

This week's game has been sent to me by Paul Fischer in the Chess Correspondence competition. playing on board 8 for Lincolnshire in Division 3 Paul is a retired school teacher who plays for Lincoln but lives in Sleaford was paired against Howard Warden playing for Surrey D with this being the game where Paul had the white pieces with the opening following the Austrian version of the Pirc defence 1. e4 g6 2. d4 d6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. f4 Bg7 5. Nf3 c6 6. Bd3 Qc7 7. 0-0 0-0 characterised by black castling behind the bishop on g7 but sacrificing the centre to white.

Play continued 8. Qe1 b5 9. a3 Bb7 10. e5 dxe5 11. fxe5 Nd5 12. Nxd5 cxd5 and Paul breaks the deadlock with an exchange of pawns and knights which opens up black's king side while black is struggling to develop his pieces 13. Qh4 f6 14. Bh6 a6 15. Bxg7 Kxg7 and this latest exchange has set up a position where Paul can unlock black's defence (see diagram) - can you see it?

Paul played 16. Bxg6 hxg6 17. Qg3 threatening 18. exf6+ and 19. Qxc7 winning the queen. Black replied with 17. ...fxe5 18. Nxe5 Qd6 preventing 19. Qxg6+ so Paul continued with 19. Rxf8 Kxf8 20. Qh3 threatening 21. Qh8 mate 20. ...Kg7 21. Rf1 threatening 22. Rf7+ and 23. Qh7 mate and now black is running out of options and has to play 21. ...Qf6 22. Rxf6 winning the queen exf6 23. Qe6 Nc6 and black tries in vain to deploy his remaining pieces as he resigned after 24. Qf7+.

Lincolnshire now have 10 out of 15 and are guaranteed to finish in second place behind Essex C on 14 points and thus will be promoted to Division 2.

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

