

This week I am looking back again at the online tournaments and featuring two of the county players who were regulars before COVID and continued to support the county scene when over-the-board chess was still not allowed.

This game is between Allan Marshall who was secretary of Boston Chess Club until it folded some years ago and William Orr who now plays at Lincoln but was a member of Horncastle Chess Club before it too closed its doors.

The opening moves, with Allan as white, followed the Sicilian Defence 1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Be2 Nc6 4. 0-0 g6 5. c3 Bg7 and William takes the Dragon variation 6. d4 cxd4 7. cxd4 e6 8. Nc3 Nge7 9. Be3 0-0 10. Rc1 a6 11. Qa4 Bd7 12. Qd1 Rc8 13. a3 b5 14. b4 Rc7 15. Qd2 Qb8 16. Bh6 Rfc8 and Allan is looking to nullify the threat from the bishop on g7 but William is building an attack with his rooks on the c-file 17. Bxg7 Kxg7 18. d5 exd5 19. Nxd5 Nxd5 20. Qxd5 and now Allan's queen is centre stage poised to strike (see diagram).

William thought he had a counter with 20. ...Nxb4 but Allan played 21. Qd4+ Kg8 22. Rxc7 Rxc7 23. Qxb4 winning a piece for a pawn and went on to win a few moves later.

Meanwhile, the Lincolnshire League has restarted after 2 and a half years. The last match, between Lincoln and Grimsby in Division 1, took place in March 2020. This year Division 1 will be contested by Grantham, Grimsby, Lincoln and Scunthorpe. Division 2, previously split North and South, will be one division and will involve Grantham, Grimsby, Lincoln A, Lincoln B, Skegness and a late entry from Lincoln University.

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