

Looking back to the U1825 semi-finals this time when Lincolnshire narrowly defeated Middlesex by 6.5 to 5.5 before losing to Essex in the final.

On board 9 for Lincolnshire, Behzad Parnian from Grimsby was paired as black against Julie Oh from Barnet with the opening following the Sicilian Defence closed variation 1. e4 c5 2. Nc3 e6 3. f4 d5 4. e5 Nc6 5. Bb5 Bd7 6. a4 Nh6 7. Nf3 a6 8. Bxc6 Bxc6 and we wait till move 8 for the first exchange 9. d3 Be7 10. Bd2 0-0 11. 0-0 c4 12. d4 Rc8 13. Ng5 (see diagram) and white is starting to build an attack with her advanced pawns but has provided Behzad with an opportunity - can you see it?

Behzad played 13. ...Qb6 attacking both of the unprotected pawns on b2 and d4, 14. Qe2 Qxb2 winning the pawn 15. Ra2 Qb6 16. Be3 Nf5 17. g4 Nxd4 winning a second pawn 18. Qf2 Bc5 19. Kh1 Nb3 20. Bxc5 Nxc5 21. a5 d4+ 22. Kg1 Qd8 and Behzad consolidates his position 23. Rd1 Nd3 24. cxd3 dxc3 25. d4 Qd5 26. Kf1 h6 27. Nh3 c2 28. Qxc2 Qf3+ and Behzad gives away his passed pawn in order to increase the pressure.

Behzad now closes in 29. Nf2 Qxf4 30. h4 Bf3 31. Qd2 Qg3 32. Qe3 Qg2+ 33. Ke1 Bxd1 winning the exchange 34. Kxd1 c3 35. g5 c2+ 36. Rxc2 Qf1+ 37. Kd2 Rxc2+ 38. Kxc2 Rc8+ bringing his second rook into play 39. Kd2 Qc1+ 40. Ke2 Rc2+ 41. Kf3 Rc3 42. Nd3 and now for a neat finish 42. ...Qf1+ 43. Ke4 Qf5 mate.

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

