

The Lincolnshire County Championships were held recently at the Lindum Business Park in North Hykeham thanks again to Lindum Director and Lincoln Chess Club stalwart Herman Kok. A field of 26 players, split into two sections Open and Under 150, contested the 5 round competition played over 2 days. There were 10 in the Open section and 16 in the U150 (more about them next week).

In the Open section the main contenders were Chris Dorrington from Grantham and Murray Smith from Lincoln. Both players won their opening games and then drew with each other in round 2. Both then won their games in rounds 3 and 4 and it looked like a win for both in round 5 would see the trophy shared. However, Murray could only draw so Chris's win meant that he was crowned champion for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in 4 years.

Chris's best game came in round 3 when he was paired as white against Samuel Milson from Louth with the opening following the Vienna game 1. e4 e5 2. Nc3 Nc6 3. f4 with Chris attacking the centre with his f pawn but risking leaving his king open 3. ...d6 4. Nf3 g6 5. Bc4 Bg7 6. 0-0 but has managed to castle safely.

Play continued 6. ...Be6 7. Bxe6 fxe6 8. fxe5 Nxe5 9. Nxe5 Bxe5 and the exchange of pieces has left Chris with an open f file attacked by his rook 10. d4 Bg7 11. Qd3 c6 12. d5 Qc8 13. Bg5 e5 14. dxc6 Qxc6 (see diagram) - Chris's next move opens up black's defence - can you see it?

Chris played 15. Nb5 Bf8 16. Qb3 threatening 17. Qf7+ so black played 16. ...Qd7 but Chris played 17. Rad1 and black resigned.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the RAOB Club, 58 South Park on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. [www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk](http://www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk)

