

A few weeks ago I went to the Nottinghamshire Chess Association AGM held at the Five Ways Pub in Nottingham home of the Nomads Chess Club. I was there in my capacity of Grading Officer for Nottingham - a job I also do for Lincolnshire and the Midland Counties Chess Union.

Anyway, that aside, on the agenda was the presentation of best game which is decided by Steve Burke, who is also the treasurer of the NCA, and his deliberations were concluded by awarding the prize to David Coates. In fact there was a tie for first place between today's game and that between Chris Budd of West Bridgford and Janos Wagenbach from Mansfield.

David, as well as being the captain of Lincoln's Division 1 team and one of Lincolnshire's top players, also plays for Newark in the Nottinghamshire Chess League and the game concerned was that against David Williams in this season's match between Newark and Long Eaton in the NCL Division 1.

We take up the game after David Williams, as black, has just played 16. ...Kh8 (see diagram). David Coates played 17. c5 which prompted an exchange of pieces 17. ...cxd5 18. Nxd5 Nxd5 19. Qxd5 Be6. David Coates could have been forgiven for retreating his queen to d3 but he found a better move in 20. cxd6 Qf7 21. Qa5 winning a pawn.

David Williams counter attacked with 21. ...Nf6 22. Ne1 g4 23. Nd3 b6 24. Qb5 gxf3 25. Nxe5 Qh5 26. Nxf3 Qxb5 27. Bxb5 Nxe4 and with the queens off the board and David Coates retaining his pawn advantage he went on to win.

Newark Chess Club play at the Roaring Meg, 117 Barnby Gate on Mondays at 7.30pm. www.newarkchessclub.org.uk

