

This season I have agreed to play in a correspondence chess match representing the Midland Counties Chess Union (MCCU) - for whom I am the Lincolnshire representative as well as the grading officer and county championship controller - and NATCOR which stands for the National Correspondence Chess Club.

The match is being played with 14 players on each team and each player plays their opponent in two games - one as white and the other as black - with 5 of the matches being played using the International Correspondence Chess Federation (ICCF) web-site another 5, including myself, sending the moves by e-mail and the remaining 4 games being played by post.

In my game as white against Eddy Bishop I opened with the Queen's gambit declined 1. d4 d5 2. c4 c6 3. Nf3 Nf6 4. Nc3 Bg4 5. Ne5 Bf5 6. cxd5 cxd5 and with my knight is now occupying a central position I am now ready to set up an attack on the queens side (see diagram) can you see my next move?

I played 7. e4 dxe4 - seemingly giving away the pawn but now 8. Qb3 is threatening mate by 9. Qxf7 and also 9. Qxb7 so black played 8. ...Be6 so I followed with 9. Qxb7 Nbd7 10. Nb5. Not sure how much attention my opponent was paying to this game as he had a number of options including 10. ...Rc8 and 10. ...Nxe5 but instead played 10. ...Rb8 11. Nc7+ losing the queen as his only option is 11. ...Qxc7 12. Qxc7 so he resigned. The other game with myself as black looks like taking a bit longer.

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

