

Lincolnshire's team in the Under 140 grade competition played their opening match in the Midland Counties qualifying group when they visited the Old School at Thurmaston north of Leicester, a convenient half way house, to play Worcestershire.

On board 12 Lincoln's Paul Fischer was paired as white against Kevin Day from Redditch with the opening loosely based on the French 1. e4 e6 2. d4 b6 (not 2. ...d5 as per the main line) 3. g3 Bb7 4. Bg2 Nf6 5. Nd2 Bb4 6. c3 Be7 7. Ngf3 c5 8. Qe2 cxd4 9. Nxd4 Bc5 10. N4f3 Qc7 11. 0-0 and after a circumspect opening Paul has secured his position by castling.

Play continued 11. ...Ba6 12. c4 Bb4 13. b3 d5 and black is trying to get Paul to move the pawn on c4 14. exd5 Nxe5 even offering the knight as bait (see diagram).

However Paul played 15. Qe4 pinning the knight to the undefended rook on a8 15. ...Qb7 16. cxd5 Bxf1 17. Nxf1 gaining two pieces for a rook 17. ...0-0 18. Ng5 g6 19. dxe6 Qxe4 20. exf7+ Rxf7 21. Bxe4 Re7 22. Rxa8 and now Paul is two pieces and a pawn up 22. ...Re1 23. Bd5+ Kf8 24. Ne6+ Ke7 25. Bg5+ and black resigns as another rook is lost.

Wins for Peter Damms and John Grasham from Louth plus Frank Robinson and Terry Bennett from Spalding together with draws for David Scott, Neil Roberts, Jules Brown and Chris Cumbers meant that Lincolnshire just missed out as Worcestershire took the tie by 8½ to 7½.

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

