

This week's game has been sent by Ivan David who is one of Grantham's top players from the recent Nottingham Congress. Ivan, a regular for Grantham in the Lincolnshire and Nottingham Leagues and the Lincolnshire county team did particularly well in this event finishing in equal fifth place with 3½ points out of 5 claiming the £50 under 170 grading prize.

In the last round Ivan was paired as black against Paul Cumbers who also plays for Grantham as well as Lincoln with the opening followed the Slav defence 1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Nf3 a6 5. e3 Bf5 6. cxd5 cxd5 7. Qb3 b5 8. a4 b4 and Ivan is seemingly giving away a pawn (see diagram) but is this a trap?

Paul, took the pawn allowing Ivan to spring the trap with 9. Qxb4 Nc6 10. Qb3 Rb8 11. Qd1 Nb4 12. Bd2 Nc2+ gaining the advantage by winning the exchange 13. Ke2 Nxa1 as well as preventing Paul from castling.

Ivan secured his defense after 14. Qxa1 Qb6 15. Bc1 e6 16. Nd2 Bb4 17. f3 0-0 and then brought all his pieces into play with 18. Kf2 Rfc8 19. Be2 Rc7 20. Re1 Rbc8 creating a powerful attack down the c-file gaining another pawn after 21. Kg1 Bxc3 22. bxc3 Rxc3.

After 23. Nf1 Bc2 Paul went on the counter attack with 24. a5 Qb7 25. Ba3 Bd3 26. Bc5 Rb3 27. Nd2 Bxe2 28. Nxb3 winning the exchange in return 28. ...Bxf3 29. Bb6 Be4 30. Nc5 Qc6 and seemed to have gained the upper hand by winning the pawn 31. Nxa6 but had to resign after 31. ...Qc2 when he could not prevent mate without significant loss of material.

