

The Lincolnshire Correspondence Team which competes for the Ritson Morry Trophy against other counties in the Midland Counties has been strengthened this year by the acquisition of a couple of new players. One of these is Nick Payne who plays over the board chess for Lincolnshire's county team, Boston in Lincolnshire League Division 1 and Grantham in the Nottingham League. He has joined our 16 man squad on board 4 and was paired against Ray Gogerty of Staffordshire.

Each player plays two games against the same opponent and in the game where Nick was black play followed an unusual opening 1. Nf3 Nf6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 c5 4. e3 Nc6 5. Be2 Bg4 6. dxc5 e5 7. h3 Bxf3 8. Bxf3 e4 9. Be2 Bxc5 and Nick already had the initiative with control of the centre.

Play continued 10. 0-0 0-0 11. a3 Rc8 12. b4 Bd6 13. f4 exf3 14. Bxf3 Ne5 15. Nxd5 and the critical phase of the game has been reached (see diagram) with Nick looks as if he is now a pawn down but in fact this was a neat little trap that his opponent fell into.

The trap was sprung with 15. ...Nxf3+ 16. gxf3 Nxd5 and white cannot play 17. Qxd5 as Bh2+ 18. Kxh2 Qxd5. White soldiered on with 17. f4 Nc3 18. Qe1 Ne4 19. Ra2 Be7 20. Qd1 Qxd1 and white resigned as 21. Rxd1 Nc3 wins the exchange.

Nick also won his other game starting Lincolnshire's ball rolling with a 2-0 win, hopefully he and Jason Dilley, the other new comer, can help us to improve on last year where we came third (out of 6 counties) with 15 points.

