

Lincolnshire's team in the Under 1825 grade section of the National Online Championships were in action when they played their 3rd and penultimate match in Group A when Greater Manchester were their opponents. Having won both of their opening matches Lincolnshire were in positive mood.

Chris Holt, the secretary of Grantham Chess Club, was paired as black against Viktor Nagy from Bolton with the opening moves initially following the Reti system 1. Nf3 Nf6 2. b3 d5 3. Bb2 e6 4. e3 Be7 5. c4 0-0 6. d4 d5 but transposing into the queen's opening 7. Be2 dxc4 8. bxc4 Nc6 9. 0-0 b6 and both players have castled consolidating the position.

Play continued 10. a4 Bb7 11. dxc5 Bxc5 12. Nc3 Rc8 13. Nb5 a6 14. Nbd4 Na5 and Chris turns down the exchange 15. Rc1 Qc7 16. Nb3 Nxb3 17. Qxb3 Ng4 18. Qc3 f6 19. g3 Qc6 20. Qc2 (see diagram) and this latest move by white has provided Chris with an opportunity - can you see it?

Chris played 21. ...Rfd8 22. h3 Nxe3 23. fxe3 Bxe3+ 24. Kh2 Rd2 a killer move as white cannot play 25. Nxd2 Qg2 mate so instead responds with 25. Qxd2 Bxd2 losing his queen for a rook 26. Rcd1 Bb4 27. Rd3 e5 28. Rfd1 Qxa4 29. Rd7 Bc6 30. Rd8+ Rxd8 31. Rxd8+ Kf7 and white resigned.

Wins also for Ben Mason, Will Grummitt, Bernard Pratten, Martin Pettinger, Edward Knox and yours truly meant that Lincolnshire won 7-4 with one match declared void due to technical problems putting Lincolnshire top of the table on 6 points.

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.lincolnchessclub.co.uk

