

Lincolnshire's county season in Division 1 continued with a visit to the Acordis staff canteen at Spaldon near Derby, an old stamping ground and a suitable half way venue for our match against Shropshire.

The grades were evenly matched so we were hopeful of a good result and on board 14 Lincolnshire league secretary and Grimsby stalwart Mike Colebrook was black against Peter Crean from Shrewsbury with the opening loosely following the Sicilian Dragon 1. Nf3 c5 2. e4 Nc6 3. Be2 d6 4. c3 Nf6 5. d3 g6 6. 0-0 Bg7 7. Re1 0-0 with white preferring a closed game with 5. d3.

Play continued 8. Be3 Bd7 9. h3 Rc8 10. Qd2 e5 11. Bh6 Nh5 12. Bxg7 Kxg7 13. Na3 Nf4 and Mike's knight looks threatening 14. Nc4 Be6 15. Ne3 Ne7 16. b3 f5 17. Ng5 Bd7 18. exf5 Nxf5 19. Nxf5 Bxf5 20. Nf3 Rc7 21. Rad1 Qd7 22. Bf1 and white sees the threat but its too late (see diagram) to prevent 22. ...Bxh3 23. Qe3 Bxg2 24. Nxe5 Qh3 25. Qxh3 Bxh3 26. Nc4 and Mike has a pawn advantage.

The attack continues 26. ...Rf6 27. Ne3 Rcf7 28. Bxh3 Nxf3+ 29. Kg2 Nxf2 30. Rd2 h5 31. Ree2 Ng4 32. Nxf3 hxg4 33. Kg3 Kh6 34. Kxg4 Rf4+ 35. Kg3 Rf3+ 36. Kg2 Kh5 37. Re6 and white tries to redeem the situation but Mike takes advantage of the exposed king 37. ...g5 38. Rxd6 Kg4 39. Rd5 Rg3+ 40. Kh1 Rf1+ 41. Kh2 Rh3+ 42. Kg2 Rfh1 43. Kf2 Kf4 44. Ke2 R3h2 mate.

A win for Mark Stephens and draws for Jason Dilley, Geoff Collyer, Allan Marshall, Mike Kelly and Hannah Dale meant a disappointing day for Lincolnshire as they lost 1½ to 4½.

