

Lincolnshire's team in the Under 140 grade section of the MCCU qualifying competition played their final match when they played Worcestershire at the neutral venue of St.Hilda's Church hall in East Goscote near Leicester. Worcestershire topped the group with 4 wins out of 4 whereas Lincolnshire were in 3rd place with 3 wins so top spot was still up for grabs.

On board 9, Lincolnshire captain William Orr who plays for Lincoln but runs a farm in the Sleaford area was paired as white against Rob Bricknell from Redditch with the opening following the Maroczy gambit 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 d5 3. exd5 Bd6 where black sacrifices the pawn on d5 hoping for a return later in the game 4. Bb5+ Bd7 5. Bxd7+ Nxd7 6. d3 h6 7. Be3 a6 8. 0-0 f5 9. Nc3 g5 10. h3 g4 11. Nh2 h5 and black now embarks on a pawn advance but is still a pawn down.

Play continued 12. f4 Qh4 13. Qe1 Qe7 14. fxe5 Qxe5 15. Bf4 Qxe1 16. Rax1+ Ne7 17. Bxd6 cxd6 (see diagram) - can you see William's next move?

William played 18. Rxf5 winning another pawn as black cannot play Nxf5 but instead played 18. ...Ne5 19. Rf6 0-0-0 20. hxg4 hxg4 21. d4 Ng8 22. Re6 g3 23. Nf1 Ng4 24. Nxc3 and now William is 3 pawns up and went on to win making good use of his queen side pawns.

Unfortunately, William's was Lincolnshire's only success but there were draws for Richard Chillcott, Will Grummitt, John Mainwaring, Rod Wardlaw, Grenville Wollerton, Neil Roberts, Graeme Rae, Charles Moss, Chris Cumbers and Cameron Marnoch but this was not enough as Worcestershire won 10-6. However, Lincolnshire finished in 3rd place and so progress to the Nation Finals. However, due to the lockdown these are yet to take place.

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

