

This week's game has been sent to me by Nick Stead who is the captain of Grimsby's team in Division 1 of the Lincolnshire League. As the leagues are suspended due to Covid, due to restart in the Autumn, Nick has found other ways to play chess.

Chess.com has facilitated team based correspondence chess and Nick plays for the 5 for Fighting team and are currently locking horns with the Elite Chess Group with each player playing twice against their opponent once as white and the other as black.

Nick, under the guise of Conan the Barbarian, is playing against SongYuan Jilin playing with the pseudonym Yuexiafanzhou. With 3 days allowed for the game there is plenty of thinking time although Nick has 50 games currently in progress.

In the game where Nick was white the opening followed the Budapest Defense 1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e5 3. dxe5 Ng4 4. Bf4 Nc6 5. Nf3 Bb4+ 6. Nbd2 Qe7 7. a3 Ngxe5 8. Nxe5 Nxe5 and eventually an exchange of pieces regains the pawn for black.

Play continued 9. e3 Bxd2+ 10. Qxd2 d6 11. Be2 Be6 12. c5 Rd8 13. Qc3 f6 14. Rc1 Rc8 15. cxd6 cxd6 and Nick's queen is threatened by the rook on c8 supported by the bishop on e6 (see diagram). However, Nick's next move proved to be a game winner - can you see it?

Nick played 16. Qxc8+ Bxc8 sacrificing his queen 17. Rc8+ Kf7 18. Rxh8 Ng6 19. Bc4+ and black resigned as he must lose his queen to survive.

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

