

This week's match follows on from last week when I featured David Coates' win in the match between Louth and Lincoln in the Lincolnshire League Division 1. On board 2 of this match Lincoln's Jiri Lhotka, an exchange student at the Lincoln Priory LSST from Prague in the Czech Republic, was paired as black against Nick Louth from Louth who is no mean performer himself. Readers of the Financial Times will be familiar with Nick as he is a regular columnist.

We pick up this game after Nick, as white, has just played 28. h5 (see diagram) with Jiri already a pawn up after capturing the pawn on a2 but he did have doubled e-pawns and Nick's rook is also threatening the now open a-file. However, Jiri played 28. ...Nxe3 29. Qxe3 Nd5 with his sights on the pawn on f4 30. hxg6+ hxg6 31. Qg3 Rh8 32. Rf1 Nxf4 and as white's king cannot escape check by the knight Nick decided on damage limitation with 33. Rxa7 Qxa7 34. Qxf4 Qb8 but still had to exchange queens 35. Qxb8 Rbxb8.

Jiri now consolidated his advantage 36. Ke1 Ke7 37. Na6 Rb6 38. Nb4 Rh2 39. Rf2 Rxf2 40. Kxf2 f4 and started the advance of his central pawns 41. Bg4 Kd6 42. Bh3 e5 43. d5 Rb8 44. Be6 Rh8 45. Bf7 Rh2+ 46. Kg1 Rh5 winning the pawn whilst preventing 47. Bxg6. Nick played 47. Nc6 Rxg5+ 48. Kf2 e3+ 49. Kf3 Rg3+ 50. Ke2 Rg2 51. Kf1 f3 52. Na7 Ke7 53. Be6 Rxb2 and white resigned.

Lincoln won 3½ to 1½ and now lead the table on a maximum 6 points at the halfway point of the season.

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

