

Lincolnshire's team in the Minor Counties competition embarked on this season's campaign when they played hosts to Nottinghamshire at the Lindum Business Park in North Hykeham, where Lincolnshire's county teams play all their home matches free of charge kindly arranged by Finance Director Herman Kok.

Lincolnshire have had some success in this competition beating Norfolk in the national final 2 years ago and losing narrowly to Surrey at the same stage last season.

On board 3 Lincolnshire captain Nigel Birtwistle from Grantham was paired as white against Alex Combie from Newark and we pick up the game after black has just played 26. ...Qa8 (see diagram) and it looks like Nigel is about to lose the pawn on a4 so Nigel was looking to direct his attention to the kings side as play continued 27. Qc1 Rxa4 28. Rxa4 Rxa4 29. Rxa4 Nxa4 30. Qg5 Qf8 31. Nf5+ Kg8 and Nigel can take advantage of black's knight being out of position 32. Ne7+ Kh8 33. Qf6+ Qg7 34. Qxd6 h6 35. hxg6 fxg6 36. Nxc6+ Kh7 37. Nf8+ Kh8 38. Ne6 Qf7 39. b6 and now 2 pawns down black resigned.

In a match which ebbed and flowed there were wins also for Samuel Milson from Louth and Nick Stead from Grimsby plus draws for Murray Smith, Stephen Prior, Jason Dilley, Peter Cusick, Francis Bowers, Ivan David, Chris Holt, Andy Hebert, Keith Palmer and Arya Parnian meaning that the match finished all square at 8-8.

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

