

The Lincoln Chess Club internal matches are keenly contested affairs. We now have two competitions one long play and one rapidplay starting in January, May and September so there are 6 trophies up for grabs presented at our AGM in September.

This is a good way for new members to establish themselves in the club and to obtain a grade as all results are forwarded to the ECF for grading.

James Irwin is a regular on club nights as well as becoming one of the leading lights in our teams which play in the Lincolnshire Leagues and in this season's Summer competition played between May and August James and yours truly went head to head in the long play competition and we pick up the game after James as white has just played 39. Rb1 (see diagram) to which I replied b5 40. cxb5 cxb5 and now I have two pawns to one down the queen's side 41. Qd2 Qc6 42. Qe2 (preventing 42. ...Qf3+) so instead I played 42. ...Rh2 43. Rbg1 Rxc2+ 44. Rxc2 and so far James has an answer to all my questions.

Play continued 44. ...a5 45. Qd1 b4 46. Kg1 Rc8 47. Rd2 Rh8 48. Rg2 Qc3 and now I am looking to shepherd my pawns 49. Qe2 and I need to guard against 49. Qa6 so I played 49. ...b3 50. axb3 Qxb3 and now have a passed pawn 51. Kf2 Rb8 52. e4 Qb2 53. exf5+ exf5 54. Kg1 James' first mistake in a tightly contested game as 54. ...Qxd4+ 55. Kh2 Rh8 mate.

Had James played 55. Rf2 etc then 55. ...Rb1 and 56. ...Qh8 are available.

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

