

This week's game has been sent to me by Les McShane from Grantham against Philip Svidler of Birmingham in round 3 of the 2017 Doncaster Open played at the Hall Cross School.

The opening followed the Sicilian Scheveningen opening named after the village on the dutch coast near The Hague when opening came to prominence during a tournament held there in 1923 - 1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nc6 5. Nc3 d6 6. Be3 Nf6 7. Qe2 a6 8. 0-0-0 Qc7 and Les castled queen side as a prelude to a king side pawn advance 9. g4 b5 10. g5 Nd7 forcing black to retreat 11. h4 Bb7 12. a3 Rc8 13. Bh3 b4 and Les now needs to guard against a black counter attack 14. axb4 Nxb4 (see diagram) - Les's next move turns out to be decisive in both attack and defence - can you see it?

Les played 15. Nxe6 fxe6 16. Bxe6 sacrificing a knight for 2 pawns but crucially his bishop now controls the a2 to g8 diagonal. Black continued with 16. ...Qa5 17. Kb1 Rxc3 18. bxc3 Nc6 and black's attack has petered out 19. Rh3 Be7 20. Bd4 Nc5 21. Bxc5 Qxc5 22. f4 Kd8 and white's king side pawns are poised for the final assault 23. Qe3 Qxe3 24. Rxe3 h6 25. c4 hxg5 26. hxg5 Rf8 27. f5 Ne5 28. Rg1 d5 29. Rb3 Kc7 30. cxd5 Rh8 31. f6 Bf8 32. d6+ and black resigned as 33. ...Bxd6 34. fxg7 follows.

Les finished with 3.5 out of 5 just outside the prize money.

If you have any of your favourite games you would like me to feature during this enforced period of inactivity then send them to me on peter.sherlock4@ntlworld.com.

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

