

Lincolnshire's team in the Under 120 grade competition continued their season when they played Worcestershire at the neutral venue of the Old School in Thurmaston in Leicestershire.

Having lost narrowly to Nottinghamshire in the first match Lincolnshire needed a good result with the aim of finishing in the top three of the five teams enabling them to progress to the national stages.

On board 12 Phil Gutcher from Grimsby was paired as white against Frank Cassidy from the Greenlands Chess Club in Longbridge with the opening following the King's gambit declined 1. e4 e5 2. f4 d6 3. Nf3 Nc6 4. Bc4 h6 5. 0-0 Nf6 6. Nc3 Be7 7. d4 and Phil applies the pressure to the centre 7. ...exd4 8. Nxd4 Nxd4 9. Qxd4 0-0 resulting in his queen taking a central position.

Play continued 10. Kh1 Be6 11. Bxe6 fxe6 12. h3 Nh7 13. Be3 Bf6 and black tries to counter Phil's queen 14. Qc4 Qd7 15. f5 but this only results in the pressure being applied to the pawn on e6 15. ...d5 16. exd5 exd5 17. Nxd5 and Phil now has multiple threats (see diagram).

Black played 17. ...c6 but this opened the door for discovered check 18. Nxf6+ Kh8 19. Nxd7 winning black's queen 19. ...Rfd8 20. Ne5 Rd5 21. Ng6+ Kg8 22. Ne7+ and black resigned as his rook falls as well.

Wins for Francis Birkbeck and Peter Damms from Louth, Chris Cumbers and Will Taylor from Grantham, Graeme Rae from Horncastle and Frank Robinson from Spalding plus draws for Kishore Murugesh, Andy Pollock, Paul Fischer and captain William Orr gave Lincolnshire an emphatic win by 9 points to 3.

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

