CHESS NOTES   03.06.21   Peter Sherlock

The now regular Wednesday night event with a grading limit
was amended so that the highest grade is 1600 FIDE rather
than 1500. This allowed myself (graded 1517) and a couple
of others to enter. In all 21 players entered, a good turn
out, for the 6 round swiss tournament with 10 minutes on
the clock.

After the first 3 rounds Iulia Covaci from Romania and
yours truly led the field having won our opening 3 games
and we met in round 4 with myself as white and we pick up
the game after Iulia has just played 16. …Rc8 (see
diagram). This game me an opportunity to gain and advantage
– can you see it?

I played 17. Nxf6+ Bxf6 18. Bxf6 Qxf6 19. Bxa6 bxa6 20.
Qxd7 effectively winning a pawn Rfd8 21. Qb7 Ne7 22. Rxc8
Rxc8 23. Qxa6 winning another pawn Qc3 24. b5 Nd5 25. b6
Rb8 26. b7 Qc7 27. Rb1 Kh7 28. Nd4 Ne7 29. a4 e5 30. Qd3+
g6 31. Nb5 Qxb7 and black wins back one of the pawns 32.
Nc3 Qc7 33. Rxb8 Qxb8 34. Qb5 Qc7 35. Qb2 Qd7 36. h3 Nd5
37. Nxd5 Qxd5 and with time running out I am trying to
press home my advantage.

Play continued 38. Qb5 Qd1+ 39. Kh2 Qd6 40. e4 Qf6 41. Kg1
Qf4 42. Qd5 Qc1+ 43. Kh2 Qf4+ 44. Kg2 and it looked like
Iulia was going to escape with a draw. However, she noticed
that my clock had run down and played 44. …Kg7 as my flag
dropped.

I won the rest of my games to finish of 5 out of 6, Iulia
also beat Paul Fischer but lost in round 5 to Herman Kok so
there was a 3 way for first place between Iulia, Paul and
myself with Iulia declared the winner as she had beaten the
other two.

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