

Lincolnshire's team in the under 120 grade competition continued this season's campaign when they played Staffordshire at the pleasant surroundings of St.Hilda's church hall in East Goscote near Leicester. This was a neutral venue, normal when an East Midland's county play a West Midland's county, in this the second round of the Midland counties group stages.

On board 9 Lincoln's Paul Fischer was paired as black against Simon Jones from Bushbury with the opening following the Scotch game 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 exd4 4. Nxd4 Bc5 5. Be3 Qf6 6. c3 Nge7 7. Bc4 d6 8. 0-0 0-0 and both players have castled with all pieces still on the board.

All this changed as play continued 9. Nxc6 Nxc6 10. Nd2 Bb6 11. Qe2 Ne5 12. Bxb6 axb6 13. Bb3 Be6 14. Bxe6 fxe6 and in a series of exchanges Paul has opened up the f-file 15. Nc4 Ng6 16. Qe3 e5 17. a3 Nf4 also giving Paul a well-placed knight 18. Qf3 Qg6 19. Ne3 Rf7 20. Nf5 Raf8 21. Rael Qg5 22. Qg3 Qh5 23. Qh4 and after a bit of cat and mouse between the queens the position in the diagram is reached. However Paul found a winning move - can you see it?

Paul played 23. ...Rxf5 winning the piece as 24. Qxh5 Rxh5 followed and Paul went on to win. Wins also for Frank Robinson from Spalding and Ian Foard from Sleaford, Callum's dad who stepped in at the last minute, and draws for Henreike van der Knijff, Callum Foard, William Orr and Will Taylor was not quite enough as Staffordshire won 7-5.

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

