

Lincolnshire's team in the U120 competition played their third match in the Midland Counties qualifying competition when they played Staffordshire at the neutral venue of the Old School at Thurmaston near Leicester.

Having lost narrowly to Nottinghamshire and beaten Worcestershire in their previous matches a good result was needed as the top three counties in the group of five go forward to the national finals.

On board 2 thirteen year old David Scott from Louth who is rapidly becoming one of Lincolnshire's top junior players was paired as black against David Johnson from Kidsgrove and we pick up the game after white has just played 17. Bb3 (see diagram) allowing David to play 17. ...Bb5 pinning the knight on e2. White played 18. c4 thinking that this would block the bishop but lost this pawn after 18. ...Nxc4 19. Bxc4 Bxc4 20. Kf2 Rfe8 21. Rfe1 Rad8 22. Racl Bxe2 23. Rxe2 c6 24. b3 Rd7 25. Rcc2 Rde7 26. Rcd2 h6 27. g3 Kg7 28. h3 Re6 29. Rd7 Kg6 30. Rxb7 and David appears to have given away the pawn advantage but this was a trap as he now played 30. ...Bd4 winning the piece as 31. Bxd4 Rxe2+ would follow. In fact white played 31. Rd7 Bxe3+ and David went on to win a few moves later.

Wins also for Andy Pollock from Grimsby, Graeme Rae from Horncastle and Will Taylor from Grantham plus draws for Mark Newstead and Phil Gutcher meant that the match score finished as a 6-6 draw.

Nottinghamshire have won the section by winning all their 4 matches so the remaining two qualification places now depend on the final round of matches when Lincolnshire play Warwickshire.

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

