

The Atrium at the Lindum Group Business Park in North Hykeham is the now regular venue for the Lincolnshire County Championship where, this year, 20 of the county's finest pitted their wits in the 5 round tournament.

Chris Dorrington from Grantham and Lincoln's Ayman Hammam won their first 3 games and on the second morning they went head to head and we pick up the game after Ayman, as white, had just played 21. Nc3 (see diagram) having a slight advantage having won a rook for a bishop earlier in the game.

Chris needed all his skill to recover and played 21. ...Qa6 putting pressure on c4 22. Ne2 Qxc4 23. Nxd4 cxd4 winning the pawn and now also has a passed pawn 24. Qb1 Qb3 25. Rd3 Qb7 and now the pawn on e4 is under pressure 26. f4 Re8 27. fxe5 Rxe5 28. Rfd1 Qb6 29. Qc1 Bxe4 30. Bxe4 Rxe4 winning another pawn.

Under time pressure the players were not obliged to record their moves with less than 5 minutes on the clock but it was Chris who was able to make the two passed central pawns count to take the win.

Chris also won his last game to be crowned champion with a maximum 5 points with Ayman second on 4. Keith Palmer and Amy Milson, both from Louth, shared 3rd place with 3½ points with Amy also winning the 165 grading prize after she beat big brother Samuel in the last round.

James Irwin capped a good season for Lincoln by winning the U150 grading prize and the Quilter trophy with 3 points and Louth secretary John Grasham shared the U125 grading prize with Pawel Szutkowski from Spalding with 2 points.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the RAOB Club, 58 South Park on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. www.lincolnchessclub.co.uk

