

Lincolnshire's team in the Under 140 grade section played their final match of the Midland Counties qualifying competition when they met Staffordshire at Rothley near Leicester. Lincolnshire needed a win to draw level with Leicestershire who occupied 3rd place in the table with the top 3 going forward to the national stages. However, the rules state that in such a position the qualifying place will be decided by the result of the match between the two counties. In this case Leicestershire beat Lincolnshire 8½ to 7½ earlier in the season.

So, with Staffordshire lying bottom of the table there was only pride to play for and on board 11 Charles Moss from Lincoln was paired as white against Fred Biles from Lichfield and we pick up the game after black has just played 25. ...h5 (see diagram) looking to advance his king side pawns.

Charles played 26. Bc3 b6 27. Rh1 Rh8 28. g4 hxg4 (taking the pawn rather than playing 28. ...h4) 29. Rxh8 Kxh8 30. Rh1+ Kg7 31. Kg3 Rf8 32. Kxg4 and Charles retakes the pawn 32. ...Rh8 33. Rxh8 Kxh8 34. Bd2 and now the pawn on g5 is under pressure 34. ...Kg7 35. Bxg5 Be8 36. Bxf6 Kxf6 37. Ng3 Kg7 38. Nh5+ Bxh5 39. Kxh5 Kf6 and this is now what they call in chess Zugzwang where a player must make a move to his disadvantage so play continued 40. Kh6 Kf7 41. Kg6 having to move away from f6 and Charles won a few moves later.

Wins also for Allan Nelder, Graham Johnson and John Pocock from Grantham, William Orr from Lincoln, Robert Sidlarewicz from Spalding and Graeme Rae from Louth plus draws for Grenville Wollerton, Neil Roberts, Terry Bennett, Frank Robinson and Chris Cumbers saw Lincolnshire home by 9½ to 6½.

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

