

Another game from the Minor Counties match where Lincolnshire narrowly defeated Nottinghamshire by 8½ to 7½ has been sent to me by Lincoln stalwart Ian McDonald. Ian was another player drafted in at the last minute to replace a flu victim (you will recall Stuart MacDonald came to the rescue a couple of weeks ago) and was paired as black against Florian Biermann from the Gambit Chess Club in Nottingham with the opening following the Ruy Lopez 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. 0-0 Be7 6. Re1 b5 7. Bb3 0-0 8. c3 d5 and Ian played the provocative 8. ...d5 to open up the centre.

A series of exchanges ensued 9. exd5 Nxd5 10. Nxe5 Nxe5 11. Rxe5 c6 resulting in Ian being a pawn down but with attacking options on white's king 12. d4 Bd6 13. Re1 Qh4 14. g3 Qh3 15. Re4 Nf6 16. Rh4 Qf5 17. Bc2 Qd5 but so far white has resisted Ian's advances 18. Bf4 Bxf4 19. Rxf4 Bh3 20. Qf3 Qxf3 21. Rxf3 Rae8 but now Ian's pieces are more active with one of white's rooks hemmed in on a1 (see diagram).

Play continued 22. Re3 Ng4 23. Re4 f5 24. Rxe8 Rxe8 25. Na3 Re2 and now Ian's rook controls the second rank 26. Bxf5 Nxf2 27. Bxh3 Nxh3+ 28. Kh1 Rxb2 29. Nb1 and white defends the pawn on c3 but, again, his rook is out of the game 29. ...Ng5 30. Kg1 Nf3+ 31. Kf1 Rxb1+ 32. Rxb1 Nd2+ and white resigned.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XG on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.  
[www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk](http://www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk)

