

This week's game features Russell Ludlow in the recent match at home to Louth mentioned in this column a couple of weeks ago. Russell is a graduate of York University where he gained a degree in Mathematics and since his return has become a tutor in mathematics offering one to one tuition. Also, while he was at University he played for their chess team gaining valuable experience and is now one of Lincoln's top players.

In his game he was paired as white on board 2 against Louth's David Bale and we pick up the game after black has just played 23. ...Nxb4 (see diagram) and is now 2 pawns up so Russell needs to draw on his skills to turn things around.

Play continued 24. Bb1 Rbc8 25. Rg3 Nc4 26. Qh6 Nc6 (not 26. ...Nxb2 27. Rb3) 27. Nxc4 bxc4 but this gives black a passed pawn. Russell brings his bishop into the attack on black's king 28. e5 Qe8 29. e6 f5 and now Russell's pawn on e6 block's an escape route for black's king 30. h4 Rf6 31. h5 Qf8 32. Qg5 Nd4 33. Qh4 c3 and black advances his passed pawn but leaves the pawn on e6 34. hxg6 Rxc6 35. Rh3 Rg7 36. Bd3 c2 37. Rc1 a5.

This was the last game to finish with Lincoln leading by 2½ to 1½ so the pressure was on black to win. Play continued 38. Qe1 Qd8 39. Qe3 Qb6 40. Bxf5 Qc5 (not 40. ...Nxf5 41. Qxb6) 41. Bd3 Rf8 42. Qe4 d5 43. Qe5 Nc6 44. Qh5 Rf6 and now Russell closes in for the kill 45. Qe8+ Rf8 46. Bxh7+ Rxh7 47. Qg6+ Rg7 48. Qh6 and black resigned.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the RAOB Club, 58 South Park on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. [www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk](http://www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk)

