

Murray Smith has sent two games played on successive days against the same opponent, Michael Barnes. They played each other in the Nottinghamshire County Championship round 4 on the Sunday and on the Monday Murray was on board 1 for Newark while Michael was playing for Gambit in Division 1 of the Nottinghamshire Chess League.

In both games Murray was paired as black and, in fact, the first 10 moves were identical following the King's Indian defence 1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. c4 Bg7 4. Nc3 0-0 5. e4 d6 6. Be2 e5 7. 0-0 Nc6 8. d5 Ne7 9. b4 Nh5 10. Re1. On the Sunday Murray played 10. ...Nf4 11. Bxf4 exf4 and although Murray went on to win it was, Murray tells me, a flawed and lucky win. Murray finished in equal 3rd place on 3 points.

On the Monday Murray played a different strategy and play continued 10. ...f5 11. Ng5 Nf6 12. Bf3 c6 13. Bb2 h6 14. Ne6 Bxe6 15. dxe6 and white is forced into the exchange leaving white's pawn on e6 isolated (see diagram).

Murray now played 15. ...fxe4 16. Nxe4 Nxe4 17. Rxe4 d5 18. cxd5 cxd5 and now Murray has two central pawns which white can only counter with 19. Rxe5 Bxe5 20. Bxe5 losing the exchange 20. ...Qb6 21. Qd2 Qxe6 22. Re1 and black is looking at some counterplay with the threat of 23. Qxh6 or Bg7 but Murray played 22. ...Rxf3 23. Qxh6 Rf6 and white cannot now play 24. Bxf6 Qxe1 so he played 24. Bc3 Qf5 25. Qh4 g5 26. Qd4 Kf7 and now a rook down white resigned with Newark going on to win 3-2.

Newark Chess Club play at the Newark Railway Sports & Social Club, Hatchets Lane on Mondays at 7.30pm.
www.newarkchessclub.co.uk

