

Lincolnshire's team in the Minor Counties competition played the third of their Midland Counties group fixtures when they played Leicestershire at the Lindum Group atrium on Station Road in North Hykeham. Having won their first 2 matches they wanted to continue their good run although Leicestershire, who they lost to last season, were no push over.

On board 2 Paul Cumbers, once a regular for Lincoln but who now lives in Sheffield, was paired as black on board 2 against Alan Byron from Wigston and we pick up the game after white has just played 24. dxe5 after an exchange of pawns (see diagram) materially equal but with Paul's queen and rook on h8 well placed. Paul's next move initiated a match winning attack - can you see it?

Paul played 24. ...Ng3 with white unable to play 25. fxe3 so he played 25. Bh3 Bb5 adding a strongly placed bishop to the attack 26. Bb2 Nef5 27. Nc3 Rxc3 28. Bxc3 and Paul sacrificed the exchange to protect the bishop on b5 28. ...Ne2+ 29. Kh1 Qxf2 30. Qg5 Nf4 and white resigned as 31. ...Nxe3 32. gxe3 Rxe3 mate cannot be prevented without loss of material.

Wins also for Claudio Mangione and David Coates from Lincoln, captain Nigel Birtwistle from Grantham and Stuart MacDonald of Grimsby and draws for Nick Stead, Steven Prior, Harry Russell, Keith Palmer, Ivan David, Kevin McCarthy, Alastair Summers and Graham Ladds ensured a 9-7 win for Lincolnshire, and with one match left in the group stages they are well placed to advance to the national quarter finals.

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

