

Lincolnshire's team in the Minor Counties competition played their second match in this season's qualifying competition when they played Warwickshire at the neutral venue of Syston Village Hall near Leicester. Lincolnshire who are the reigning champions in the National Minor Counties championship had won their opening match of this season's campaign, however Warwickshire had won both of their opening matches and thus led the table on 4 points so a close encounter was anticipated.

On board 11 Louth secretary Keith Palmer was paired as white against Roy Lawrence from Sutton Coldfield. Keith was a primary school teacher in Grimsby before taking retirement a couple of years ago and now enjoys teaching chess to the youngsters at Louth Chess Club.

We pick up the game after black has just played 20. ...Rc8 (see diagram) looking to exchange rooks. Keith replied 21. Qd2 Rxc1+ 22. Qxc1 Qc8 23. Rc4 Qe8 taking control of the c-file 24. Rc7 Ne5 25. Bxe5 dxe5 26. Rxb7 winning a pawn 26. ...a6 27. Qc7 Bc8 28. Ra7 f4 and black in trying to advance his pawns has brought Keith's bishop into play so he played 29. Bxc8 Qxc8 30. Qxc8 Rxc8 31. exf4 exf4 32. gxf4 Kf7 33. Rxa6 and now Keith is 3 pawns up and went on to win a few moves later.

Wins also for Paul Cumbers who now lives in Sheffield, Joe Kilshaw from Grimsby and a default on board 15 plus draws for Samuel Milson, Stephen Prior, Murray Smith, Nick Stead, Peter Cusick, David Coates, Francis Bowers and Andy Hebert meant that the match was drawn 8-8.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XJ on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.  
[www.lincolnchessclub.co.uk](http://www.lincolnchessclub.co.uk)

