

Lincolnshire have again entered a team in the Counties and District Correspondence Chess Championships. Last season, the first for Lincolnshire, the 8 man finished on $8\frac{1}{2}$ points out of 16 coming 10th out of 20 teams in Division 2. This season the competition has been reorganized into 3 divisions and we were originally told that we would be in Division 3 but it appears that a shortfall of entries has meant that we stayed in Division 2.

The players log onto the internet to make their moves, a lot cheaper than the old method of first class post, and play two games against their allotted opponent, one as white and one as black.

Last season Paul Fischer, who lives in Sleaford but plays over the board chess for Lincoln, won both his games on board 8 and this season, again on board 8, he has started where he left off with a win against Michael Clark of Yorkshire C.

The game, with Paul as white, began with the moves following the French Defence 1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 dxe4 4. Nxe4 c6 5. Nf3 Nd7 6. Bd3 Ngf6 7. Nxf6 Nxf6 8. 0-0 Be7 9. Re1 0-0 and both players have castled with Paul slightly ahead in position.

Paul played 10. Ne5 tempting black to play 10. ...Qxd4 11. Bxh7 but instead he plays 10. ...h6. However this has provided another opportunity for white which he looks to exploit with 11. Re3 Kh8 12. Rh3 (see diagram).

Paul now finishes off his opponent in spectacular style after 12. ...Kg8 with 13. Bxh6 gxh6 14. Qf3 Qxd4 15. Qg3+ Ng4 16. Nxe4 Rd8 17. Nxe6+ and black resigned as mate follows.

Paul also won his game as black and, to date, the team have $6\frac{1}{2}$ points out of a possible 7.

The very best for Christmas from all at Lincoln Chess Club.

