

After some technical difficulties this season's correspondence chess tournament finally got underway. Last season Lincolnshire narrowly missed out on promotion from Division 3 coming 4th with Nottinghamshire and Worcestershire A being promoted to Division 2.

Each team has 8 players with each player having two games against the same opponent, one as black and the other as white, with the moves being entered through the ICCF (International Correspondence Chess Federation) web-site. On board 1 for Lincolnshire is Harry Russell from Louth who was paired against Anthony Foreman from Surrey D with the opening starting with the Reti system 1. Nf3 Nf6 but transposing into the English with 2. c4 d5 3. cxd5 Nxd5 4. e4 Nf6 5. Nc3 e6 6. Be2 Nc6 7. d4 Bb4 8. Qd3 h6 9. 0-0 0-0 and after both players have castled Harry controls the centre with his pawns 10. Rd1 Qe8 11. Bf4 Ba5 12. Qe3 Ng4 13. Qc1 e5 (see diagram) with black trying to counter Harry's control of the centre but only succeeded in sacrificing his pawn.

Harry obliged with 14. dxe5 Bxc3 15. Qxc3 h5 16. h3 Nh6 with the pawn move giving black's knight an escape route 17. Be3 f6 18. Bxh6 gxh6 19. exf6 winning another pawn and Harry now has two passed pawns 19. ...Qg6 20. e5 Be6 blocking the pawn advance 21. Bd3 Qf7 22. Qd2 Nxe5 23. Qxh6 Nxf3+ 24. gxf3 Rad8 and black brings his pieces into play but to no avail and Harry now played 25. Bg6 and black's queen is trapped 25. ...Qd7 26. Rxd7 Rxd7 27. Qg5 and black resigned.

Harry also won his game as black and so far Lincolnshire top the table with 5½ points out of a possible 7 - more anon.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XJ on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.
www.lincolnchessclub.co.uk

