

It has been my pleasure to again represent Lincolnshire in the Midland Counties Correspondence Chess competition. Only seven players competed this season with the matches starting in August and lasting a year. Most players play by e-mail being quicker, and cheaper, than snail mail. Two players however did play by post - reigning champion Keith McLaughlin from Leicester and my opponent in this week's featured game Peter Ackley representing Warwickshire and we pick up the game after Peter playing white has just played 19. e4 (see diagram) which allowed me to mount an attack on his queen side.

I played 19. ...h6 20. Bc1 a5 21. Ne2 Qa2 (threatening 22. ...Bxb2) 22. Nc3 Qc4 23. Ne2 a4 24. Kh1 Rxd1 25. Rxd1 Re8 26. Kg1 c5 27. Nc3 Nxa3 winning the pawn as 28. bxa3 Qxa3 would follow. Peter actually played 28. Nd5 Nxd5 29. exd5 giving him a passed pawn but this had little scope for advancement after 29. ...Nb5.

Peter attempted some counterplay with 30. Bf1 Qb4 31. Qf5 Nd6 32. Qd7 c4 33. Rd2 Bf6 34. Rc2 Rd8 35. Qg4 and white's queen was banished to the sidelines 35. ...b5 36. Re2 Qb3 and with my defence holding firm and the prospect of my queen side pawn's making further advances white resigned.

Since play commenced two players have dropped out and in the remaining games I have won one and lost two games so this win has left me in mid-table.

Meanwhile, this seasons Lincolnshire County Championships will be held again at the Lindum Group complex on Station Road, North Hykeham on July 14 and 15 including a Junior Rapidplay event on the 14th. Contact Kevin McCarthy on KMCCARTHYZ@aol.com for an entry form.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the RAOB Club, 58 South Park on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. www.lincolnchessclub.co.uk

