

As reported last week this year's Lincolnshire County Championship was split into two sections the Open and the Under 150 grade. Last week's column featured Chris Dorrington's game in the Open so this week I am concentrating on the Under 150 graded section where 16 players met to compete in the five round swiss tournament.

The first 4 rounds were dominated by Jules Brown from Lincoln who won all of his matches to lead the tournament by 1 point ahead of a group of players on 3 points.

The best of his games was in round 3 when he was paired as white against John Grasham who is secretary of both Louth and Horncastle Chess Clubs, Lincolnshire Chess Association and also the Midland Counties Chess Union and we pick up the game after John has played 11. ...h6 (see diagram) attempting to force Jules's knight on g5 to retreat. Instead Jules played 12. Nxc5 dxc5 13. c3 hxg5 14. cxd4 exd4 15. Bxg5 exchanging the knights instead but finishing materially equal 15. ...Rg6 16. Qh5 Qe8 17. g4 (a wise move as 17. Bxe7 might win the exchange but 17. ...Rxc7 wins the queen) Nc6 and Jules now advanced his king side pawns 18. f4 e5 19. f5 Rd6 20. Qxe8+ Rxe8 21. a3 b5 22. Rac1 an oversight on black's part as 22. ...c4 23. dxc4 bxc4 24. Rxc4 wins the pawn for white although black now has a passed pawn on d4.

Play continued 24. ... Rb8 25. b4 a5 26. bxa5 Nxa5 27. Rxc7 winning another pawn which black seeks to recover with 27. ...Rb3 28. Kg2 d3 29. Rd1 Rd4 30. Rc8+ Kh7 31. Rd8 Rxd8 32. Bxd8 Rxa3 recovering the pawn but Jules now played 33. Bxa5 Rxa5 34. Rxd3 and Jules went on to win a few moves later.

Next week will feature the game in the final round between Jules and Adam Robinson, one of the chasing group on 3 points.

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

