

Lincolnshire's team in the Correspondence Chess championship Division 3 continued when James Irwin, who used to play for Lincoln but now lives in Stowmarket was paired against Richard White playing for Yorkshire D.

In this game with James as white we pick things up after black has just played 21. ...Qxc5 (see diagram) taking the pawn meaning that black is now a pawn up. James replied 22. Qxc5 bxc5 leaving black a pawn up but the pawns are no longer protecting each other 23. Rd7 Bc6 24. Rxc7 Bxa4 25. Bc4 Bc2 26. Bxf7+ Kh8 27. Rxc5 a4 and now James has the extra pawn with both players now having a passed pawn.

Play continued 28. Rxe5 a3 29. Ba2 Kg7 30. c4 Kf6 31. f4 Bb1 32. Bxb1 a2 33. Bxa2 Rxa2 and both players have sacrificed their bishops but black has lost his passed pawn leaving James 3 pawns up. 34. Kh2 h6 35. h4 Rc2 36. c5 Rc4 and James needs to take care to press home his advantage 37. Kg3 Rc2 38. Kf3 Rc4 39. g4 Rc1 40. Ke4 Rh1 41. g5+ hxg5 42. hxg5+ Kf7 43. Kd5 Rd1+ 44. Kc6 Rd3 and James uses his king to shepherd in the pawn and James went on to win a few moves later.

As reported a few weeks ago James won his game as black but we are still waiting for our last game to finish to see if we are promoted.

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

