

The Summer Championship has recently finished being one of several competitions within the Lincoln Chess Club calendar. This is a long play event with players being given 75 minutes to complete their first 36 moves. This sounds like a long time but when you are engrossed in the game it is surprising how quickly the time goes. After the 36 move time control the clocks are put back 15 minutes and the game is then played to a finish.

This is the same as for league matches so it is good practice whereby players can get a feel for how much time they can spend thinking about their moves. This can be crucial, particularly in protracted games, and a case in point was the first match in this year's competition between club stalwarts Charles Moss and Richard Kerrigan where we pick up the game after Richard, as black, has just played 51. ...Rf7 (see diagram) well past the first time control and with each having about 15 minutes left on the clock there was no time to dwell. However Charles used his time wisely and his next move was a match winner, can you see what it is was?

Charles played 52. Bxe5 fxe5 53. Nxe5 Kg8 (not 53. ...Rf8 or 53. ...Rf6) 54. Nxf7 Kxf7 and now Charles' central pawns are a major threat 55. e5 Bg5 56. Rdd3 Re8 57. e6+ Bxe6 58. fxe6+ Rxe6+ leaving Charles with the advantage of the exchange and he went on to win.

Lincoln Chess Club hold's its AGM this coming Wednesday after which the Club Championship starts together with the league season ... a good time for new members to join - so if you're thinking about it - hopefully we'll see you at the club.

