

Lincolnshire's team in the 4NCL, Pandora's Box, played their third game of the season against Weald Collective II at the Park Inn Hotel in West Bromwich. With 2 points from their opening matches, a good result was needed against one of the division's weaker teams.

On board 3 Boston's Nick Payne was paired against twelve year old Alex Galliano from East Grinstead graded 127 compared with Nick's 168 suggested that Nick would be favourite, but you can never underestimate these up and coming young players.

The opening, with Nick as white, followed the Hungarian Defence 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. d3 Nf6 5. Nc3 d6 6. h3 Na5 7. Bg5 Nxc4 8. dxc4 c6 and this exchange has left Nick with doubled c-pawns 9. O-O Be6 10. Qd3 h6 11. Be3 Bxe3 12. fxe3 Qc7 and now Nick's e-pawns are also doubled so he needed to be on his mettle.

Play continued 13. b4 O-O 14. Nh4 a5 15. a3 axb4 16. axb4 Qb6 17. Rab1 Ra3 18. Nf5 Bxf5 19. exf5 partly restoring the pawn structure but black played 19. ...Ne4 forcing the exchange 20. Qxe4 Rxc3 and black's rook is in amongst Nick's pawns 21. c5 dxc5 22. Qxe5 leading to the position in the diagram.

Black's next move should have been 22. ...Rxc2 winning the pawn but the exuberance of youth lead Alex to play 22. ...cxb4 which was a mistake, can you see why?

Nick played 23. Qxc3 and black resigned as 24. bxc3 Rxb6 would leave white a rook to the good. Wins for Robert Taylor, Nigel Birtwistle and Joe Kilshaw combined with draws for David Coates and Kevin McCarthy give Pandora a 5-1 win.

