

This week's game has been sent to me by James Irwin when he played in the Lincolnshire County Championships recently. James was a regular at Lincoln Chess Club until a couple of years ago when he moved to Stowmarket in Suffolk to work in the family firm. He still keeps in contact and travels up to the county to take part in events.

James finished on 3 points out of 5 along with Herman Kok, Jules Brown and Richard Stokes who qualified for the Under 150 grading prize and thus won a quarter share of the £120 prize fund. However, based on the sum of progressive scores, James was the outright winner of the Quilter Trophy.

His best game came in round 4 when he was paired as black against Ray Ilett from Peterborough with the opening following the queen's gambit 1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. Nf3 0-0 5. e3 b6 6. Bd3 Bb7 7. 0-0 Bxc3 8. bxc3 with the book moves being followed leading to white's doubled c pawns 8. ...d6 9. Qc2 Bxf3 10. gxf3 and the exchange also doubles up white's f pawns but opens up the g-file 10. ...Nbd7 11. Kh1 d5 12. Rg1 Kh8 13. e4 dxc4 14. Bxc4 c5 15. e5 Nd5 16. Bg5 f6 17. Bxd5 exd5 18. Bh4 Qe8 19. Rg3 fxe5 and James gains a pawn 20. Rag1 but white is setting up a strong attack on the g-file (see diagram).

James defends with 20. ...Rf7 21. Rh3 Nf8 22. dxe5 Qxe5 and James is defending both pawns on g7 and h7 whilst maintaining his pawn advantage 23. Rg5 Qe6 24. Kg2 Re8 25. Bg3 Qf6 and James is attacking both the rook on g5 and the pawn on f3. Short on time white played 26. Rf5 Qxf5 losing the rook and resigned.

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

