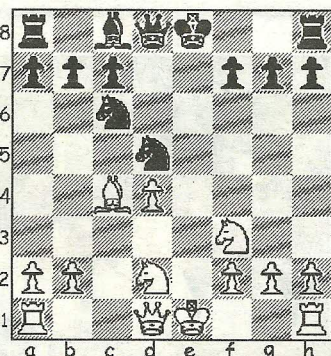


## CHESS

by Alan Dommert

DIAGRAM 1



WESSEX 2 continue to press their claim for promotion from Division 3 of the NCL after a 3-3 sharing of points with Oxford 2 and a 3.5-2.5 win against Celtic Tigers took the team to the top of the table. The closing round of matches will be played at the end of the month and on the final weekend (rounds 9-11) Division 3 and the Northern League will combine into a single division, with match and game points carried over from the first four weekends. In the first of these rounds Wessex have been drawn against a Spirit of Atticus team that finished second in their Northern League section.

The following game is taken from the match against Celtic Tigers and Wimborne's Ian Clark puts a thorough knowledge of an old and established opening to the test against an opponent equally well versed in theory that stretches back over 150 years!

**Clark, I - Kemp, P**

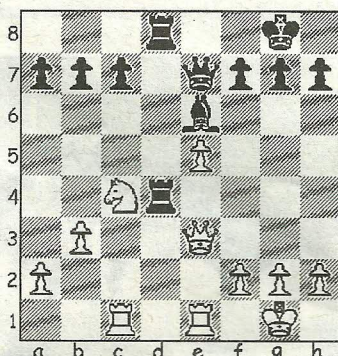
4NCL Daventry, 2011

Giucoco Piano (C54)

1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Bc5 4.c3

Nf6 5.d4 exd4 6.cxd4 Bb4+ 7.Bd2 Bxd2+ The players are about to go down the main line of one of the oldest openings in the game and continue to do so for another five moves, Black turning down the opportunity to grab the e-pawn as 7...Nxe4 8.Bxb4 Nxb4 9.Bxf7 Kxf7 10.Qb3+ not only recovers the piece, but leaves the

DIAGRAM 2



black king somewhat exposed.

**8.Nbxd2 d5 9.exd5 Nxd5 (Diag 1)**

**10.0-0** In Buckle-Anderssen (London, 1851) White went on the offensive with 10.Qb3 and his illustrious opponent got into a tangle after 10...Nce7 11.0-0 0-0 12.Rfe1 Nf4 13.Re4 Neg6 14.Rae1 Qf6 15.Ne5 Qg5?, whereupon 16.Bxf7+ Kh8 17.Nxg6+ hxg6 18.Qg3! side-stepped mate and led to Black's resignation a few moves later. **10...0-0 11.Re1 Nb6 12.Ne5 Nxe5** If Black grabs the d-pawn 13.Bxf7+ Rxf7 15.Qh5+ Kf8 16.Rad1 gives White excellent compensation.

**13.dxe5 Nxc4 14.Nxc4 Be6 15.Qe2 Qe7** Black emerges from the opening with a slight edge, going on to improve his position until ...**16.Rac1 Rfd8 17.b3 Rd4 18.Qe3 Rad8?** (Diag 1) ...almost as if on auto-pilot, he doubles rooks and blunders. **19.Nd6! Rb4** The only way to avoid losing the exchange or the b-pawn, but now the isolated rook is out on a limb and White takes full advantage with a dual purpose move that threatens to win material and sets a subtle trap.

**20.Qc5! Rg4 21.Qxc7 Rxc7+?** Fearing carnage on the 7th rank, Black is lured into this sacrifice which appears to offer hope of counterplay... **22.Kxg2 Qg5+ 23.Kh1**

...except that 23...Bd5+ is met by 24.Ne4 and therefore a rook down and with all his opponent's pieces ideally protected, Black's resignation soon followed.

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