

The format of the 4NCL Division 4 is eleven rounds spread over 5 week-ends finishing with 3 rounds on the bank holiday at the end of May 2007. Pandora's Box completed their second week-end with a match against Conquistadors I who would provide a stern test having narrowly missed out on promotion last season.

On board 6, Pandora's Boston based Kevin McCarthy was paired against thirteen year old Elliott Auckland from Crowborough in Sussex and we pick up the game after Kevin, as white, has just played 23. Qe2 with Kevin an exchange ahead from earlier in the game although black has a menacing bishop on b7 (see diagram).

Play continued 23. ...Nxg4 24. Qxg4 h5 25. Qe2 Qc6 26. f4 Nxe6 regaining a pawn 27. f5 gxf5 28. Rxf5 opening up black's king side 28. ...Qe4 29. Rf2 Rf8 30. Rxf8+ Kxf8 31. Rb2 Ng5 32. Qxh5 Qxe3+ 33. Rf2+ Kg7 34. Bf4 which seemingly wins the knight on g5 but young Elliot has an answer with 34. ...Nf3+ 35. gxf3 Qxf4.

However this has opened up the g-file allowing Kevin to set up a neat finish 36. Rg2+ Kf8 37. Qh8 Kf7 38. Qg8+ Kf6 39. Qf8+ Ke5 40. Re2+ the killer move as all black can do now is 40. ...Be4 41. Rxe4+ and black resigned.

Kevin was Pandora's only success but draws for Robert Taylor, Nigel Birtwistle, David Coates and Joe Kilshaw meant that the match finished 3-3 putting Lincolnshire's hopefuls just outside the promotion positions with 5 points.

You can follow their progress on www.PandorasBoxChessClub.org.uk and also on the 4NCL website on www.4ncl.co.uk.

