

This week I report, with sadness, the passing of Geoff Collyer. He was one of the county's great characters and a mean performer over the chess board. I know that he played for Boston, Whaplode, Spalding and Louth Chess Clubs before coming to Lincoln where he was a regular for our teams before illness prevented him from playing a couple of years ago.

He lived alone in Boston but I always found him easy to talk to and get on with but he did have a habit of rubbing some people up the wrong way - but that was Geoff.

Unfortunately, I only got to know about his death a couple of weeks after his funeral so I was not able to go but I have been asked to write a tribute to him in this column which I am very pleased to do.

Geoff was also a regular for the Lincolnshire county team which, with Geoff's help, has had some success in recent years and he also represented Cambridgeshire and the RAF in his younger days but the game I want to feature is when he won the Lincolnshire County Championships in 2008 with 4½ points out of 5. Playing in round 3 as black against Ross Blake of Newark we pick up the game after Ross has just played 17. Qd2 (see diagram).

Geoff played 17. ...Na5 18. Nxa5 Qxa5 closing in on the pawn on c3 19. Bxc4 Rxc4 20. Qd3 Nf6 21. g5 Nxe4 winning the pawn 22. f5 Rfc8 23. Bd2 Nf2 winning the exchange 24. Qxd6 Nxh1 25. Rxh1 Ra4 26. Ra1 Qd8 and white resigned.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the RAOB Club, 58 South Park on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. www.lincolncchessclub.co.uk

