

Following on from the 10-6 win by Lincolnshire's Minor Counties team over Leicestershire reported a couple of weeks ago, today's game - from the same match - has been set to me by Nick Stead from Grimsby. Nick is captain of the Grimsby team in Division 1 of the Lincolnshire League which has won the title for the last 6 seasons.

Nick was paired as black on board 6 against Graham Sharpe from the Heathcote Arms Chess Club in Leicester with the opening following the French Defence advance variation 1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. c3 Nc6 5. Nf3 Bd7 6. a3 c4 7. g3 Nge7 8. Bg2 f6 9. exf6 gxf6 and Nick elects to stray from the book moves and his pawn on e6 is now vulnerable 10. 0-0 Qb6 11. Re1 0-0-0 but is defended by the bishop on d7 with Nick also electing to castle queen's side (see diagram).

Play continued 12. Nbd2 Na5 13. Qe2 Nec6 14. Kh1 Bd6 15. Nh4 Rde8 16. Bh3 Qd8 17. Ndf3 Kb8 18. Be3 b6 19. Rad1 Qe7 20. Qc2 Nd8 21. Re2 Nb3 22. Rde1 Qf7 and white is maneuvering his pieces to put further pressure on the e6 pawn whilst Nick's knight on b3 looks menacing 23. Nd2 Ba4 24. Qb1 Bc7 25. f4 Rhg8 and Nick's rook is taking advantage of the semi-open g-file.

Both players are bring their remaining pieces into play 26. Ndf3 Bc6 27. Bg2 Nb7 28. Kgl Nd6 29. Nd2 Nxd2 30. Bxd2 Ne4 and Nick's knight on e4 has entered the battle 31. Be3 Qh5 32. Bf3 attacking Nick's queen but Nick played 32. ...Qxh4 winning the knight as he cannot play 33. gxh4 and white resigned.

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