

Lincolnshire's team in the Open section of the National Online Championships played their 3<sup>rd</sup> match in the Division 1A group stages. This time Lincolnshire's opponents were Middlesex A and with both teams winning their opening matches a close encounter was in prospect.

On board 11 Joe Kilshaw from Grimsby was paired as white against Steven Coles who plays for the King's Head club in London and we pick up the game after black has just played 25. ...Ne3 (see diagram) and black is a pawn up and has just placed his knight into a threatening position.

Joe responded with 26. Bxd4 Nxf1 27. Kxf1 Rxd4 28. Nxd4 Ba4 and Joe has regained the pawn and also has the advantage of the exchange 29. e5 Rd8 30. N2f3 Nxd3 and black has gained a pawn and forked Joe's rooks, however he escapes with 31. Rc6 Qa7 32. Re4 b4 33. Rg4 g6 34. fxg6 fxg6 35. Rcxg6+ hxg6 36. Rxg6+ Bg7 and Joe sacrifices a rook for two pawns but has opened up black's king.

Joe took advantage with 37. Ne6 Rd7 38. Nfg5 Bb5 39. Kg2 Qb7+ 40. Kg1 Qa7+ 41. Kg2 Bc6+ 42. Kf1 Bd5 43. Nxc7 Rxc7 44. Qxd3 Bc6 and black should have played 44. ...Qb7 as 45. Qd8+ is terminal.

Wins also for Jason Dilley, Stephen Prior, Samuel Milson, Nigel Birtwistle and Daniel Wells plus draws for Matthew Turner, Chris Dorrington, Murray Smith and David Coates gave Lincolnshire an impressive 8-4 win and now head the table on 6 points.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XJ on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. Although we are yet to meet due to the lockdown [www.lincolnchessclub.co.uk](http://www.lincolnchessclub.co.uk)

