

The 42nd Nottingham Congress was held recently at the Nottingham High School with over 150 competitors over the four sections, Open, Major, Intermediate and Minor. Lincoln had a couple of entries in the Intermediate section and also, Murray Smith - Lincoln's import from Australia - entered the Open section where there were 42 entries in a very strong field and finished with a creditable 3 points out of 5 gaining a share of the Under 185 grading prize.

In round 3 Murray was paired as white against Julian Cast from Long Eaton and we pick up the game after black has just played 24. ...Qb5 (see diagram). Murray saw an opportunity to unlock black's defence - can you see it?

Murray played 25. Rxe6 with 25. ...fxe6 26. Qxe6+ which, with the knight, would give ample reward. However, black saw this and replied 25. ...Rd3 26. Qa2 Qd7 27. Rxh7 gaining a second pawn 27. ...Kg7 28. Ne5 Rd1+ 29. Kh2 Qd5 30. Qc2 Kxh6 31. Ng4+ Kg7 32. Rxd1 Rh8+ 33. Kg1 Qe6 34. Qc3+ f6 35. Re1 Qxg4 36. Rxe7+ Kg6 37. Qd3+ Kh6 38. f3 Qxg3 39. Qf5 Qf4 40. Qxf4 gxf4 41. Rxb7 and up against a 2 pawn advantage black resigned.

The surprise winner of the Open Section was 12 year old Aditya Munshi from West Nottingham on 4½ out of 5 with last year's winner Keith Arkell from Stourbridge amongst the runners up.

Neil Roberts was the best of the other Lincoln players gaining 3 points in the Intermediate section.

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

