

Lincolnshire's team in the Under 120 grade competition when they visited the Rolls Royce Leisure complex in Derby. In a very tight competition the seven teams are covered by only two points. Hosts Derbyshire are one of three teams on 6 points while Lincolnshire are one of four teams on 4 points so a win for Derbyshire would see them top by 2 points whereas a win Lincolnshire would see them joining the top 3.

On board 1 Lincolnshire captain John Grasham was paired as white against Graham Pace from Spondon and we pick up the game after black has just played 24. ...Rh8 (see diagram) looking to add protection to the pawn on h6 but has given John an opportunity to gain an advantage - can you see it?

John played 25. Rxf5+ winning the pawn as black cannot play 25. ...exf5. Instead he played 25. ...Ke7 26. Re1 Rhe8 27. Ng5 Kd8 (not 27. ...hxg5 28. Qxg5+) 28. Nxe6+ Bxe6 29. Bxe6 and John has won another pawn 29. ...Qd6 30. d5 c5 31. Rf7 Re7 32. Rxe7 Kxe7 33. Bf5+ Kf8 34. Re6 Qc7 35. d6 and John's passed d pawn is on the march 35. ...Qf7 36. g4 Re8 37. Rxe8+ Qxe8 38. Qe3 Qxe3 39. fxe3 and now has two passed pawns and he went on to win a few moves later.

Wins also for Mark Newstead from Horncastle, Paul Fischer from Lincoln, Frank Robinson and Terry Bennett from Spalding and Amogh Pilani from Louth plus draws for Andrew Watson, Kiat Huang and Charles Moss meant that Lincolnshire won 7½ to 4½ making that last round of matches very interesting with only the top 3 going forward to the national stages.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XG on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.  
[www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk](http://www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk)

