

Lincolnshire's team in the Under 120 grade competition were in action with a match against Nottinghamshire played at Lincoln Chess Club's venue on South Park. Captain John Grasham had stood down in this match to allow some of the county's junior players to get some valuable experience.

One such junior is 18 year old Tom Claxton who is in his final year at The King's School in Grantham where a strong chess club has been established. In this match Tom was paired as white on board 4 against Sally McIntosh from Ashfield and we pick up the game after Sally has just played 18. ...Nd5 (see diagram) perhaps hoping for 19. Nxd5 cxd5 to re-establish her pawn structure. Tom instead played 19. Ne5 Nxc3 20. bxc3 meaning that both players had doubled pawns on the c-file.

Tom was better placed to take advantage 20. ...c5 21. Rc4 Rb8 22. Nd3 Rb1+ 23. Rf1 Rxf1+ 24. Kxf1 Bd7 25. a4 Rf5 26. Nxc5 and Tom won the pawn with further threats so Sally felt that 26. ...Rxc5 27. Rxc5 Bxa4 28. Rxc7 Bxc2 losing the exchange was her best option 29. Rc6 Kf7 30. Kf2 (not 30. Rxa6 Bd3+) a5 31. Ra6 a4 and she still has the threat of the passed pawn 32. c4 h5 33. h4 Ke7 34. Ke3 Bb3 35. Kd4 Kd7 36. c5 Bd5 37. Rxa4 Bxg2 38. Ra3 Kc7 39. Rg3 Bf1 40. Rxc6 and black resigned.

Draws for Charles Moss, Chris Cumbers and Will Seed were Lincolnshire's only other contributions as Nottinghamshire ran out winners 9½ to 2½ but the experience is more important.

Further details of the King's School Chess Club can be found on the school web-site  
<http://kingschesscoaching.weebly.com/index.html>

