

Lincolnshire's team in the Under 140 grade competition played their penultimate match against Warwickshire at the neutral venue of the Old School Rooms in Rothley near Leicester. Things did not start well for our opponents as they were 3 players short and had to default boards 14 to 16. Having informed us in good time we stood our players down. However, one of our other players was unavailable so we ourselves had to default board 13 thus we started the contest 3-1 up.

On board 6, Lincolnshire's Mark Newstead was paired as black against Peter Oliver from Sutton Coldfield with the opening following the queen's gambit 1. Nf3 Ng6 2. d4 d5 3. c4 c6 4. e3 e6 5. a3 Bd6 6. Nc3 Nbd7 7. c5 Bc7 and Mark is forced to retreat but elects to place his bishop on c7 threatening white's pawn on h2. 8. Bd3 0-0 9. b4 e5 and Mark opens up the centre 10. dxe5 Nxe5 11. Be2 Be6 12. 0-0 Qb8 and now the pawn on h2 is in danger (see diagram).

White played 13. Nxe5 Bxe5 and now Mark threatens both the h7 pawn and the knight on c3. Unfortunately, white overlooked this and played 14. g3 Bxc3 losing the piece 15. Rb1 Bh3 16. f4 Bxf1 17. Bxf1 winning the exchange as well and went on to win a few moves later.

Wins also for Alex Ashworth from Lincoln and Robert Sidlarewicz from Grantham plus draws for Adam Cook, William Orr, Terry Bennett, Graeme Rae and yours truly plus the extra two points for the defaults meant that Lincolnshire won 8½ to 7½ moving us up to 5th place but out of contention for a top 3 finish.

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

