

Lincoln's team in Division 1 continued this season's campaign with a visit to St.James School 6th form common room in Bargate, Grimsby where a clash of the giants of Lincolnshire chess was in prospect.

On board 5 it was my pleasure to be paired as white against Pete Holman, a familiar adversary having had many a tussle with him in the past. However in this game I found my opponent a bit hesitant and we pick up the game after he had played 25. ...d5 (see diagram) a move he could have played to advantage earlier in the game. Also, when analyzing the game Fritz came up with a better alternative for black with 25. ...Bxe4 26. fxe4 Nxe4 27. Rd1 Nf2.

Fortunately he didn't see this and I replied with 26. e5 Nd7 27. f4 Nc5 28. Nc3 Bc6 29. Rhd1 Na4 30. Nxa4 Bxa4 31. Ne2 Bd7 32. Nc3 Rb8 33. Ka1 Rb7 34. Rb1 Bc6 35. Ne2 Rc7 36. Nd4 Bd7 37. c3 Rb7 and now I have stopped black's pawn advance while setting up one for myself 38. h3 Rb6 39. g4 f6 40. gxf6 gxf6 41. Re1 Kf7 42. Rde2 Re8 43. Nf3 Bc8 44. g5 f5 and now my knight can occupy the key e5 square.

I took advantage with 45. Ne5+ Kg7 46. h4 Re7 47. h5 Re8 48. Nf3 Bd7 49. Nd4 a5 and Pete, short on time by this stage, did not spot 50. Nxf5+ winning the pawn as 50. ...exf5 51. Rxe8 Bxe8 52. Rxe8 would follow. He actually played 51. ...Kf7 52. Nd4 and his flag fell a couple of moves later.

A win for Ian McDonald and draws for Claudio Mangione and David Coates gave Lincoln a narrow 3-2 win.

Meanwhile, Louth Chess Club will be hosting the Alf Newman Memorial Rapidplay at St.James Church Hall on Saturday May 26 - contact John Grasham on jcgrasham@hotmail.co.uk

