

Lincolnshire's team in the Minor Counties competition were in action when they travelled to the neutral venue in Peterborough to face Norfolk in the National Quarterfinals. Reigning champions from last season Lincolnshire had won all their matches in the Midland Counties qualifying competition so were in confident mood going into this match.

On board 11 Ivan David from Grantham was paired as white against Anthony Hall from Streatham and we pick up the game after black has just played 35. ...Nc8 (see diagram) perhaps looking to bring the knight onto the queen's side to reinforce black's menacing rooks. However, it provided Ivan an opportunity to gain material - can you see it?

Ivan played 36. Na5 R3b6 37. Nc6 Rxc6 38. dxc6 winning the exchange with a passed pawn as a bonus. Play continued 38. ...Qb6 39. Rgc1 Ne7 40. Ba5 Qa6 41. c7 Rc8 42. Nc4 Nc6 43. Bb6 Nd4 44. Bxd4 exd4 and black's pawns are now vulnerable 45. Na3 d3 46. Rc4 Qb7 47. Rb4 Qa7 48. Qxf4 Rxc7 49. Rxc7 Qxc7 50. Qd2 Qa5 51. Nc4 Qc5 52. Ka2 h6 53. Rxa4 Nc7 54. Qxd3 and after losing two more pawns black resigned.

Wins also for captain Nigel Birtwistle, Stephen Prior, Jason Dilley and Stuart Williams all also from Grantham and Nick Stead from Grimsby plus draws for Chris Dorrington, Samuel Milson, Paul Cumbers, Murray Smith, Joe Kilshaw, Keith Palmer and Denis Georgiou gave Lincolnshire a comfortable victory by 9½ to 6½ and now meet Devon in the national semi-finals.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XG on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.
www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk

