

Looking back at the online games played in the summer of 2020 when the Covid pandemic was at its height I came across a game involving Chris Donkin. Chris, for many years, lived in Boston where he owned his own computer company servicing local businesses until he moved to his native Scotland in the 1990s. Still keeping in touch with the Lincolnshire chess scene he joined in one of the evening online tournaments.

In round 4 out of 5 Chris was paired as black against Bogdan Pata from Grimsby and we pick up the game after white has just played 18. Bd4 (see diagram). Chris replied with 18. ...axb4 19. Bxg7 bxc3 20. Qxc3 b5 21. Bxf8 Qxf8 and Chris chose to defend the bishop on c4 but still lost the exchange so has it all to do.

White pressed home his advantage with 22. e5 Qg7 23. Qf3 Rd8 24. exd6 exd6 25. c3 d5 26. Qe3 Qf6 27. Qg3 Rf8 28. Re5 Qa6 29. Qe3 Qf6 30. Re1 Kg7 31. Qd4 Ra8 32. Qc5 Rf8 33. Qb4 Ra8 34. Re8 Rxe8 35. Rxe8 and despite Chris's valiant defense he is forced to exchange rooks.

Play continued 35. ...Qf5 36. Qf8+ Kf6 37. Qh8+ Kg5 38. h4+ (Re5 could have been interesting) Kh6 39. Qf8+ Kh5 40. Qg7 f6 41. Qxh7+ Kg4 42. f3+ Kg3 43. Re3 and white, having had the game at his mercy, overlooked 43. ...Qb1+ 44. Re1 Qxb1 mate.

Both players finished in joint 8th place out of a field of 12 players with 2 points well behind the winner and tournament organizer Nigel Birtwistle, also from Boston.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XJ on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.
www.lincolnchessclub.co.uk

