

Lincolnshire's team in the Minor Counties competition played their second match in the Midland Counties group stages when they played Greater Manchester at the neutral venue of Handsworth near Sheffield. Last season Greater Manchester were in the Major Counties competition but have elected to drop down a notch but were still likely to provide stiff opposition. However, two late withdrawals defaulting the bottom two boards did not help Manchester's cause.

On board 10 Grantham's Ivan David was paired as black against Kamran Ahmadi from Denton and we pick up the game after the sequence 44. a4 b5 45. a5 with white turning down the offer of an exchange of pawns (see diagram).

In a protracted end-game Ivan played 45. ...Nf6 46. Bd2 Nxf4 47. Bxg5 Nf2+ 48. Kc2 (not 48. Kc3 Ne4+) b4 allowing Ivan to concentrate on the remaining pawns with a5 now available to his king. As forecast 49. Bd8 Kb5 50. Bc7 Ne4 51. Kd3 Kc6 52. Bb6 Nf6 53. Ke3 and Ivan now looking to manoeuvre his knight to attack a5.

Ivan closed in with 53. ...Kb5 54. Kf4 Ne4 55. Ke3 Nd6 56. Kd3 - a mistake on white's part as 56. Kf4 would probably resulted in a draw - 56. ...Nb7 57. Kc2 Nxa5 winning the pawn and he went on to win a few moves later.

Wins also for Grantham's Paul Cumbers, Nick Stead from Grimsby and Samuel Milson from Louth together with draws for Claudio Mangione, Daniel Wells, Denis Georgiou, Alastair Summers, Stuart MacDonald, Geoff Collyer and Ian McDonald together with the two defaults gave Lincolnshire a comfortable 10-6 victory maintaining their 100% record this season.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the RAOB Club, 58 South Park on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. www.lincolncchessclub.co.uk

