

Lincolnshire's team in the Under 1825 grade section of the National Counties Online Championships played their final group game when they played Northumberland in Group 1A. Having won their first three matches a semi-final place was assured but Lincolnshire were keen for a win to ensure a favourable draw in the Semi-final.

On board 4 Will Grummitt from Grantham was paired as black against Raj Mohindra from Forest Hall with the opening moves following the French Defense exchange variation 1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. exd5 exd5 4. Bd3 Nf6 5. h3 Bd6 6. Ne2 0-0 7. 0-0 and both players have castled.

Play continued 7. ...c6 8. Nd2 Nbd7 9. Nf3 Qc7 10. c3 Re8 11. Be3 b6 12. Re1 Bb7 13. Qc1 c5 14. Bf5 Re7 15. Qc2 Rae8 and Will's rooks now have control of the e-file although the bishop on e3 is secure 16. Rad1 Ne4 17. Qc1 Ndf6 18. Bf4 g6 19. Bxd6 and white breaks the impasse with the exchange of bishops on d6 (see diagram).

Will retook with the knight 19. ...Nxd6 attacking the bishop on f5. Instead of retreating the bishop white played 20. Qg5 Nxf5 21. Qxf6 and parity is maintained with these exchanges but white overlooked Will's powerful rooks as he played 21. ...Rxe2 22. Rxe2 Rxe2 winning the piece and Will went on to win a few moves later.

Wins also for Martin Pettinger and Allan Marshall plus draws for Stuart MacDonald and yours truly were not enough as Northumberland ran out 8-4 winners.

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

