

This season Correspondence Chess Championship continues apace with James Irwin, who used to play for Lincoln but now plays for Stowmarket in Suffolk having moved there a few years ago. James is still eligible to play for Lincolnshire and is happy to represent us on board 5 of this season's competition in Division 3 against Richard White playing for Yorkshire D.

Each player plays two games against the same opponent one as white and one as black and in the game with James as black play began with the Dutch defence 1. d4 f5 2. c4 Nf6 3. Nc3 g6 4. Bg5 Bg7 5. Nf3 d6 6. e3 0-0 and James castles kingside but without the protection of a pawn on f7.

Play continued 7. Qb3 Nc6 8. Bd3 e5 9. dxe5 dxe5 10. 0-0-0 Qe8 and white castled queen side 11. Bxf6 Bxf6 12. e4 Nd4 13. Nxd4 exd4 14. Nd5 fxe4 and James now has two very strong central pawns (see diagram) but white replies with 15. Nxc7 Qf7 16. Nxa8 exd3 effectively losing the exchange.

However, James now goes on the counter-attack after 17. f4 Be6 18. Qxd3 Bxc4 19. Qa3 Rxa8 20. h4 Bxa2 and now white's king is exposed. James now brings all his pieces into play whilst white's rook is yet to get out of the blocks 21. Qc5 Be6 22. Qb4 a5 23. Qa3 Qc7+ 24. Kb1 Rc8 25. Qg3 Qc2+ 26. Ka1 d3 27. Qxd3 Bxb2 mate.

The competition is nearing its conclusion with Lincolnshire lying in equal 3rd place with Yorkshire C on 9 points with each having one game outstanding, just half a point behind Hertfordshire B who have completed all their games.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XJ on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. Now open after lockdown. www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk

