

Alex Ashworth who has joined Lincoln Chess Club having moved from the Newcastle area was featured a couple of weeks ago when he made his debut for the Lincoln team in Division 2 South. Alex has also joined the Lincolnshire team in the Correspondence competition who are currently playing in Division 3.

Alex was paired on board 6 in the 8 man team with each player having two games against the same opponent, one as white and the other black. In the game where Alex was black the opening followed the Benko-Volga gambit so named as it was devised in East Europe in countries bordering the River Volga 1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 c5 3. d5 b5 4. cxb5 a6 where black offers the pawn on a6 in exchange for an awkward bishop - however white played 5. Nc3 axb5 6. Nxb5 Qa5+ 7. Nc3 Ba6 and although a pawn down Alex still has that awkward bishop.

Play continued 8. Bd2 Qb6 9. Qc2 d6 10. e4 Bxf1 11. Kxf1 and white cannot castle 11. ...g6 12. f3 Bg7 13. Nge2 0-0 14. Be3 Nbd7 15. Kf2 Rfb8 and now Alex is looking at the pawns on a2 and b2 16. Rhb1 Ne5 17. Kg1 Nc4 18. Bf2 Nd7 19. a4 Qb3 20. Qxb3 Rxb3 21. Ra2 Rab8 22. Bh4 and now Alex can prize open white's position (see diagram) 22. ...Bxc3 23. Nxc3 Rxc3 24. Bxe7 gaining a piece for a pawn 24. ...f6 25. Rba1 Rcb3 26. a5 Kf7 and now white's bishop is trapped 27. Rc1 Kxe7 28. Rxc4 Rxb2 29. Rca4 Rxa2 30. Rxa2 Ra8 31. Kf2 Ne5 32. Ke2 Kd7 33. Kd2 Nc4+ and white resigned.

Alex also won his other game and Lincolnshire are currently top of the table with 9½ points.

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

