

This week's game is taken from the U1825 grade competition in the National On-line County Championships which took place during the summer when the lockdown meant that all over-the-board chess was suspended.

In the first of the games in Group A Lincolnshire were drawn against near neighbours Leicestershire and on board 5 Edward Knox, originally from Lincolnshire but now playing for the New England club in Peterborough, was paired as black against Alex Milligan from Wigston with the opening moves following the Nimzovich-Larsen attack 1. b3 d5 2. Bb2 c5 3. e3 Nc6 4. Bb5 Bd7 5. Nf3 a6 6. Bxc6 Bxc6 7. Ne5 Nf6 8. Nxc6 bxc6 and this exchange has doubled Edward's c-pawns but his pawns control the centre 9. 0-0 e6 10. f4 Be7 11. d3 0-0 12. Nd2 a5 13. a4 Nd7 14. Nf3 Bf6 and Edward contest white's bishop on b2 15. Ne5 (see diagram).

Edward played 15. ...Nxe5 16. fxe5 Bg5 doubling up white's e-pawns and threatening e3 17. Rf3 d4 18. e4 Be3+ 19. Kh1 Qg5 20. Bc1 Bxc1 21. Qxc1 Qxe5 and Edward gains a pawn 22. Rg3 f6 23. Qh6 and white threatens mate but this is a blunder on white's part as Edward played 23. ...Qxg3 24. Qh5 Qe5 and Edward has added the rook to his gains.

Edward took full advantage as play continued 24. Qf3 Rac8 25. Rf1 f5 26. Qh5 fxe4 27. Rxf8+ Rxf8 28. Qe2 e3 29. g3 Qd5+ 30. Kg1 Rf2 and white resigned unable to prevent 31. ...Qg2 mate adding to a comprehensive win for Lincolnshire by 10.5 to 1.5.

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.lincolinchessclub.co.uk

