

Keith Palmer from Louth is one of several Lincolnshire players who competed in this year's British Championships at Ponds Forge in Sheffield. Keith was taking a break from his duties as a teacher at the Lyle Marsden School in Grimsby to play in the 5 round Under 180 grade event where he won one, lost one and drew his remaining 3 games to finish in 15th place on 2½ points.

Keith's win came in round 3 where he was paired as white against Norman Andrews of York and we pick up the game after black has just played 27. ...a5 (see diagram) but Keith has his eyes on the pawn on d6 and played 28. a3 Rae8 29. b4 axb4 30. axb4 Ba7 forcing the bishop away 31. Rxd6 Be6 32. Red2 uniting the rooks whilst protecting the pawn on c4.

Play continued 32. ...Bb6 33. Ne3 Bc7 34. R6d4 Bc8 with black now retreating to consolidate his defensive position 35. Bd3 Kg7 36. c5 whilst Keith now creates an avenue for his knight which will become the key piece in the attack 36. ...Kf8 37. Nc4 R5e7 38. Nd6 Rd8 39. Bc4 Red7 40. e5 Bxe6 and black exchanges the knight but is this too late 41. dxe6 Kg7 42. Re4 Kf6 43. Rde2 h4 44. Re8 h3 45. Kg3 (not 45. Kxh3 Rxd6+) Kg7.

Now Keith closed in for the kill 46. Rxd8 Rxd8 47. Re7 Bd7 (not 47. ...Rd7 48. Re8 or 47. ...Rf8 48. d7 both winning the bishop for white) 48. Bxf7 Kf6 49. Bh5 b6 50. Bg4 bxc5 51. bxc5 Bf5 52. Bxf5 Kxf5 53. Rc7 and black resigned unable to protect the pawn on c6.

