

In the Lincolnshire County Championships Under 1825 rating section there were 12 entries, originally 13 but I decided to withdraw in order to ensure that there were an even number of players and therefore no byes.

The format was the same as for the Open section with 5 rounds being played, 3 on the Saturday and the remaining 2 played on the Sunday with 1 hour and 20 minutes on the clock with a 10 second increment followed by the presentation ceremonies.

Coming into the final round Nicholas Lees led the field having won all 4 of his games so far followed by Scott Merriman and Richard Stokes on 3 points. All three players are members of the Stamford Chess Club, clearly a thriving club although they do not enter a team in the Lincolnshire League.

In the final round Scott was paired as white against Nicholas and we pick up the game after the sequence 49. Qc7 Qb6 (from g3) (see diagram) with Nicholas moving his queen to b6 hoping for 50. Qxb6 Rxb6 followed by his pawn on b3 advancing to the promotion line. However, Scott came up with a better move, can you see it?

Scott played 50. Re8+ Rxe8 51. Qxb6 winning the queen for a rook and Nicholas resigned a couple of moves later. Richard also won his game meaning that there was a 3 way tie at the top so they each receive £40. Nicholas took away the Quilter Trophy on the sum of progressive scores.

Jason Gillatt, from Lincoln University, won the Under 1500 grading prize with 4 points.

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)

