

Lincoln University have set up a chess society on their campus and are planning to run a team in the Lincolnshire League in the new year. As part of their build up they invited a team from Lincoln Chess Club to play them in a friendly match. We, of course accepted, and teams of 5 players met in their nicely laid out room on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Minerva Building.

I won the toss and elected to have white on odd boards and on board 1 Lincoln's Dave Bull was paired as white against Harry Martin from the University with the opening moves following the Sicilian Defence grand prix attack 1. e4 c5 2. f4 Nc6 3. Nf3 g6 4. Bc4 e6 5. 0-0 Na5 and after Dave has castled Harry attacks the bishop on c4 6. Be2 Bg7 7. c3 h6 8. d4 b6 9. Ne5 Bb7 and Dave moves this knight into a strong position on e5 but black is not tempted to take it with the bishop.

Play continued 10. Bd3 Nf6 11. f5 d6 and black attacks the knight on e5 but sets up a position that Dave can exploit (see diagram) - can you see it?

Dave played 12. Bb5+ Kf8 13. Nxf7 Kxf7 14. fxe6+ Ke7 and Dave has sacrificed his knight but now the f-file is open for his rook 15. b4 Nc6 16. Qb3 a6 17. Bxc6 Bxc6 18. e5 Bd5 attacking Dave's queen but 18. exf6+ Bxf6 19. Qxd5 won the bishop 19. ... Qc7 20. Nd2 Raf8 21. Nd4 putting pressure on the pawn on d6 21. ... cxb4 22. Bf4 g5 23. Bxd6+ Qxd6 24. Qxd6+ Ke8 25. Qd7 is mate.

In the other games Lincoln Chess Club had a clean sweep with wins for Ian Simpson, Ben Ashcroft, Peter Taylor and myself.

All the best for Christmas to al

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](http://www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk)

