

This week I want to look back to the county match where Lincolnshire were thrown into the deep end with a Midland Counties major semi-final against the might of Greater Manchester where on board 12 Rick Davey from Scunthorpe, with a grade of 117, had his work cut out as his opponent David Knox from Chorlton-cum-Hardy was graded 162.

The game started with Rick, as black, defending with his favourite Polish opening which advances the queen's pawns whilst conceding control of the centre to white 1. e4 a6 2. d4 b5 3. c3 Bb7 4. Bd3 e6 5. Nf3 c5 6. 0-0 c4 7. Bc2 Nf6 8. Re1 Be7 9. Bg5 0-0 10. Nbd2 d6 11. Qe2 Nc6 12. Rad1 Qc7. White now used his advantage to mount an attack on Rick's king 13. Bxf6 Bxf6 14. e5 Be7 15. Qe4 g6 16. Qf4 dxe5 17. dxe5 f5.

As an aside (see diagram), this last move 17. ...f5 could be followed by 18. exf6 (en passant) where the e pawn would take the f pawn "in passing" between f7 and f5. In this case white chose not to make the move as 18. ...Qxf4 would follow. However, the en passant move can only be made on the move after the original pawn move, in this case on move 18, and not subsequently.

Anyway, play continued 18. h4 Rad8 19. h5 Rf7 20. Ng5 Bxg5 21. Qxg5 Qe7 22. Nf3 Rxd1 23. Rxd1 Qxg5 24. Nxc6 Re7 25. hxc6 hxc6 26. f4 Bc8 27. Rd6 Bd7 28. Nxe6 and it looks like Rick is a pawn down as 28. ...Bxe6 29. Rxc6 but recovered with 28. ...Nxe5 29. fxe5 Bxe6 and a draw was agreed.

