

The plush surroundings of the De Vere Hotel was the venue for the Sunningdale Congress recently where Lincoln's David Coates, now a regular on the congress circuit, was in action. The £2000 plus in prize money had attracted a high quality field with 63 playing in the Open section.

The event was played over 7 rounds with Mark Hebden taking the first prize with 6 points. David finished with 4 points including 3 wins and 2 draws to finish in equal 16<sup>th</sup> place, well out of the prize money, but still gaining valuable experience.

David's best game came in round 2 where he was paired as white against Peter Andreev from Richmond and we pick up the game after Peter has just played 23. ...g3 (see diagram) 24. hxg3 fxg3 25. Bxg3 losing a pawn but opening up David's defence and David must now use all his experience to defend the position.

Play continued 25. ...h4 26. Bh2 Nf4 27. Bxf4 Qh3 28. Rf2 exf4 29. Bd3 Qg3 and it looks like black is planning to bring his pawn on h4 into play but David played 30. Ne2 Qg5 31. Qd2 counterattacking by putting pressure on the pawn on f4 31. ...Rf7 32. Kf1 Bg7 33. Rc1 a6 34. Nbd4 h3 35. gxh3 Bxh3+ and with David's knight on e2 the key piece in his defence he held firm 36. Ke1 Be5 37. Qb2 Qh4 38. Ng1 Rg7 39. Nxh3 Qxh3 40. Bf1 Qg3 41. Qd2 Qg1 42. Nf5 Rg5 and now David was able to force the exchange of the major pieces with 43. Rg2 Rxc2 44. Qxc2+ Qxc2 45. Bxc2 maintaining his pawn advantage and he went on to win a few moves later.

