

This week I want to highlight a game played by county captain Denis Georgiou in the recent match against Leicestershire. Denis, who is also the secretary of Scunthorpe Chess club and chairman of the Lincolnshire Chess Association, was playing James Miller from Loughborough whose grade of 155 was 19 points above Denis.

Denis, as black, responded to 1. e4 with his favoured Sicilian Defence 1. ... c5 2. Nf3 d6. James then played 3. c4 in preference to the conventional 3. d4 and Denis replied 3. ...e5 which prevents 4. d4, the Maroczy Bind which is normally stronger for white whereas this position gives a symmetrical blocked centre where each side has to play on the flanks. Black's chances are better as f4 and b4 are white's play with f5 and b5 being black's strategy. By playing Ne7 black can play f5 with white's knight on f3 preventing f4.

Play continued 4. Nc3 g6 5. d3 Bg7 6. Be2 Ne7 7. Be3 0-0 8. Qd2 Nbc6 9. 0-0 f5, as predicted by Denis, attacking the centre and giving black better options on the kings side, 10. g3 Nd4 11. Bg5 Nxe2+ 12. Qxe2 h6 13. Bxe7 Qxe7 14. Nh4 Kh7 15. Nd5 Qf7 16. Rb1 f4 17. gxf4 exf4 18. Qf3 h5 19. h3 Be5 20. Kh2 Rg8 21. Rg1 g5 and black's king side pawns look menacing.

Denis continued the advance 22. Nf5 Bxf5 23. exf5 g4 24. Qe4 Raf8 25. Ne7 Bf6 26. Nxc8 Qxc8 27. f3 g3+ 28. Kg2 Re8 29. Qxb7+ Re7 30. Qc6 Re2+ and black now has control of the seventh rank (see diagram) 31. Kf1 Rf2+ 32. Ke1 Qf7 33. Qe4 Bd4 34. Qxf4 Qe7+ 35. Qe4 Qxe4+ 36. fxe4 Rh2 37. Kf1 h4 38. b4 cxb4 39. Rxb4 Rf2+ and white resigned as 40. Ke1 Bc3+ wins the rook.

Denis can be found at Scunthorpe Chess Club who meet at Brumby Hall, Ashby Road on Monday and Friday evenings.

