

Lincolnshire's team in the Under 120 grade competition played their second match in this season's qualifying competition when they met Worcestershire at the familiar surroundings of the Thurmaston Old School near Leicester.

On board 3 Lincoln's Paul Fischer was paired as white against Worcestershire captain Richard Collett with the opening following the Philidor Defence 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Nc3 Bg4 4. Bc4 Bxf3 5. Qxf3 Nf6 and already black has caused problems for himself inviting pressure on the f7 pawn 6. Nd5 Be7 7. Nxf6+ Bxf6 (see diagram) can you see Paul's next move?

Paul played 8. Qb3 simultaneously attacking the pawns on f7 and b7 8. ...0-0 9. Qxb7 winning the pawn Nd7 10. Bb3 Nc5 11. Qd5 Qd7 12. 0-0 Qg4 13. f3 Qd7 14. d3 Ne6 and black retreats the knight to protect the pawn on f7 rather than taking the bishop.

Play continued 15. Be3 Bg5 16. Bxg5 Nxg5 17. f4 c6 18. Qc4 exf4 19. Rxf4 and now Paul's rooks can take advantage of the open f-file 19. ...c5 20. Raf1 Ne6 21. R4f2 Rae8 22. Ba4 Qd8 23. Bxe8 winning the exchange and Paul went on to win a few moves later.

Wins also for Kishore Murugesh and Paul Rutter from Horncastle, Kiat Huang and Adam Cook from Louth and Frank Robinson from Spalding plus a draw for Terry Bennett, also from Spalding, meant that Lincolnshire tipped over the line by 6½ to 5½ putting them in equal second place.

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)

