

A game from the Callum Cozens collection is the subject this week. Callum was, until recently, the President of the Lincoln University Chess Club. He contacted me in 2019 saying that he would like to enter a team in the Lincolnshire League. He had recruited several members and the intention was to enter a team in the 2020/21 season. As we all know Covid came along and this season was cancelled, as was the following season. Callum has since moved on in his academic career and taken up a new position in Birmingham. However, we are hoping the Lincoln University will field a team in the coming season.

During lockdown Callum was keen to enter the online tournaments and this one came just before Christmas 2020 when the pandemic was at its height, but the vaccine was just around the corner. Callum was one of 19 players to enter the 6 round event finishing 8th with 3 points.

His best game came in round 3 against John Pocock from Grantham and we pick up the game after John, as white, has just played 28. Rce3 (see diagram).

Callum played 28. ...Nh4 and the pawn on g2 is under threat 29. Nf2 Nxc2 winning the pawn 30. Rxe4 dxe4 and white sacrifices the exchange and now played 31. Rd1 (perhaps 33. Rxe4 or 33. Kxg2 were better options) but Callum now closed in with 31. ...Rg5 32. Bg3 Ne3 33. Rd6 Nf5 34. Rxc6 Nxc3 35. hxg3 Rxc3+ 36. Kf1 e3 and there is little that white can do to stop the pawn 37. Nh1 e2+ 38. Kf2 e1(Q)+ is mate.

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

