

After a long absence David Coates was back on the congress circuit when he sampled the fresh air and fun at the plush surroundings of the Barcelo Imperial Hotel in Blackpool for this year's Blackpool Chess Conference. David, along with Samuel Milson of Louth, were amongst the 32 entries in the Open Section. David finished with 2½ out of 5, just outside the prize money, whereas Samuel, with 3 out of 5 won £100 for the Under 190 grading prize.

David's best game came in round 4 where he was paired as black against Rafal Stepien from Cheddleton and Leek with the opening following the Modern Benoni 1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. f3 0-0 6. Be3 c5 7. d5 a6 8. a4 e6 9. Qd2 exd5 10. cxd5 Re8 and this exchange has opened the e-file for David's rook 11. Bd3 Nbd7 12. Nh3 Ne5 13. Nf2 Bd7 14. 0-0 Nxd3 15. Nxd3 b5 16. b4 c4 and now David has a passed pawn on c4 backed up by the bishop on g7 17. Nb2 Qe7 18. a5 Qe5 19. Bd4 and it looks like David should withdraw his queen but instead he found a better move (see diagram) - can you see it?

David played 19. ...Nxe4 20. Bxe5 Nxd2 21. Bxg7 Nxf1 22. Bh6 Ne3 23. Ne4 Nxd5 24. Rd1 leaving David the exchange and two pawns to the good although he did sacrifice the exchange with 24. ...Rxe4 25. fxe4 Nxb4 26. Rxd6 Bg4 27. h3 Be6 28. Nd1 Na2 29. Ne3 b4 and with the prospect of two passed pawns being shepherded in by David's knight and bishop white resigned.

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

