

Lincolnshire's team in the Under 120 grade competition started this season's campaign against Worcestershire at the neutral venue of Thurmaston Old School near Leicester. Now in their second season under the captaincy of Louth and Lincolnshire Chess Association secretary John Grasham the team provides an opportunity for younger players to gain valuable experience and of the 12 players in the team 7 were under 18 with Neelay Sant from Boston Grammar School being the pick of the juniors with a good win taking advantage of the blunder by his opponent.

This week's game features captain John Grasham who was paired as white on board 3 against Michele Clack and we pick up the game after black has just played 20. ...Qxa2 (see diagram) winning a pawn so John has it all to do.

Play continued 21. cxb5 axb5 and black's queen side pawns are looking menacing 22. h5 Qc4+ 23. Nc3 b4 24. Qe2 Ra1+ 25. Kc2 b3+ 26. Kd2 Qd4+ 27. Ke1 Rxd1+ 28. Qxd1 Qb4 29. h6+ Kg8 and after surviving black's attack John's pawn on h6 has blocked an escape route for black's king.

John began a counter attack with 30. Qf3 Nd7 31. Qh3 Rd8 32. Ke2 Qd4 33. Ra1 bringing his rook into play 33. ...Qc4+ 34. Qd3 Qxd3+ 35. Kxd3 Rc8 36. Nb5 c4+ 37. Kc3 Rc5 38. Ra8+ Nf8 39. Nxd6 Rc7 40. Ne8 and now John as the upper hand as he is threatening 41. Nf6+ and 42. Rxf8 mate. Black played 40. ...f5 41. Nxc7 and then resigned.

Only Richard Coats from Spalding was the only other contributor with a draw giving Worcestershire the spoils by 12½ to 2½.

Louth Chess Club play at St.James Church Hall every Tuesday at 7pm.

