

Looking back again at the winter of 2021, this week's game features two of the county's regulars on the county circuit. David Bale from Louth playing under the call sign of Louthluddite would normally feature in the Louth team in Division 1 of the Lincolnshire League. His opponent in this week's game, Stuart MacDonald, under the call sign of csixty is also a regular for Grimsby in their Division 1 team.

The opening moves, with Stuart as white, followed the Sicilian Defence Grand Prix attack 1. e4 c5 2. f4 adding pressure on the centre for white whilst opening up the king's defence for black to exploit 2. ...g6 3. Nf3 Bg7 4. c4 Nc6 5. Nc3 d6 6. b3 Nf6 7. Bd3 0-0 8. 0-0 Rb8 and both players have castled after developing their minor pieces.

Play continued 9. Bb2 a6 10. Qc2 Nb4 11. Qb1 Nxd3 12. Qxd3 b5 and now the action is concentrated on the a1-h8 diagonal with both black squared bishops playing key roles 13. Rb1 b4 14. Nd5 and white is forced to move the knight from c3 to d5 (see diagram) setting up a position that David can exploit - can you see it?

David played 14. ...Nxd5 15. exd5 Bf5 16. Qe3 Bxb1 17. Bxg7 Kxg7 18. Rxb1 winning the exchange for black 18. ...a5 19. g4 a4 20. h4 axb3 21. axb3 Ra8 22. d4 Qc7 23. dxc5 Qxd5 24. Nd4 preventing the exchange of queens 24. ...Ra2 25. f5 Rfa8 26. fxg6 hxg6 27. h5 Ra1 28. Rxa1 Rxa1+ 29. Kg2 Rd1 30. h6+ Kh7 31. Qxe7 Qxd4 winning the knight 32. Qxf7+ Kxh6 33. Qf8+ Kg5 34. Qd8+ Kxg4 35. Qd7+ Kg5 36. Qd8+ Qf6 and white resigned.

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