

Lincolnshire's team in the Under 140 grade competition visited the Rolls Royce sports complex in Derby where Derbyshire were the hosts. Both counties had lost their opening fixtures so a good result was needed for both to keep their hopes alive for qualification for the national stages.

On board 5 Jules Brown from Lincoln was paired as black against Michael Hoare from Lichfield with the opening following the Sicilian Defense 1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 g6 6. f4 Bg7 with Jules opting for the Dragon variation with the fianchetto bishop on g7 7. Bc4 Bd7 8. 0-0 Qb6 9. Kh1 and white is countering the threat of 9. ...e5 10. fxe5 dxe5 but there is another opportunity for Jules to gain an advantage (see diagram) - can you see it?

Jules played 9. ...Nxe4 10. Nxe4 Qxd4 winning a pawn 11. Bd3 0-0 12. c3 Qd5 13. Qf3 Bc6 14. Ng5 Qxf3 15. Nxf3 Nd7 and Jules brings his other pieces into play 16. Be3 e5 17. fxe5 Bxf3 18. Rxf3 Nxe5 a neat combination by Jules as white must now lose the exchange 19. Be4 Nxf3 20. Bxf3 Rfe8 21. Bf2 Re7 22. Bh4 f6 23. Rd1 Rae8 24. h3 (not 24. Rxd6 Re1+) g5 25. Bg3 Bf8 26. Bh5 Rd8 27. Bxd6 Rxd6 28. Rxd6 Re1+ and white resigned.

Wins for Bill Egan from Scunthorpe, Mark Newstead from Horncastle, John Grasham from Louth and Chris Cumbers from Grantham plus draws for David Scott, Neil Roberts, Mike Dew, Paul Fischer and yours truly was not quite enough as Derbyshire edged the match 8½-7½.

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

