18...Rxd2! 19.Ng3 Rxd3!...realising that 19.Nxd2? Bxd3+ is fatal, he fails to spot this stunning exchange sacrifice. 20.fxg3 Re2 21.Rxe2 Qxf3+ 22.Kg1 After 22.Ke1 dxe2 23.Qd4 Qxd3+ 24.Kxe2 Qg2+ 25.Ke3 Qxc6, Black's massive pawn superiority would ensure the win, but White's second option fares no better. 22...dxe2 23.Qe1 Bd5 24.Qb4+ Ke8 and it was here that White resigned rather than face an inevitable 25.Qg2 mate.

● Any enquiries regarding the Chess column should be addressed to Alan Dommett by emailing [a.j.dommett@btinternet.com](mailto:a.j.dommett@btinternet.com)