

David Coates made a welcome return to chess after an enforced break to recover from illness. In fact he knew that he would be out of commission for a few months in September which prompted me to organize the Lincoln Division 1 fixtures to the post Christmas period.

David's return to county chess was actually in the recent match between Lincolnshire and Shropshire where his win contributed to the 14-2 score line. David was paired as white on board 6 against Glyn Pugh and we pick up the game after black had just played 28. ...Kf8 (see diagram) with the players materially equal but with David's queen side pawns in a threatening formation - can you see David's next move.

David had lost none of his chess prowess during his illness as he played 29. c5 dxc5 30. dxc5 Nd5 31. cxb6 Nxb6 (not 31. ...bxc5 32. Rxc5 and 33. Nxa5) 32. Nxa5 Nxa4 leaving David with a passed pawn on b5.

Play continued 33. Nc6 fxg3 34. fxg3 Re8 35. Ne5 Rf5 36. Rc7 Nb6 37. Ng6+ Kg8 and in fact black lost on time but David looked to have the better of the game after 38. Bc6 Rd8 39. Ne7+ will win the exchange with the passed pawn waiting in the wings.

David's talents also include web design and he is currently the author of the Lincoln Chess club site www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk and the Lincolnshire Chess Association site www.lincschess.org as well as the Nottinghamshire Chess Association site www.nottschess.org where David also gets a mention as he also plays for Newark Chess Club www.newarkchessclub.org.uk in the Nottinghamshire Chess League.

