

Lincolnshire's team in the Minor Counties competition were in action against Essex in the national quarter-finals played at Peterborough Chess Club made available by Francis Bowers. Having lost in the national finals last season Lincolnshire were hoping for another good run in this season's competition.

On board 1 Lincolnshire's Chris Dorrington from Grantham was paired as white against Jonathan Rogers from Ilford and we pick up the game black has just played 26. ...Re3 (see diagram) attacking Chris's bishop on g3. Chris played 27. Bxh2 Rf2+ 28. Kc3 Nxb2 and it looks like Chris has lost a piece. However, he found a response in 29. Rc8+ Be8 30. Rxe8+ Rxe8 31. Bxe8 regaining the piece and is now a pawn to the good.

Work was still needed to press home the advantage 31. ...g5 32. c5 Ng4 33. Bg6 Nf6 34. c6 Kg7 35. c7 Nd5+ 36. Kb2 Nxc7 37. Bxh7 maintaining the advantage Ne6 38. Kc3 Kf6 39. d4 g4 40. Rh6 Ke7 41. d5 Nf4 42. d6+ Ke8 43. Be4 Ne2+ 44. Kd3 Kd7 45. c4 Nc1+ 46. Ke3 Re2+ 47. Kf4 Nxa2 48. Bf5+ Kd8 49. Bxg4 regaining the advantage Re8 50. Rh7 Rf8+ 51. Ke5 Nb4 52. Rb7 Nd3+ 53. Kd4 Rf4+ 54. Kxd3 Rxg4 55. Rxa7 and black resigned.

Wins also for Paul Cumbers, Keith Palmer, Alastair Summers and Andy Hebert plus draws for Samuel Milson, Nigel Birtwistle, Jason Dilley, Harry Russell, Stuart Williams, Peter Cusick, Murray Smith, Ivan David and Chris Holt meant that Lincolnshire won by 9½ to 6½.

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

