

David Coates who is captain of Lincoln's team in Lincolnshire League Division 1 and who also plays for Newark in the Nottinghamshire League took a break over Christmas to play in the London Christmas Congress at the University of Westminster campus in Harrow.

David entered the Open section and finished in equal second place with  $4\frac{1}{2}$  out of 6 only  $\frac{1}{2}$  point behind winner Marcus Harvey from Bicester winning £50 prize money and automatic qualification to the British Championships in Torquay later this year.

David had 3 wins - all 3 as black - and 3 draws with the most interesting game coming in round 3 when he was paired against Tarun Malhotra from Hackney who, at 13 years of age, is a prospect for the future. David had played Tarun 3 years ago at the Uxbridge Congress where he won easily but they had also been paired at the Coulson Christmas Congress a week before with Tarun coming out on top.

We pick up this game after Tarun, as white, has just played 27. Bd3 (see diagram) already a pawn up protecting his advantage. David played 27. ...Bh6 28. Rff7 Ne6 29. Nb4 Ng5 threatening 30. ...Nxf7 but allowing white to play 30. Rxg7 but this was a trap set by David who now played 30. ...Rf8 threatening 31. ...Ral mate. All white could do was to play 31. Rgf7 Nxf7 losing the piece and he resigned.

Had white played 30. Nc6 forking black's rooks 30. ...Ral+ 31. Kf2 Nxf7 32. Nxd8 Nxd8 33. Rb8 h6 34. Rxd8+ Kh7 he would probably have gone on to win.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the RAOB Club, 58 South Park on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. [www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk](http://www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk)

