

The annual Lincolnshire County Championships took place recently at the Lindum Business Park with thanks to director Herman Kok who kindly lets the county use the facilities free of charge.

In the Open section, with reigning champion Chris Dorrington unavailable all of the 9 competitors were in with a chance in a high class field and after the third round of five Samuel Milson from Louth led the field on 3 points followed by Jason Dilley from Grantham, one of two players on 2½ and they went head to head in round 4.

The position shown in the diagram is after Samuel, as white, has just played 16. Ne4 presumably to threaten Jason's knight on a5 and also bring the knight into a play - however Jason round a move to unhinge Samuel's defence - can you see Jason's next move.

Jason played 16. ...Rxf3 17. gxf3 Nc4 18. Qe2 Ne5 19. Ne2 Bf5 20. f4 Nd3+ 21. Kf1 and Samuel's king is now exposed as Jason played 21. ...Bxh3+ 22. Rxh3 Qxh3+ winning back the exchange 23. Kg1 Nxb2 24. Rc1 Rc8 25. Rxc8 Qxc8 and Jason is now 2 pawns up and despite a resolute defence by Samuel Jason went on to win.

Jason drew his last game but this was enough as he was crowned champion on 4 points with Samuel finishing in second place on 3½ points. Third place was shared between Murray Smith from Lincoln, Francis Bowers from Peterborough and Peter Walker from Stamford on 3 points with Francis and Peter also sharing the Under 175 grading prize.

News of the Under 150 section next week.

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

