

News from across the world - Hannah Ball (nee Dale) has been playing in the Hong Kong Chess Championships and is settling down to her new life with her new husband Roger. This event is a drawn out affair with the 9 preliminary rounds played on successive Mondays. There are 49 entrants with the top 9 going forward to the finals. Hannah is seeded 15th so has to be on her top form to qualify but after round 3 she has 2 points and is currently lying in 9th place.

In her latest game she was paired as black against Aravind Mahadevan, an experienced player who has also competed in India and Taipei, with the opening following the French defence 1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. c3 Nc6 5. Nf3 Qb6 6. Be2 Bd7 7. 0-0 Nh6 8. Bxh6 gxf6 and in an unusual continuation which took the knight on h6 doubling Hannah's h-pawns but opening up the g-file 9. Qd2 cxd4 10. cxd4 0-0-0 11. Nc3 a6 12. a3 Na5 13. Qc2 Kb8 14. b4 Nc4 15. Bd3 f5 16. exf6 Bd6 and Hannah sacrifices the pawn via the en passant move but opens up the f file and her bishop on d6 is also strong.

Play continued 17. Qc1 Rdf8 18. Qxh6 Qd8 19. Qc1 Qxf6 20. Bxc4 dxc4 21. Ne4 Qg7 22. Ng3 (not 22. Nxd6 Rxf3) Rhg8 and now Hannah has control of the open files (see diagram) 23. Re1 h5 24. h4 Bxg3 25. fxc3 and now Hannah finished off her opponent with a neat ending 25. ...Rxf3 26. Ra2 Qxd4+ 27. Kh2 Rfxg3 28. Rd1 Qxh4+ and white resigned as mate follows a few moves later.

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

