

David Coates' game against Nick Fallowfield in the match between Lincolnshire and Worcestershire is an example of a match that many of us have experienced, as both winners and losers, where victory is plucked from the jaws of defeat.

The opening, with David as white, followed the Alekhine Defence 1. e4 Nf6 2. e5 Nd5 3. d4 d6 4. Nf3 dxe5 5. Nxe5 c6 6. h3 Bf5 7. Bc4 e6 8. 0-0 Nd7 9. Nf3 Be7 10. Bd2 0-0 and in a quiet opening black seems to have the edge in development.

Play continued 11. Nc3 Bf6 12. Nxd5 cxd5 13. Bb3 Rc8 and this latest exchange has opened up the c file and pressure is mounting on the pawn on c2 14. Bf4 b5 15. a4 b4 so 16. c3 is not an option 16. a5 Nb8 17. Ne5 Nc6 18. Nxc6 Rxc6 19. Qd2 Be7 20. Rfe1 Qc8 21. Rac1 Qb7 22. Qe2 Bf6 23. Be5 Bxe5 24. Qxe5 Bg6 25. Qe2 Rfc8 and all of black's daggers seem to be pointing at c2 and with the prospect of 26. ...Qc7 there seems little hope for the beleaguered pawn (see diagram).

But just as black is about to reach his moment of triumph David played his masterstroke can you see what it was?

David played 26. Bxd5 and black resigned immediately as 26. ...exd5 27. Qe8+ Rxe8 28. Rxe8 mate helping Lincolnshire to a win by 8½ to 7½.

Meanwhile, the Lincolnshire County Championship is due to take place on April 21 & 22 at Lincoln Chess Club. This is a five round swiss tournament with good prizes on offer. Entry forms are at the club, tournament organizer Denis Georgiou can be contacted on 01652-652949.

