

During the Coronavirus outbreak all over the board chess has been prohibited along with every other activity that includes social contact. The Lincolnshire leagues have been suspended with our teams in both Division 1 and Division 2 South well placed. However, the organisers have declared that the leagues will be completed as and when restrictions are lifted.

Internet chess, on the other hand, continues and Lincoln Stalwart Herman Kok has sent me a game that he played recently against an unknown opponent (could be anywhere in the world) where he had the black pieces and we pick up the game after white has just played 16. Be3 (see diagram) - can you see Herman's next move?

Herman played 16. ...e4 17. Nd4 Bxh2+ sacrificing the bishop for a pawn but opening up black's defence 18. Kxh2 Ng4+ 19. Kg1 Qh4 20. Kf1 Ba6+ 21. Bc4 Rac8 22. b3 Nde5 and Herman brings all his pieces into play supported by the pawns on b4 and e4.

White played 23. Nb2 to support the bishop on c4 but Herman had a better strategy with 23. ...Nd3 24. Nxd3 exd3 25. Qxd3 losing the pawn but taking white's queen off the second row and took advantage with 25. ...Qh1+ 26. Ke2 Qxg2 27. Rg1 Qxf2+ 28. Kd1 Nxe3+ 29. Kc1 Bcx4 30. bxc4 Rxc4+ 31. Kb1 Qxg1+ 32. Kb2 Qf2+ 33. Kb3 Rc3+ 34. Qxc3 bxc3 and white's queen is lost 35. Kxc3 Rc8+ 36. Kd3 Nxd5 37. Rd1 and Herman was about to play 37. ...Qe3 mate when his flag dropped - such is life.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XJ on Wednesdays at 7.30pm although we are not meeting during the Coronavirus crisis.
www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk

