

Lincolnshire's team in the Open/Minor section of the Midland Counties Chess Union qualifying competition played their 3rd match out of 5 when they met Worcestershire at the neutral venue of Frolesworth Village Hall in Leicestershire.

So far Lincolnshire have beaten Leicestershire and drawn with Warwickshire who top the leader board with 5 points from 3 matches so a win in this match will see them draw level. Worcestershire, on the other hand, have lost both their opening matches.

On board 10 Scunthorpe secretary Denis Georgiou was paired as white against Harry Evans from Redditch with the opening following the Sicilian Defence Taimanov variation named after the Russian Grandmaster Mark Taimasnov 1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nc6 giving black more attacking options 5. Nc3 Nf6 6. f4 Bb4 7. Nxc6 bxc6 8. Bd3 d5 which Denis does well to defend against but now his knight is in danger of being pinned (see diagram).

Play continued 9. e5 d4 10. a3 dxc3 11. axb4 Nd5 12. bxc3 Nxc3 13. Qd2 Nd5 and honours are even after this exchange of pieces 14. c3 Qb6 15. Rb1 0-0 16. c4 Ne7 17. Qc2 h6 18. Qe2 Rd8 19. Be3 Qc7 20. Bc5 Bb7 21. 0-0 Rd7 22. Bd6 and having driven black's pieces back and safely castled he put his bishop into a strong position on d6. Black replied with 22. ...Rxd6 23. exd6 Qxd6 gaining the exchange for a pawn and Denis went on to win.

Wins also for Nigel Birtwistle, Murray Smith, Nick Stead, Keith Palmer, Andy Hebert, Dennis Browning, Graham Ladds and Chris Holt plus five draws gave Lincolnshire a comfortable win by 11.5 to 4.5.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XJ on Wednesdays at 7.30pm although we are not meeting during the Coronavirus crisis.
www.lincolnchessclub.co.uk

