

CHESS

by Alan Dommett

DIAGRAM 1

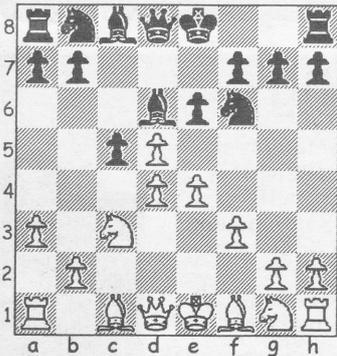
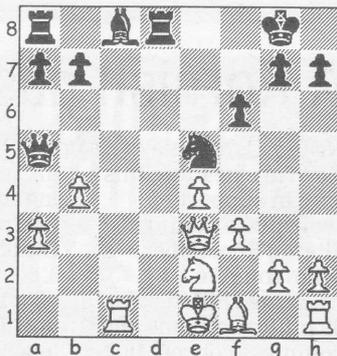


DIAGRAM 2



THE 97th British Championships are being held next month (July 25 to August 7) at the University of Kent, Canterbury, and Mickey Adams, the former world No.4, is confirmed as an entrant, having last won the title when the tournament took place at Hove in 1997.

Weymouth's Allan Pleasants has qualified for the main event and it is hoped that several other local league players will also compete in the various weekly and weekend tournaments that accompany the championship.

Details of qualification for these competitions can be obtained from the ECF website and completed entry forms should be sent to the Congress Secretary, Roger Edwards, British Chess Championships, PO Box 2701, Stoke-on-Trent, ST6 9AL.

The following miniature, another taken from Division 1 of the 4NCL (White Rose v Pride and Prejudice), is a wild affair that provides a timely reminder of the former world No.4's combative skills.

Palliser, R – Adams, M
4NCL Sunningdale, 2010
Nimzo-Indian (E20)

1.d4 Nf6 2.c4 e6 3.Nc3 Bb4 4.f3

The main line, continuing 4.e3 0-0 5.Bd3 d5 6.Nf3 c5, brings standard development to the opening, although it is hardly missed in this exciting miniature. **4...d5 5.a3 Bd6 6.e4** The pawn chain is completed, whereas in Marin-Spassov (Sitges Open, 1992) Black achieved very

little with 6.c5 Be7 7.b4 0-0 8.Bg5 b6 9.e3 a5 10.Bd3 c6 11.Na4 Nbd7 12.Ne2 Ba6 13.0-0 and a quick draw was agreed. **6...c5 7.cxd5**

(**Diag 1**) **cx d4!** A novelty involving the gambit of a pawn for rapid piece play against a king that looks a long way from castling to safety! **8.Qxd4 exd5 9.Nxd5 Nxd5 10.Qxd5 0-0**

Any computer evaluation of this position would strongly favour White, but the next few moves show how difficult it is to mobilise forces. **11.Be3 Qc7 12.Ne2 Rd8** Declining 12...Bxh2?? 13.f4, which loses the bishop. **13.Rc1 Nc6**

14.Qg5 Be5 15.Bf4? f6! Anxious to free his minor pieces on the kingside, White misses a quiet move and is drawn into further complications. **16.Bxe5 Qa5+ 17.b4 Nxe5 18.Qe3** (**Diag 2**) **Qb6!** It isn't often that the aggressor seeks an

exchange of queens when a pawn down, but Black is able to win material with a subtle intermezzo...

19.Qxb6 Nd3+! 20.Kd2 axb6 ...that leaves both rooks under threat in succession. **21.Rc3 Nf2+ 22.Ke1 Nxe1 23.Nf4 Kf8 24.Nd5 Rd6** and it was here, a rook down and with counterplay limited, that White resigned. The best to be hoped for was probably 25.g4 Be6 26.Bg2 Bxd5 27.exd5 Re8+ 28.Kf1 Rxd5 29.Rc1 Rd3 30.Bxh1 Rxa3 when Black is the exchange and a pawn ahead.

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