

This week's celebrity is Richard Davey ,or Rick to his friends, who plays for Scunthorpe Chess Club. Rick, who recently retired after working for forty years at Scunthorpe Steel Works found himself playing for Lincolnshire in the open county match against Leicestershire.

Rick was paired on board 15 against the Leicestershire captain Graham Booley and as white opened with 1. b4, the Polish opening, unusual but one that Rick has made his own at club level against which many an opponent, including myself, has come a cropper. 1. ... d5 2. Bb2 Bf5 3. Nf3 e6 4. e3 Nf6 5. b5 Nbd7 6. Be2 Bd6 7. d4 Rc8 8. 0-0 Qe7 9. Nbd2 b6 10. c4 Ne4 11. cxd5 exd5 and Graham is probably slightly ahead on development but has yet to castle.

Play continued 12. Qb3 Bg4 13. Rfe1 Bb4 14. Rad1 Bxf3 15. Nxf3 Bxe1 16. Rxe1 winning the exchange ... Ndf6 17. Ne5 Nd2 18. Qc2 Nde4 19. Qc6+ Kf8 thus denying black the chance to castle, 20. Qb7 Nd6 21. Qxa7 Qe8 22. Ba3 Ra8 23. Qxc7 Rxa3 24. Qxd6+ Qe7 25. Qxb6 Rxa2 and Rick's position looks a bit better (see diagram).

Rick's next move was a master stroke 26. Rc1 Rxe7 although loosing the bishop 27. g3 g6 28. Rc8+ Kg7 29. Rc7 Qb4 30. Rxf7+ Kh6 31. Qxf6 it opened up black's defence, 31 ... Qb1+ 32. Kg2 Qe4+ 33. Kh3 Qf5+ 34. Ng4+ and black reigned unable to stop 34. Kh5 35. Qh4 mate without loosing his queen.

Rick's win was Lincolnshire's only success on the day as we were outgraded by about 20 points a man. Draws for Bernard Pratten, also from Scunthorpe, Ross Blake from Grantham, Geoff Collyer from Boston and Lincoln's Herman Kok and Ian McDonald meant that Leicestershire easily won by 12½ points to 3½.

Scunthorpe Chess Club meet every Monday and Friday at Brumby Hall off Ashby Road.

