

An interesting book has been passed to me which charts the early years of chess in Lincolnshire. Lincoln Chess Club was formed in 1847 and in 1851 the first meeting of the Lincolnshire Chess Association took place in Caistor and included a tournament and a dinner at the local Lion Hotel.

There is an account of a match between Lincoln and Gainsborough with the moves being relayed by telephone. Fortunately, the local manager of the National Telephone Company offered the use of the wires free of charge.

The book also mentions Mr R.A.MacBrair, who was secretary of both Lincoln Chess Club and Lincolnshire Chess Association, took part in a simultaneous exhibition against English Chess Champion Mr.J.H.Blackburne in played in Lincoln in 1900 and was the only player out of 21 to gain a victory and it is this game that is this week's feature.

Mr Blackburne, as white, opened with an unusual line in the Sicilian Defense 1. e4 e6 2. d4 c5 3. Nf3 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Bc5 5. c3 Qb6 6. Qd2 Nf6 7. f3 and white's last 3 moves have given black the advantage 7. ...Nc6 8. Nxc6 bxc6 9. b4 Be7 10. Na3 Ba6 11. Bxa6 Qxa6 and now white cannot castle 12. Nc2 d5 13. e5 Nd7 14. f4 c5 15. a3 Qc4 16. Rf1 Rc8 and Black is now aiming at the pawn on c3.

Play continued 17. Ne3 Qe4 18. Qc2 Qxc2 19. Nxc2 cxb4 20. axb4 Rxc3 winning the pawn 21. Kd2 Rc7 22. Rf3 0-0 23. Rb3 Rfc8 24. Nd4 (see diagram). The final act came with 24. ...Nxe5 25. fxe5 Bg5+ winning another pawn and white resigned a few moves later.

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

