

The now regular Junior Rapidplay Tournaments continued recently but with a new venue - St. James School in Bargate Grimsby. Aply supervised by Robert Dale and the Grimsby Chess Club chairman Paul Chaplin the tournament attracted 18 of the county's up and coming players.

With the large contingent from King's School Grantham unavailable it was a chance for some of the other youngsters to show what they were made of. Overall winner was Max Vasey from Caistor Grammar School with 4½ points out of 5 with Cameron Marnoch from Cordeaux School in Louth and Charles Baird from Skegness Grammar School in joint second place on 4 points.

The object of the tournament is to provide opportunities for young players to learn by playing against better opponents and Robert was particularly impressed by Cameron who has faithfully come along to several of the previous tournaments with a gradual improvement but turned the corner in this tournament by winning his first 4 games losing only to Max in the deciding last game.

Robert spotted the following game in the final round where Tom Spencer, one of a number of good young players from Grimsby Chess Club, was playing black where his opponent had just played 21. Nxe6 forking queen and rook (see diagram).

However, it was not plain sailing for white as Tom played 21. ...Qf6 22. 0-0 Bxf2+ 23. Rxf2 Qxf2+ 24. Kh1 Qf1+ 25. Qxf1 Rxf1 mate. Robert noted that white had a couple of opportunities to escape with 22. Qg4 or 22. Ne4 and later with 23. Kh1 but then these mistakes are how the youngsters learn.

Look out for the next Junior Rapidplay which will take place alongside the Lincolnshire County Championships at the Lindum Group in North Hykeham on July 14.

