

This week's game has been sent to me by Chris Holt. Chris, who is secretary of Grantham Chess Club, was in the Lincolnshire team which comprehensively defeated Worcestershire as reported last week.

He was paired as white against Ray Collett who is secretary of Worcestershire Chess Association and also the designer of the Midland Counties Chess Union web-site with the opening moves following the King's Indian defence 1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. Be2 0-0 6. g4 a variation from the main line which, Chris tells, he found when looking at some great games by Ivan Sokolov 6. ...e5 7. d5 a5 8. g5 Ne8 which forces black to retreat his knight.

Chris continued the pawn advance 9. h4 f5 10. gxf6 (taking en passant) Qxf6 11. Be3 Na6 12. h5 g5 13. h6 Bxh6 sacrificing the pawn but opening up the h-file (see diagram) 14. Nf3 Ng7 15. Qd2 Bg4 16. Nh2 Bh3 17. Ng4 Bxg4 18. Bxg4 Qg6 19. 0-0-0 and Chris castles queen's side to bring both his rooks into play 19. ...Rf6 20. Rh2 Nc5 21. f3 Ne8 22. Rdh1 Qg7 23. Ne2 Qf8 24. Ng3 Rxf3 25. Rxh6 Rxg3 26. Rxh7 and now black's king is totally exposed 26. ...Nf6 27. Rh8+ Kg7 28. Rxf8 Rxf8 winning the queen 29. Bf5 Ncxe4 30. Bxe4 Nxe4 31. Qh2 and black resigned as mate follows in a few moves.

Last season Lincolnshire won the National Minor Counties championship but there is a restriction in this event in that the average grade must not exceed 180. Captain Nigel Birtwistle has until December 31 to decide whether to enter the Minor championship again this year or enter the Open championship where no grade restriction applies but, of course, the standard of the opposition is a lot higher.

All the best for the new year from all at Lincoln Chess Club who play at the RAOB Club, 58 South Park on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk

