

Paul Cumbers was in action at the recent British Championships where he took part in the Major Open - an 11 round tournament which took place in the International Sports Hall within the Ponds Forge complex in Sheffield. Paul, who played for Lincoln in the Lincolnshire League and Grantham in the Nottinghamshire League last season, has recently moved back to Sheffield where he was a university student a few years ago - quite handy for this year's event.

Winning 5 games and drawing 4 Paul finished in 10<sup>th</sup> place on 7 points only 1 point behind joint winners John Sugden, Arne Hagesaether and Nicholas Tavoularis but just outside the prize money, and his best game came in round 3 where he was paired as white against Mitchell Burke from Three C's club in Oldham and we pick up the game after black has just played 26. ...g5 (see diagram) with Paul having a passed pawn on b5 but with black's knight on b4 blocking progress can you see Paul's next move?

Paul decided to bite the bullet with 27. Rxb4 cxb4 28. Qxb4 sacrificing the exchange with compensation in the b-pawn backed up by two strong bishops 28. ...Qb8 29. b6 Rd8 30. Nf3 Ne7 31. hxg5 hxg5 32. b7 and now Paul prepares to push home the advantage with black's movements restricted 32. ...Bf8 33. Qb6 Nc8 34. Qa6 (Paul admitted to overlooking 34. Qxd8 but it mattered not) 34. ...Ne7 35. Bb5 Qc7 36. Bc6 Nxc6 37. Qxc6 Qg7 38. Bb6 Qh6 39. Kg2 and with Paul's king blocking a last minute attempt of black escaping with a draw Mitchell resigned.

