

The Lincolnshire County Chess Championships took place recently at the now regular venue of the Atrium in the Lindum Business Park complex just round the corner from Hykeham Railway Station. Many thanks go to the Lindum company and Herman Kok in particular who sponsor the event as well as providing the venue free of charge.

There were 26 players competing in the 5 round tournament with the top prize of £100 on offer. The top seed was 16 year old James Moreby with a grade of 211 who was a late entry. His father Kurt was a regular at Lincoln Chess Club some years ago before he moved to Gosforth in the North East and has just returned to the area.

James won his first 4 matches and was joint leader with Murray Smith from Lincoln who had a similar tally and they met in the final round with James having white pieces. The opening moves were 1. d4 Nf6 2. Nc3 d5 3. Bf4 Bf5 4. f3 e6 5. g4 Bg6 6. h4 h5 7. g5 Nfd7 8. e3 a6 9. Bd3 Bxd3 10. cxd3 (see diagram).

Murray now played 10. ...g6 to stop white playing the sacrificial 11. g6 himself. In post game analysis these moves exactly following the game between two grand masters Baadur Jobava from Georgia and Hikaru Nakamura from Japan in 2015. However, in that game Nakamura ignored the threat of 11. g6 and played 10. ...Nc6 instead going on to win 80 moves later. In this game play continued to move 27 when a draw was agreed.

Last year's champion Jason Dilley also finished on 4½ points having taken a bye in round 3 so the £180 prize money was split 3 ways with Francis Bowers from Peterborough taking the under 175 grading prize on 4 points.

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

