

This year's British Championships took place in Aberystwyth on the west coast of Wales, quite a trek from Lincolnshire so when I perused the listings there weren't many names that I recognised. However, one name did appear in the Under 120 grade competition when Bill Egan from Scunthorpe made an appearance.

In the first round out of 5 Bill was paired as white against Joseph Morrison from Ecclesall and we pick up the game after black has just played 10. ...cxd4 (see diagram) with Bill already having the knight on e5 in a menacing position.

Bill replied with 11. exd4 Qe8 12. Rc1 Nh5 13. Bh2 f4 but now needs to guard against the advancing pawn 14. Qg4 Bd6 15. Ndf3 Bxe5 16. Nxe5 Nd7 17. Rfe1 Nf6 18. Qf3 g5 and black leaves the knight to back up his pawn advance.

Play continued 19. c4 b6 20. c5 bxc5 21. Rxc5 opening up the c-file 21. ...Bb7 22. Rc7 Rb8 23. Re1 giving Bill control of the 7th rank as well 23. ...Ne4 24. Nd7 Nhf6 25. Nxb8 winning the exchange 25. ...Qxb8 26. Qe2 Ne8 27. Re7 Bc8 28. Bxe4 dxe4 29. Qh5 Ng7 30. Qxg5 Rf7 31. Rxf7 and black resigned.

Bill also won his last game to finish on 2 points.

Also, many thanks for all the good wishes while I was in hospital. A couple of changes at the club, I have replaced David Coates as Division 1 captain and James Irwin, who had such an excellent first season in competitive chess has stepped forward to take up the reigns in Division 2 South. I am sure he will do well.

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

