

This week's game has been sent to me by Ivan David from the recent match between Lincolnshire and Shropshire in the Midland Minor Counties round robin featured a couple of weeks ago when Lincolnshire had an overwhelming 14-2 victory.

Ivan, who has featured several times in this column representing both club (Grantham) and county was paired on board 12 as white against Steve Tarr with the opening following the English variation 1. c4 Nf6 2. g3 e6 3. Bg2 d5 4. Nf3 b6 5. cxd5 exd5 6. d4 Bb7 7. 0-0 h6 8. Nc3 Nbd7 9. Bf4 c6 10. a3 Nh5 11. Bd2 Nhf6 12. Re1 Be7 13. Nh4 0-0 and after both players have now castled Ivan is poised to make advances down black's king side.

Play continued 14. Nf5 Re8 15. f3 Bf8 16. e4 dxe4 17. fxe4 Rc8 18. e5 Nh7 and Ivan's central pawns are now causing black to retreat 19. Qg4 Kh8 20. Ne4 Re6 21. Ned6 Rxd6 22. Nxd6 Bxd6 23. exd6 and black felt compelled to sacrifice the exchange to eliminate Ivan's powerful knights but he now has the advantage of an open e-file and the pawn on d6 (see diagram) 23. ...Nhf6 24. Qf5 Qf8 25. Re7 Rd8 26. Rc1 Bc8 27. Qc2 c5.

Ivan now closed in with 28. Bf4 Ng8 29. Rce1 a6 30. Bd5 and black resigned as 31. Rxf7 wins the queen. Even 30. ...Nxe7 31. dxe7 and 32. Bxf7 spells disaster for black.

Lincolnshire having won three and lost one lie in equal first place with Leicestershire on 6 points followed by Worcestershire on 5 points who are Lincolnshire's opponents in the last match of this section with the top two counties then going forward to the national semi-finals.

Grantham Chess Club play at the Electric Social Club, 11 Commercial Road on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.
www.granthamchessclub.blogspot.co.uk

