

Lincolnshire's team in the Under 140 grade competition got the season underway when Nottinghamshire were the visitors to the Training Centre on the Lindum Business Park kindly made available by Herman Kok.

Last season Lincolnshire won the corresponding fixture but narrowly missed out on qualification to the national stages so were hopeful of a positive result although Nottinghamshire normally put out a strong side. However, the visitors started one player short due to a late withdrawal.

On board 4 Neil Roberts from Lincoln was paired as white against John Tassi from the Gambit club in Nottingham and we pick up the game after black has just played 17. ...Qa5 (see diagram) materially equal but with Neil, having castled queen side, was looking to advance his king side pawns but with blacks queen moving into a position for a counter attack.

Neil played 18. h5 Nc5 19. hxg6 fxg6 opening up the h-file 20. Qg3 Nxd3 21. Rxd3 Bf8 22. Bg5 Qc7 23. Qh2 Qd7 24. Rh3 h5 and black blocks the attack with a pawn advance 25. Rh4 Be7 26. Qg3 Bxg5 27. Qxg5 and now Neil is looking at 28. Qxg6+ or Rxh5 so black played 27. ... Qf5 28. Qxf5 gxf5 29. Rxh5 winning a pawn 29. ... Rf8 30. Rg5+ Kf7 31. Rxf5+ winning another pawn and Neil went on to win a few moves later.

Wins for Grenville Wollerton from Grantham, Terry Bennett from Spalding and Paul Fischer from Lincoln plus draws for Neil Bond, William Orr and Chris Cumbers plus the default was not enough as Nottinghamshire ran out winners 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

