

This week's game has been given to me by John Pocock from Grantham. John will freely admit that he is not one of the county's top players, rarely featuring at the top of the leaderboard, but you will always find him in the starting line-up for the Tuesday night tournaments. In fact there are several of the lesser lights who happily give up their Tuesday evenings in order to support Lincolnshire chess and I will be featuring some of their games in the coming weeks.

In this match John was paired as white against Andrew Watson who is the secretary of Skegness Chess Club and we pick up the game after black has just played 9. ...g5 (see diagram) dislodging John's bishop on f4.

Play continued 10. Bg3 Nc6 and now John, having castled queen side, sees an opportunity taking advantage of the open f-file 11. Rdf1 and black cannot move the knight on f6 as 12. Qxf7 is mate so instead played 11. ...Qe7 12. Qxf6 winning the piece 12. ...Rf8 13. Qxh6 0-0-0.

John now took advantage with 14. Nd5 Qd7 15. Qxg5 Ne5 16. Bxe5 dxe5 17. Qxe5 Bd6 18. Qd4 c5 19. Qc3 a6 20. Nb6+ forking king and queen 20. ...Kb8 21. Nxd7+ Rxd7 winning the queen and now closes in for the kill 22. Qb3 b5 23. Bd5 Kc7 24. Qa3 Kb6 25. Rf6 a5 26. c4 Rg8 27. g3 a4 28. cxb5 Kxb5 29. Bc4+ Ka5 30. Qc3+ Kb6 31. Bd5 Re8 32. Qc4 Rh8 33. Qxa4 Kc7 34. Qc6+ Kd8 35. Qa8+ Ke7 36. Rxf7 is mate.

In fact John came equal 4<sup>th</sup> with Andrew on 2 points in the 4 round tournament. Not in the top three but it's the taking part that counts.

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)

