

Lincolnshire's team in the Correspondence Chess competition continue to play through the Coronavirus lock-down as moves are made over the internet. Last year the 8 man team finished second in Division 3 of the national competition and thus gained promotion to Division 2.

With Harry Russell from Louth dropping out an opportunity arose for Neil Roberts from Lincoln to join the team on board 6 with proceedings getting underway shortly after the new year. Each player plays 2 matches simultaneously against the same opponent one as white and one as black and in Neil's case he was paired against Neville Twitchell from Essex C.

In the game where Neil has the white pieces we pick things up after black has just played 24. ...b6 (see diagram) materially equal but with Neil's knight on b5 looking threatening, can you see Neil's next move?

Neil played 25. c4 Qxc4 sacrificing the pawn on c4 but opening up the c-file 26. Qb1 Qc6 27. Rc1 Qb7 and Neil has brought his rook into play to take control of the c-file 28. Rbc2 Ke8 29. Nc7+ Nxc7 30. Rxc7 Qa6 and now Neil's rook on c7 is deep into enemy territory with black's pieces away from the action.

Neil took advantage with a series of neat sacrifices 31. Rxe7+ Kxe7 32. Qb4+ Ke8 33. Rc7 threatening mate so black replied 33. ...Nd7 34. Nxd5 exd5 and another sacrifice this time to bring the bishop on g3 into play 35. Rxd7 Kxd7 and now black's king is totally exposed 36. Qd6+ Ke8 37. Qc6+ Ke7 38. Bd6+ and black resigned as mate follows in a couple of moves.

Neil's other game is featured next week.

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.lincolnchessclub.co.uk](http://www.lincolnchessclub.co.uk)

