

Lincoln's team in Division 1 of the Lincolnshire League were in action when Louth were the visitors to Grafton House. Lincoln's win at Scunthorpe has put them in second place behind Grimsby whilst Louth were looking to get their first points but were without their star player Sam Milson whilst Lincoln were at full strength.

On board 5 Lincoln's Ian McDonald was paired as black against Louth's Neil Milson, father of Sam, with the opening moves following a variation of the Ruy Lopez 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Bb5 where white puts pressure on black's knight on c6. Ian replied with 4. ...Bc5 5. d3 d6 6. 0-0 h6 7. Be3 Bb6 8. Ne2 0-0 and both players have castled.

White now played 9. Qc1 perhaps threatening 10. Bxh6 gxh6 11. Qxh6 so Ian played 9. ...Bxe3 10. fxe3 with white now opening up the f-file 10. ...a6 11. Bxc6 bxc6 12. Ng3 Re8 13. Qd2 d5 and white is looking to build an attack but Ian is responding with a pawn advance 14. Rad1 Qd6 15. Nf5 Bxf5 16. exf5 e4 17. Nh4 c5 and Ian continued his pawn advance 18. Rf2 d4 19. Kh1 (see diagram) and whilst white is taking his time setting up an attack Ian's next move unlocks white's defense - can you see it?

Ian played 19. ...Ng4 threatening 20. ...Qxh2 mate and also the pawn on e3. White replied with 20. Rf4 blocking the queen's route to h2 so Ian played 20. ...dxe3 21. Qc3 Qxf4 winning the rook and white resigned.

A win also for Murray Smith and a draw for David Coates meant that the match finished all square on 2½ - 2½.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XJ on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.
www.lincolnchessclub.co.uk

