

Looking back to the summer when both of Lincolnshire's teams were losing finalist in the National Online County Champions, this week's game feature's Lincoln stalwart Herman Kok in the Under 1825 group stage match against Norfolk.

Herman was paired as black on board 4 against Robert Rickard from Wymondham and we pick up the game after white has just played 25. Rc1+ (see diagram) with Herman currently a pawn up but after 25. ...Kb8 26. Qxe5+ Ka8 loses the pawn and has it all to do to gain a victory.

White continued the attack with 27. Qc7 Rd7 28. Qc6+ Qxc6 29. Rxc6 Rb8 and after the exchange of queens Herman has the initiative as he is threatening 30. ...Rb1 mate. White played 30. h3 Rb4 31. Rf4 Kb7 32. Rcf6 a5 33. Rxf7 Rxf7 34. Rxf7+ Kc6 35. Rxh7 Rxd4 and white has won a pawn and has two passed pawns on g2 and h3 but Herman's remaining pawns are also well placed.

Play continued 36. g4 Rd1+ 37. Kg2 Rd2+ 38. Kf3 Rxa2 so now it is a race to the line 39. g5 Ra6+ 40. Ke2 d4 41. h4 Rg3 42. Rh6+ Kc5 43. g6 a4 44. Kd2 a3 45. Kc2 d3+ 46. Kd2 a2 and now white in struggling to stop Herman's a-pawn from promotion 47. Rh5+ Kb4 48. Rh8 a1(Q) 49. Rb8+ Kc4 50. Rc8+ Kd5 51. Rd8+ Ke5 and white resigned.

Herman's win was vital in a close run match where Lincolnshire narrowly won by 6.5 to 5.5.

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

