

Lincoln's David Coates took part in the British Championships held at the University of Wales in Swansea during the summer. He was seeded 21st out of 71 players in the 11 round Open Section so he was in with a chance of some prize money which ranged from £1000 for first prize down to £100 for 5th place.

In round 1 David was playing as white against one of the country's top juniors, thirteen year old Elliott Auckland from Kent, with the opening following Philidor Defence 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 exd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 Be7 6. Be2 0-0 7. 0-0 c6 8. a4 Nbd7 9. f4 Nc5 10. Bf3 Re8 and after the opening moves the battle concentrated on David's pawns on e4 and f4 11. Re1 a5 12. Be3 Bf8 13. Bf2 Ne6 14. Qd2 Nc7 indicating a change of tack by black after David's stout defence.

Play continued 15. Rad1 Ng4 16. Nb3 Nxf2 17. Qxf2 Qf6 18. f5 d5 forcing a rapid exchange of pieces 19. exd5 Rxe1+ 20. Rxe1 Nxd5 21. Nxd5 cxd5 22. Bxd5 Qxb2 23. g4 Qf6 leaving the game materially equal but with David's pieces more active (see diagram).

David played 24. Re8 paralysing both of black's bishops Qd6 25. Qc5 Qxc5 26. Nxc5 Rb8 27. Nd7 and black is forced to concede the exchange Bxd7 28. Rxb8 Bxa4 29. Rxb7 Bxc2 30. Bxf7+ Kh8 31. Rb8 and black resigned.

David ended the competition in a slightly disappointing equal 13th place with 6½ points out of 11, above his starting position but unfortunately out of pocket although he did draw with eventual winner Jonathan Hawkins from Consett who finished with 9 points.

