

A variation in the online chess competition is the Arena tournament where the whole event lasts for 90 minutes. Players can come and go as they please and tell the computer when they are ready for their next game with the computer allocating an opponent who is also free. Each game has a start time of 8 minutes and, as it happened, 6 games were possible for those who decided not to take a break.

In this particular competition there was a reasonable turnout of 12 players across the county and the key game came in round 1 when Samuel Milson from Louth was paired as white against Murray Smith from Lincoln with the opening following the Karo-Cann advance variation 1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. f4 cxd4 5. Nf3 Bg4 6. Nbd2 Nc6 and Samuel is struggling to recapture the pawn on d4 7. Nb3 Bxf3 8. Qxf3 e6 9. Bd2 Nge7 10. Bd3 Qb6 11. 0-0 g6 12. a4 a5 13. Kh1 h5 and the pawn on d5 looks even more secure.

Samuel tried to breakdown blacks defence as play continued 14. Bb5 Nf5 15. Re1 Be7 16. Rac1 0-0 17. Qf2 Rfc8 18. Bd3 Nh6 19. h3 h4 20. Qf3 Kf8 (see diagram) and now Samuel's next move unhinged blacks defense can you see it?

Samuel played 21. f5 Nxf5 22. Bxf5 gxf5 23. Qh5 and now black's king is open to attack 23. ...Ke8 24. Bg5 Qd8 25. Bf6 Bxf6 26. exf6 Qxf6 but black appears to have blunted white's attack but he continued with 27. Nc5 b6 28. Rxe6+ and black resigned as he cannot play 28. ...fxe6 and so loses his queen.

Samuel won the tournament with 6 wins out of 6 followed by Murray on 5 out of 6.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XJ on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. Although we are yet to meet due to the lockdown www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk

