

David Coates has sent me one of his games from the recently held Hull Congress played in the University of Hull Students Union where he was playing in the Open Section in a field of 17 competitors.

In round 4 David was paired as white against Tony Slinger from York and we pick up the game after black has just played 25. ...Ka8 (see diagram) with both players poised to advance their pawns against the king's defense.

However it is David who takes the initiative with 26. b5 Bxa3 27. Rxa3 Nxb5 28. Nxb5 axb5 29. a6 Nb6 30. axb7+ Kxb7 and this series of exchanges has opened up the a-file for David's rooks 31. Rca1 Nc4 32. Ra7+ Kb8 33. Bxc4 dxc4 34. Qa3 Qd8 35. Qc5 Bb7 which brings the game to an interesting position. You'll have to play it through, I'm afraid, but the post game analysis showed that David missed a better move, can you spot it?

David could have played 36. Rxb7+ leading to 36. ...Kxb7 37. Ra7+ Kb8 38. Rf7 and black must lose material to stop 39. Qa7+. As it was David played 36. Rxa8+ Bxa8 37. Qa7+ Kc8 38. Qxa8+ Kd7 sacrificing the exchange 39. Ra7+ Kf8 40. Qc5+ Ke8 41. Qc6+ Kf8 42. Ra8 but winning the queen and black resigned a few moves later.

David scored 3 out of 5, including a creditable draw against John Cooper from Hull who won the Lincoln Rapidplay in August, finishing equal 3<sup>rd</sup> and a sixth share of the £50 prize.

Meanwhile the Nottingham Rapidplay is due to take place on 18th February. Details from Robert Richmond on 0115 945 5908.

