

This week's game comes from the Tata Steel Challengers group played at the Dutch sea side town of Wijk aan Zee last year in round 5 when seventeen year old International Master Lucas van Foreest from Hengelo in the east of Holland was paired as white against experienced Grand Master Evgeny Bareev, originally from Russia but now living in Canada with the opening following the Caro-Kann defense 1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 cxd5 exchange variation 4. Bd3 Nc6 5. c3 Nf6 6. Bf4 Bg4 7. Qb3 Qd7 8. Nd2 e6 9. Ngf3 Bd6 10. Bxd6 Qxd6 11. 0-0 0-0 12. Rfe1 Qc7 and both players castle king's side.

Lucas now moved into black's half with 13. Ne5 Bh5 14. f4 Bg6 15. Bxg6 hxg6 and this exchange has opened up black's h-file taking advantage with 16. Re3 Rfc8 17. Qd1 b5 18. Qe1 b4 19. Rh3 bxc3 20. bxc3 Qe7 21. Nxc6 Rxc6 22. Qh4 Kf8 maneuvering his queen and rook into position 23. Qh8+ Ng8 24. Rh7 f6 25. Nf3 Rxc3 and white is now a pawn down (see diagram) but his next move further unhinges black's fragile defense - can you see it?

Lucas played 26. Ne5 threatening 27. Nxg6+ so black had to reply with 26. ...fxe5 27. fxe5 and now threatens 28. Rf1+ so black has to block this with 27. ...Rf3 28. gxf3 Rb8 effectively losing the exchange.

Lucas closed in with 29. f4 Qc7 30. f5 exf5 and now black has a passed pawn on e5 to contend with 31. Re1 Rb7 32. Rh3 Qa5 33. Qh4 Ne7 34. e6 Qd2 35. Rb3 and black resigned.

Lucas finished mid-table with 6 out of 13 but there is more to come from this young man I am sure.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XJ on Wednesdays at 7.30pm although we are not meeting during the Coronavirus crisis.
www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk

