

This week's game was sent to me by Ian McDonald, one of Lincoln's top players and an entrepreneur who used to own his own business. In 1966, Ian was a first year student at York University and during the spring he had the opportunity to play against Michael Haygarth who had won the British Championships the year before.

With Ian providing the commentary the opening, with Ian as white, followed the Vienna Gambit 1. e4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. f4 d5 4. fxe5 Nxe4 5. d3 Nxc3 6. bxc3 c5 7. Nf3 Be7 8. Be2 Nc6 9. 0-0 Be6 10. Qe1 h6 11. d4 c4 12. a4 Qd7 13. Ba3 Bxa3 14. Rxa3 0-0-0 15. a5 Qc7 16. Nh4.

In a game where both players missed opportunities black could have played 16. ...Nxe5 17. dxe5 Qc5+ forking king and rook but 18. Qf2 Qxa3 19. Qxa7 could have provided counterplay.

Perhaps seeing this black played 16. ...Ne7 followed by 17. Qf2 Rd7 18. Rb1 Kb8 19. g3 Rc8 20. Ng2 Nc6 21. Nf4 Qd8 22. Ra2 Ka8 23. a6 which Ian admits could have been played from move 19 onwards 23. ...Rb8 24. axb7+ Rbxb7 (see diagram). Ian played 25. Rab2 letting black off feeling that 25. Rf1 was much stronger.

Play continued 25. ...Rxb2 26. Rxb2 Qa5 27. Rb1 Qa2 28. Qf1 Nd8 29. Qc1 Rb7 30. Rxb7 Kxb7 31. Bf3 Kc6 32. Nh5 Qa5 letting Ian back into the game 33. Qb2 g6 34. Nf6 Nb7 35. Ng8 Qd8 36. Nf6 Qa5. Had Ian played 35. Kf2 a win would have followed but in time trouble Ian agreed a draw and after 45 years still rues the missed chance - I doubt if any of us mere mortals would have done anything different.

