

One of the county's hitherto unsung heroes is Mike Colebrook. A stalwart of Grimsby Chess Club for several years Mike is also active in county chess being the secretary of the Lincolnshire Chess Association and also secretary of the Lincolnshire Leagues. Last year he took early retirement from Cherry Valley where he was Operations manager and now has more time and thus was able to play in this year's Ritson Morry correspondence tournament where he was paired on board 12 against Brian Thompson of Nottinghamshire.

In Mike's game where he had black, play started with the King's Indian 1. d4 Nf6 2. c4 g6 3. Nc3 Bg7 4. e4 d6 5. Nf3 0-0 6. Be2 c5 7. d5 Bg4 8. 0-0 Nbd7 with honours even in this sedate opening 9. h3 Bxf3 10. Bxf3 Ne5 11. Be2 a5 12. f4 Ned7 13. Be3 Re8 14. Qb3 and the central pawns give white an advantage.

Play continued 14. ... e6 15. dxe6 Rxe6 16. Qxb7 Rb8 17. Qc6 and white has the extra pawn but has his queen fallen into a trap? (see diagram) 17. ... d5 18. Qa4 d4 (forking knight and bishop) 19. e5 dxc3 20. bxc3 Nxe5 21. fxe5 Rxe5 22. Bf4 Bxe2 23. Bxb8 Qxb8 and Mike is now ahead having a rook and two pieces against two rooks.

Mike pressed home the advantage 24. Qxa5 Ne4 25. Qb5 Qxb5 26. cxb5 Bxc3 27. Rb1 Bd4+ and white resigned at the prospect of 28. Kh1 Ng3+ or Kh2 Nd2. Mike won his other game becoming the 4th member of the team to score 2-0 giving the team 11 points from 9 matches so far. Last year we came equal 3rd with 17 points.

