

As promised last week, I am featuring the game between Boston's Kevin McCarthy and Lincoln's David Coates. This took place in the final round of the Lincolnshire County Championships where Kevin, with a maximum 4 points, needed a draw to become champion.

Play started with Kevin, as black, opening with the French Tarrasch Defence 1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nd2 c5 4. exd5 exd5 5. Ngf3 Nc6 6. Be2 Nf6 7. 0-0 Bd6 8. dxc5 Bxc5 9. Nb3 Bb6 10. Nbd4 0-0 11. Bf4 Bg4 12. c3 Re8 13. h3 Nxd4 14. Nxd4 Bxe2 15. Nxe2 Ne4 and honours are about event with black slightly the more advanced but with an isolated pawn on d5 16. Nd4 Qf6 17. Be3 Rad8 18. Qb3 Qg6 19. Rad1 Re5 20. Nf3 Rh5 and black is looking to build an attack on white's king (see diagram).

David responded with a blistering counter attack 21. Bxb6 axb6 22. Rd4 Rxh3 23. Rxd5 Nd6 24. Qxb6 and white two pawns up and with multiple threats including 25. Qxd8 and 25. gxh3 should the black queen stray from the g-file. Unable to save the knight black played 24. ...Re8 25. Qxd6 f6 26. Ne5 applying more pressure as 26. ...fxe5 27. Qxg6 hxg6 28. gxh3 or 26. ...Qg5 27. Qd7. As it happened play continued 26. ...Qh5 27. gxh3 fxe5 28. Qd7 leaving white a rook and a pawn up.

David took advantage with a neat finish 28. ...h6 29. Qg4 Qf7 30. Rd7 Qf8 31. Rfd1 e4 32. Re1 Re5 33. h4 h5 34. Qg2 Re6 35. Rxe4 Rh6 36. Ree7 Rh7 37. Qd5+ Kh8 38. Rd8 and black resigned. Still Kevin shared the championship with Ayman Hammam with David being rewarded with third place.

