

Lincolnshire's team in the Under 120 grade competition completed the Midland Counties group stages when they visited Thurmaston Old School near Leicester to play Warwickshire. With three points from their first three matches Lincolnshire needed a win to maintain their hopes of a top three finish.

On board 11 ten year old budding superstar Arya Parnian, son of Behzad, from Grimsby was paired as black against Pauline Woodward with the opening following the French advance variation 1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. Be3 cxd4 5. Bxd4 Nc6 6. Nf3 Bd7 7. Be2 Be7 8. Bc3 f6 9. 0-0 fxe5 10. Nxe5 Nxe5 11. Bxe5 Bf6 12. Qd4 Bxe5 13. Qxe5 and in this exchange of pieces Arya has disposed of white's central pawns but her queen controls the centre on e5.

Play continued 13. ...Nf6 14. c4 0-0 15. Nc3 dxc4 16. Bxc4 Re8 and white is applying pressure on Arya's pawn on e6 17. Rad1 Qb6 18. b3 Rac8 19. Nb5 and white is threatening 20. ...Nd6 or Rd6 (see diagram) but Arya found a counter move - can you see it?

Arya played 19. ...Rc5 20. Rd6 Rxe5 21. Rxb6 axb6 effectively exchanging queens but Arya came out on top with an extra rook and white resigned a few moves later.

Wins also for Chris Cumbers, Will Taylor and Daniel Southern from Grantham, Behzad Parnian from Grimsby and Andrew Watson from Horncastle plus a draw for Paul Fischer gave Lincolnshire a narrow victory by 6½ to 5½.

Lincolnshire lie top of the table on 5 points but the other 4 counties have matches left to play. However, it is mathematically certain that Lincolnshire will finish in the top 3 and will go forward to the national finals from the first time.

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

