

Roger Clark is the subject of this week's article. Roger has been involved in chess for over 50 years and was a regular at Lincoln Chess Club in the days when they used to meet Unitarian Chapel on High Street.

Now in his seventies we still see Roger from time to time but for the last couple of years he has kept his hand in by playing for Lincolnshire in the Midland Counties correspondence chess competition.

In the latest campaign which finished recently he gained a win and a draw against John Calvert of Nottinghamshire. On board 16. In his game as black Roger opened with the Latvian Gambit. 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 f5 3. Nxe5 Nc6 4. Nxc6 dxc6 5. Nc3 Bc5 6. d3 Nf6 which left Roger a pawn down compensated by a more open position with greater potential for development 7. Qf3 Qe7 8. g3 fxe4 9. dxe4 and the latest exchange has opened up the f-file (see diagram).

Roger exploited this with 9. ...Ng4 10. Be3 Bxe3 11. fxe3 Rf8 12. Qe2 Nf2 13. Rg1 Bg4 14. Qd2 Rd8 15. Qc1 and Roger has chased white's queen away from the action - so now to a neat finish 15. ...Qf7 16. Be2 Bxe2 17. Nxe2 Nh3 (threatening 18. ...Qf2 mate) 18. Nf4 Nxg1 19. Kf2 Nh3+ 20. Kg2 Nxf4+ 21. exf4 Qc4 22. e5 Qe2+ 23. Kh1 Rd2 24. Qg1 Qf3+ and white resigned.

Roger's efforts enabled Lincolnshire to reach 20 points out of 32 putting us in second place behind reigning champions Warwickshire.

This year's competition has yet to start and we are looking for a couple of people to add to our team. If you are interested then please contact me.

