

Lincoln stalwart Ian McDonald was another of the county players who ventured up to Tyneside for this year's British Championships. Played at the Parks Leisure Centre at North Shields Ian entered the Seniors competition which was a seven round tournament for players aged 60 and over.

Ian came equal 17th out of 40 with a score of 3½ out of 7 including two wins and three draws. One of the wins was against Frank Tanner from the Crusaders club in Blackburn who Ian had played against in the British Championships held at York in 1959 one of many players Ian had not seen for more years than he cares to remember.

This week's featured game was Ian's other success in the competition where he was paired as white against George Ellison from Poulton-le-Fylde in Lancashire with the opening following the Sicilian Defence 1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Bb5+ Nd7 4. 0-0 a6 5. Be2 Ngf6 6. d3 g6 7. Bf4 e5 8. Be3 Bg7 9. Nc3 0-0 10. h3 h6 11. Nh2 b5 12. a3 b4 13. axb4 cxb4 14. Na4 Bb7 15. Qd2 and after drawing black into advancing his pawns Ian now attacks both the b4 and h6 pawns.

Black replied with 15. ...Qc7 16. Rac1 Bc6 17. Qxb4 winning the pawn Rfb8 18. Qc4 a5 19. Nc3 Rxb2 and black regained the pawn but has not seen Ian's match winning trap (see diagram) - can you see it?

Ian played 20. Nd5 Qb7 (not 20. ...Bxd5 21. Qxc7) 21. Qxc6 Nxd5 22. Qxb7 Rxb7 23. exd5 leaving Ian a piece to the good and black resigned (21. ...Qxc6 22. Ne7+ and 23. ...Nxc6 was equally bad for black).

Lincoln Chess Club play at the RAOB Club, 58 South Park on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk

