

The Lincolnshire County Championship was a busy time. As well as the main event there was a Junior Rapidplay on the Saturday won by Sean Guggiari from Barton-on-Humber. Several of the juniors then stayed on to the highlight of the evening where we were treated to a simultaneous event by Grand Master Gawain Jones who had just flown in from South Africa having played in the Commonwealth Chess Championships.

The format was that Gawain plays white against each opponent, 28 opponents in total, circulating the boards so us mere mortals have Gawain's circuit of the room to think about our move. When he arrived at our board we moved, so he could see it, and he immediately responded.

Out of the 28 games, Gawain won 24 and drew 4 against Paul Cumbers and Nigel Birtwistle from Grantham and the Grimsby pair of Joe Kilshaw and Nick Stead.

We pick up Nick's game after Gawain, as white, has just played 17. Ng3 being a pawn up (see diagram) although not having the best pawn structure. Nick played 17. ...b6 18. Qb4 Rab8 19. cxb6 axb6 20. Kh1 and in a sharp continuation 20. ...Bc4 21. Bxc4 Nxc4 22. Rfe1 Rd3 Nick is putting pressure on white's pieces 23. Bg1 g6 24. a4 Rc8 25. Bxb6 Nxb6 26. Qxb6 Qxc3 27. Ne2 Qd2 28. Qb4 Qxb4 29. Rxb4 and with stout defence white has maintained his pawn advantage.

Play continued 29. ...Rc2 30. Ng3 Rdd2 31. Rb8+ Kg7 32. Rg1 Ra2 33. Ra8 Ra3 and with white about to lose his pawn advantage a draw was agreed.

