

Lincolnshire's team in the Under 120 grade competition were in action again. Having lost their first three matches, their first season in this competition has been a steep learning curve - but this was envisaged when captain and league secretary John Grasham volunteered to take on the roll last year.

In this match Lincolnshire were up against Staffordshire Terriers one of two Staffordshire teams fielded at this level, the others being the Bulldogs, and in this match Paul Chaplin, chairman of Grimsby Chess Club, was paired on board 5 as white against Stuart Hull from Fenton and we pick up the game after black has just played 26. ...Nf8 (from e6 - see diagram) perhaps hoping for an exchange of queens and rooks - however Paul found a better move - can you see it?

Paul played 27. Bxf8+ Kxf8 28. Qxf6+ winning a pawn and exposing black's king to a menacing attack 28. ...Nf7 29. Rf1 Re2+ 30. Kg1 Qb7 31. Qh8+ Ke7 32. Ng6+ Kd6 33. Rf6+ Re6 34. Rxe6+ Kxe6 35. Re1+ and Paul now has all his pieces involved in the attack while black's queen and rook are sidelined 35. ...Kf5 36. Nh4+ Kg4 37. Qg7+ Kh3 38. Qf6 Qd7 and black makes a belated attempt to stem the flow but it is too late as Paul finished off his opponent with 39. Qf1+ Kg4 40. Kg2 Ng5 41. Qe2+ and black resigned as he loses a piece after 41. ...Nf3 42. Qxf3+.

A win also for Francis Birkbeck from Louth and draws for Spalding captain Frank Robinson, Chris Cumbers from Grantham, 13 year old James Wilson and 15 year old Nathan McKiernon - both from King's School Grantham - meant that the Terriers ran out winners 8-4.

Find out more about Grimsby Chess Club, who meet at St.James School, Bargate at [www.grimsbychessclub.co.uk](http://www.grimsbychessclub.co.uk)

