

This week's game has been sent to me by Frank Birkbeck where he was paired as white for Lincolnshire against John Flowers of Kent in the national quarter-finals of the Under 120 grade competition. Unfortunately, Kent ran out winners by 6½ to 5½, however this game illustrates the qualities of Frank's play.

Francis lives in Huttoft and has been playing for Louth for the last three seasons but is not a regular at the club as his day job as a musician means that he is often called away.

The opening moves saw both players adopting the King's Indian formation with the bishops on g2 and g7 respectively 1. Nf3 Nf6 2. g3 d6 3. d4 g6 4. Bg2 Bg7 5. 0-0 Nbd7 6. c4 c5 and Frank stakes a claim for the central squares contested by black's pawn on c5 - 7. Nc3 a6 8. e4 Qc7 9. Qe2 cxd4 10. Nxd4 Nb6 and the impasse is broken with the exchange on d4.

Play continued 11. b3 Ng4 12. Be3 0-0 13. Rac1 Nxe3 14. Qxe3 Qc5 15. Rfd1 Nd7 16. Nd5 Re8 17. b4 Bxd4 18. Rxd4 Qc6 and black retreats to c6 (see diagram) but this opened up an opportunity for Frank - can you see it?

Frank played 19. e4 threatening to expose black's queen to the bishop on g2 so black played 19. ...Kg7 but with multiple options now available Frank played 20. Nxe7 Qa4 21. exd6 Qxb4 22. Nf5+ gxf5 23. Qxe8 winning further material and the end is in sight 23. ...Nf6 24. d7 Qc5 25. Rcd1 Nxd7 26. Rxd7 Qf8 27. Rd8 Qc5 28. Qh8+ Kg6 29. Rg8+ and black resigned as mate follows in a couple of moves.

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

