

Following on from last week, Lincolnshire's team in the Under 1825 grade section of the National Online County Championships were also in the final of their section where Essex were the opponents. The Under 1825 refers to the FIDE grade, which is universal in online chess, equivalent to 150 in the ECF grading system used for Over-the board chess in England.

As with the Open team, Lincolnshire had won all but one of their group matches and narrowly beat Middlesex in the semi-finals. Again the match was over 12 boards but my game was declared void as technical difficulties meant that my match could not be started.

On board 7 Lincolnshire's Martin Pettinger was paired as white against Adrian Billingsley and we pick up the game after black has just played 21. ...Rf8 (see diagram) protecting the pawn on f7 but with Martin's pieces poised to mount an attack - can you see how?

Martin played 22. f6 Bd8 preferring to retreat 23. Rf5 Kh7 24. fxg7 Kxg7 25. Ref1 Be6 (and black prefers to protect the pawn on f7 rather than 25. ...Bxf5 26. Nxf5+) so Martin continued with 26. R5f3 Qc7 27. Nf5+ Bxf5 28. Rxf5 Qe7 29. g3 Qe6 30. Qf3 Be7 31. Nd1 Qg6 32. Ne3 f6 33. h5 Qf7 34. Ng4 a6 35. Qe3 Rh8 36. Qf3 Raf8 37. Kg2 d5 and it looked like black had been able to shore up his defenses bringing all his pieces into play but his last move gave Martin the opportunity 38. Nxe5 dxe4 39. Qg4+ Kh7 40. Nxf7 winning the queen Rxf7 41. Qg6 mate.

A win for Behzad Parnian and draws for Stuart MacDonald, Will Grummitt and Allan Marshall was all we could muster as Essex won 7.5 to 3.5.

Best wishes for Christmas to all readers.

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

