

William Bazley is the subject of this week's game. Back in the 1990s William lived in Scunthorpe and was a regular for their teams in Division 2 North and I can remember having many a game against him when I turned out for Lincoln. However, his work took him to the Birmingham area in around the year 2000 and we lost touch.

During the Covid lockdown William found out about the weekly online tournaments for Lincolnshire players and having lived in the county for over 5 years still qualifies to join our ranks. So now that distance is no object with players joining in via their home computers it was good to see his name come up again.

In this tournament in early 2021 when only players with online ratings of 1600 or less William with a rating of 1476 was in with a chance but he finished the evening on 3 points in the 6 round event. His best game came in round 5 when he was paired as white against John Pocock from Grantham with the opening following the Sicilian Defence 1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. h3 Nf6 4. Nc3 e6 5. d4 b6 6. dxc5 bxc5 7. Bc4 a6 8. Bg5 Be7 9. 0-0 Bb7 10. Re1 d5 and William, having castled, looks to be ahead in development particularly as black's king is still in the centre (see diagram) and black's latest move has now created an opportunity.

William replied with 11. exd5 exd5 12. Bxf6 gxf6 and Black is unable to retake with the bishop 13. Bd3 0-0 and now Black castles behind an open g-file 14. Bf5 d4 15. Ne2 Bxf3 16. gxf3 Qd5 17. Qd3 Ra7 18. Bxh7+ Kh8 winning the pawn for white 19. Qe4 Qg5+ and black turns down the queen exchange 20. Kh1 Bd6 21. Rg1 Qe5 22. Qxe5 fxe5 23. Be4 f6 and now Williams rooks can close in for the kill 24. Rg6 Rff7 25. Rag1 Rf8 26. Rh6+ Rh7 27. Rxh7 mate.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XJ on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.
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