

Looking back to the summer and the Online County Championships I have found a game in the opening match for Lincolnshire's Open team when Cheshire & North Wales were the opponents. Lincolnshire won the tie 8-4 going on the head group 1A, but eventually losing to Northumberland in the final.

On board 8, Daniel Wells who plays for Newark in the Notts League but qualifies for Lincolnshire. We were fortunate to have Daniel's services as he also works for the Civil Service in the London, no doubt busy with both Covid and Brexit, and he was paired as white against Peter Lovatt from Malpas and Oswestry with the opening following the Sicilian Defence Taimanov variation, named after the Russian master Mark Taimanov, 1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. Nc3 Nc6 4. d4 cxd4 5. Nxd4 Nf6 6. Be3 Bb4 7. Bd3 d5 and in a cut a thrust opening black competes for the centre.

Rather than 8. exd5 Daniel played 8. Nxc6 bxc6 9. e5 Nd7 10. f4 c5 forcing black to retreat the knight but black's c-pawn now enters the fray 11. a3 Ba5 12. b4 cxb4 13. Nb5 0-0 14. 0-0 Bb6 15. Bxb6 Qxb6+ 16. Kh1 f5 17. axb4 a6 18. Nd6 Qxb4 and black is now a pawn up but Daniel's knight on d6 is in a strong position (see diagram) - however, this provided Daniel with an opportunity - can you see it?

Daniel played 19. Bxf5 exf5 20. Qxd5+ Kh8 21. Qxa8 sacrificing the bishop for two pawns but gaining a rook in return 21. ...Bb7 22. Qxb7 and black resigned having given away another piece.

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

