

Internet Chess is very popular these days and several members of Lincoln Chess Club are regular participants. James Irwin showed me one of his games recently where he had his opponent on the ropes.

In the diagram James, as black, had just played 25. ...Rc1 threatening 26. ...Qxg1 mate but his opponent managed to escape with a draw - can you see how?

The key to this position is that white is not in check and can only move his queen so he played 26. Qxh7+. Realising that 26. ...Qxh7 is stalemate James had to play 26. ...Kf8 27. Qh8+ Ke7 28. Qe8+ forcing 28. ...Qxe8.

Meanwhile, at the Lindum Group Atrium 16 of the county's top juniors were in action in a 6 round rapidplay tournament. King's School in Grantham provided 10 of the players and it was James Kelly from King's who took top spot with 5½ points. His only blemish was a draw with David Scott from Queen Elizabeth GS in Horncastle and Louth Chess Club who came second on 4½ points.

Third place was shared on 4 points by Daniel Southern and Will Taylor, both from King's Grantham, and Neelay Sant from Boston GS. Neelay also won the Grand Prix prize for the most points over the 3 tournaments this season, the others were at King's Grantham and Louth Chess Club, with a total of 12½ points ahead of Amy Milson of Louth on 10 points. Amy could not add to her score achieved in the first 2 rounds as she was competing in the Lincolnshire County Championships at the same time.

Finally, Nicholas Lees from Stamford and Luke Tooth from Bourne shared the best Under 13 prize on 3 points showing that there is a good spread of young talent throughout the county.

If you know of any budding juniors then contact the county junior secretary Keith Palmer on [kalmenias@gmail.com](mailto:kalmenias@gmail.com)

