

This week's game has been sent to me by Nigel Birtwistle captain of Lincolnshire's team in the Minor Counties competition. I featured Nigel's game against Nottinghamshire a few weeks ago when Lincolnshire won 9-7 and this game is against Andrew Morley from Leicestershire when Lincolnshire were again the victors by 9½ to 6½.

Last season Nottinghamshire beat Leicestershire in the Midland Counties final and also the National semi-finals with Nottinghamshire losing to Suffolk in the final so wins against both these counties a quite a feather in Lincolnshire's cap.

With Derbyshire to play in the third match of the East Midland zone a semi-final against a West Midland county beckons with Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire fighting for the other semi-final place.

We join this week's game after Andrew, as white, has just played 31. Rxe6 (see diagram) completing an exchange of queens. Nigel replied with 31. ...Rd8 32. Kf1 Kf7 33. Re1 Rc8 and Nigel now has control of the c-file 34. Ng1 Nd5 35. Re2 Rc4 36. Rd2 Ne3+ 37. Bxe3 fxe3 and white is forced to exchange the knight and bishop giving Nigel a dangerous passed pawn.

Play continued 38. Rd1 Rc2 39. Ne2 Rxb2 winning the pawn 40. g3 Rd2 41. Rc1 (not 41. Rxd2 exd2) Ke6 42. Rc3 Rd1+ 43. Kg2 Bxd4 44. Nxd4 Rxd4 45. Rxe3+ Kd5 and Nigel maintained his pawn advantage 46. g4 a5 47. h4 b4 48. h5 Kc4 49. axb4 axb4 50. Re8 b3 51. Rb8 Kc3 and white resigned.

Meanwhile, back at Lincoln Chess Club the Tony Turp Memorial Christmas Blitz will take place on Wednesday 17 December when last year's winner Dave Bull will be attempting to defend his crown. All are welcome.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the RAOB Club, 58 South Park on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. [www.lincolncchessclub.co.uk](http://www.lincolncchessclub.co.uk)

