

Ian McDonald was another of the Lincoln players who featured in the British Chess Championships played at the City Hall in Hull. Ian had entered the over 65 age group event and at the start of the tournament was ranked 48th out of 54 with a FIDE grade of 1726 and after the 7 round event he finished where he started, 48th, with a total of 3 points.

His best game came in round 5 when he was paired as white against Gillian Moore from Southampton with the opening following the Vienna game 1. e4 Nf6 2. Nc3 e5 3. f4 characterised by the f4 move which puts pressure on e5 and opens up the f-file but can expose the white king 3. ...d5 4. fxe5 Nxe4 5. d3 Nxc3 6. bxc3 c6 7. Nf3 Bg4 8. d4 Nd7 9. Be2 Be7 10. 0-0 0-0 and both players have castled although neither has a secure defense.

Play continued 11. Qe1 Bxf3 12. Rxf3 Bh4 13. Qf1 Bg5 14. Bd3 g6 15. Rg3 Bxc1 16. Rxc1 Qe7 17. Qe2 c5 18. Qg4 c4 19. Bf5 and Ian attacks black's knight as black cannot take the bishop 19. ...Rad8 20. Qf3 Nb8 21. h4 Qxh4 sacrificing a pawn to open up the h-file 22. Rh3 Qg5 23. Rf1 Nc6 24. Rg3 Qh6 25. Bh3 Ne7 and black brings her knight back into the mix (see diagram) but has given Ian an opportunity - can you see it?

Ian played 26. Qf6 Rde8 27. Bd7 Qg7 28. Bxe8 Rxe8 winning the exchange 29. Rgf3 Qxf6 30. Rxf6 and with the queens off the board Ian went on to win a few moves later.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XG on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.
www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk

