

**CHESS**

by Alan Dommett

DIAGRAM 1

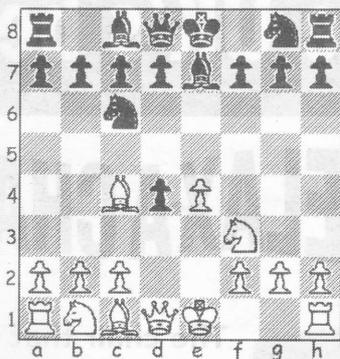
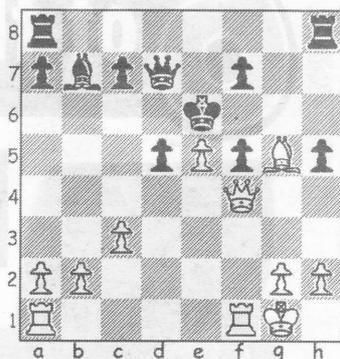


DIAGRAM 2



WESSEX 1 have made a good start to their 4NCL Division 2 campaign following the opening two rounds of matches last weekend.

A solid 4-4 result against AMCA Dragons was followed by a crushing 6-2 victory against a 3Cs team that struggled throughout on the lower boards.

World No 2 Magnus Carlsen has dealt a huge blow to FIDE by giving written confirmation of his intention not to play in next year's Candidates event.

He cites unhappiness with its format, a primary complaint being privileges afforded to the reigning champion that include exemption from the Candidate stages, and the long five-year span of the cycle.

Although there is little doubt he is not alone among the other candidates in being unhappy at the current format, it is believed that there are unlikely to be further withdrawals.

The following miniature, taken from the Bournemouth Open, features two players from the current Wessex 1 team and some innovative opening play against an old established defence soon proves to be decisive.

**Yeo, M – de Coverly, R**  
Bournemouth Open (4), 2010  
Hungarian Defence (C50)

**1.e4 e5 2.Nf3 Nc6 3.Bc4 Be7 4.d4 exd4 (Diag 1) 5.Nxd4** White has a trap-laden gambit line here and after **5.c3 dxc3 6.Qd5!** Black has often resigned on the spot! However, **6...Nh6 7.Bxh6 0-0!** is playable, whereupon **8.Bxg7 (8.Nxc3 gxh6 9.Qh5 Kg7** leads to equality and **8.Bc1? Nb4! 9.Qd1 c2** leads to trouble) **Kxg7 9.Nc3** is probably White's

best continuation, obtaining a slight edge in the process. **5...d6 6.Nxc6 bxc6 7.e5!**? By hindering his opponent's kingside development, instead of castling or starting his own on the opposite wing, White sets an aggressive tone for the game. In Rodriguez-Garcia (Bayamo, 1983) a more pragmatic approach was taken and after **7.0-0 Nf6 8.Nc3 0-0 9.f4 Nd7 10.Qh5 Nb6 11.Bb3 Bf6**, an early draw was agreed. **7...d5 8.Bd3 Bb4+ 9.Nd2 Ne7 10.0-0 h5?** Perhaps fearing that **10...0-0** appears to be "castling into it", Black lashes out, but in the next passage of play White targets the real weakness in his position... **11.Nb3 Nf5 12.c3 Be7 13.Na5 ...** a doubled c-pawn that can no longer be defended **13...Qd7 14.Bxf5 Qxf5 15.Nxc6 Qd7 16.Nxe7 Kxe7** Black can ill-afford the loss of a second pawn, so his king must retake and move into the firing line. **17.f4 g6 18.Qd4 Bb7 19.f5!** White returns the pawn and by so doing brings his bishop into play at precisely the right moment. **19...gxf5 20.Bg5+ Ke6 21.Qf4 (Diag 2)** and the **22.Qxf5** mating threat led to Black's immediate resignation, as there is no way of avoiding that eventual outcome, even if Black provides his king with an escape square. The obvious **21...f6** is met by **22.Qxf5+ Kf7 23.Qxd7+ Kg6 24.Qf5+ Kf7 25.Qf6+ Kg8 26.Qf7** and after **21...d4 22.Qf5+ Kd5 23.Qxd7+ Kc5 24.Qxd4+ Kb5 25.a4+ Ka6 26.Qc4+ Kb6 27.Qb5** the king suffers a similar fate.

● 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)