

Keith Palmer from Louth has sent me a game from this year's British Championships played at the Parks Leisure Centre at North Shields. Keith is a teacher at Lyle Marsden School in Grimsby where he has also set up a thriving chess club so he was able to play during his well deserved summer break.

With a grade of 177 Keith entered the Under 180 grade competition and in the 5 rounds he won 2 and drew 2 to finish on 3 points in equal 6th position just outside the prize money. David Openshaw from Albany and Michael Riding from Tynemouth shared 1st place on 4 points.

Keith's best game came in round 2 where he was paired as black against Joshua Cavendish from London and we pick up the game after white has just played 15. f4 (see diagram) and Keith, already on the back foot, needs to counter white's aggressive attack.

Keith played 15. ...d5 threatening 16. ...d4 forking knight and bishop 16. f5 Bc8 17. exd5 cxd5 18. Qf2 to prevent 18. ...d4 but Keith instead played 18. ...Rxe3 19. Qxe3 d4 20. Qd2 dxc3 21. Qxc3.

Keith still has work to do but his bishops can now take advantage of the open position with 21. ...Bb4 22. Qe5 Qd6 23. Qe2 declining the offer to exchange queens 23. ...Bb7 24. c3 Re8 25. Qc2 Bc5+ 26. Kh1 Qg3 and now with white's pieces out of position the end followed quickly with 27. Rf3 Bxf3 28. gxf3 Re1+ and white resigned as 29. Rxe1 Qxe1+ 30. Kh2 Qg1 mate follows.

Keith also plays for Louth Chess Club who meet every Tuesday at St.James church hall in the town centre from 7.30pm.

