

Online chess has come to the fore during lockdown and David Coates has created a group on chess.com for current and passed players of Lincoln Chess Club. Being pleased with the positive response he set up the first, hopefully of many, online tournaments. Ten players signed up for the 5 round Blitz tournament with only 5 minutes on the clock for each game.

Those participating signed on with quite imaginative call signs such as HousingCrisis, Crafty\_Crofty, Hengistpod and top seed Silentassassin1980 (alias David Coates himself). Indeed it was David who swept the board winning all 5 games with Leigh0101 (John B) coming second on 4 points and the key game came in round 4 when they went head to head.

The opening moves followed the Queen's gambit with David as white 1. d4 e6 2. c4 d5 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. cxd5 exd5 and white went with the exchange variation 5. Bg5 Be7 6. e3 c6 7. Bd3 0-0 8. Qc2 h6 9. Bh4 Na6 10. a3 c5 11. dxc5 Nxc5 12. Ne2 Nxd3 13. Qxd3 Bg4 and black, having taken white's bishop on d3 brings his own white squared bishop into play but has an isolated pawn on d5.

Play continued 14. 0-0 Rc8 15. Bg3 Bh5 (see diagram) 16. Nf4 Bg4 and black avoids losing his bishop but the pawn on d5 is lost 17. Nfxd5 Nxd5 18. Nxd5 Bf6 19. Nxf6+ Qxf6 20. Qd4 Qg6 and black declines the exchange of queens 21. Rac1 Rcd8 22. Qxa7 and white is now 2 pawns up and went on to win a few moves later.

Several of the other clubs in the county have set up their own groups as well as at county level with talk of there being online inter-club and inter-counties tournaments being set up to cover the lockdown period. Lots more online chess to report in the future, I am sure.

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)

