

Lincolnshire's team in the Minor Counties competition completed the East Midlands round robin stage when they were the visitors to Derby. Having beaten both Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire in the previous matches a draw would be enough against bottom of the table Derbyshire to win the group.

On board 1 Lincolnshire's Chris Dorrington was paired as black against Paul Madden with the opening following the Sicilian Tiamanov variation, named after the Russian chess master and concert pianist Mark Tiamanov, 1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 e6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nc6 5. Nc3 Qc7 6. Ndb5 Qb8 with black's queen moving to b8 7. Be3 Nf6 8. Bd3 a6 9. Nd4 Ne5 10. Be2 b5 11. f4 Nc4 12. Bxc4 bxc4 13. e5 and white attacks Chris's knight on f6 (see diagram).

However the previous exchange had opened the b-file and Chris saw an opportunity to gain an advantage with 13. ...Qxb2 14. Na4 Qa3 15. c3 Nd5 and is a pawn up 16. Bc1 Qe7 17. Qe2 Qh4+ turning the attack to the king's side 18. g3 Qh3 19. Rb1 h5 20. Rf1 h4 21. g4 but this gives Chris another opportunity with 21. ...Nxc3 22. Nxc3 Qxc3+ and is now 2 pawns up 23. Qd2 Qxd2 24. Bxd2 forcing a queen exchange and despite a rear-guard from white Chris went on to win.

Wins also for Nick Stead from Grimsby, Ivan David from Grantham and Denis Georgiou from Scunthorpe plus draws for Claudio Mangione, Nigel Birtwistle, Harry Russell, Keith Palmer, Ian McDonald, Alastair Summers, Graham Ladds and Chris Holt meant that the match finished 8-8 giving Lincolnshire a semi-final tie against Greater Manchester.

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

