

Lincolnshire's team in the Under 120 competition were in action when they played Kent in the quarter-finals of the ECF national competition. Lincolnshire have had the best season since entering the competition in 2012. Having beaten Staffordshire and Warwickshire (who also qualified) and drawn with Worcestershire, Lincolnshire came equal top of the section but finished as the highest qualifying team due to their wins against the other qualifying teams. Kent had also won 2 and drawn 1 in the Southern Counties qualifiers so a close encounter was expected.

On board 2 William Orr from Horncastle was paired as black against Piotr Belka from Gravesend and we pick up the game after white has just played 37. Bb1 (see diagram) protecting the pawn on c2. Piotr offered a draw which William declined as white's bishop is trapped in the corner. William played 37. ...h5 putting white in a quandary now limited to retreating his king or breaking up his pawn structure.

White played 38. f5 Bg4 39. fxe6 Bxe6 40. Ba2 Kb6 41. Bb1 Kc6 42. Ba2 Bf5 43. Bb1 Bg6 and now white's king must retreat 44. Ke3 Kd5 45. Kf4 Ke6 46. g4 hxg4 47. Kxg4 Kxe5 and William gains a pawn white resigned a few moves later.

Wins also from Dr Mark Newstead also of Horncastle and Francis Birkbeck from Louth plus draws for Kishore Murugesu from Boston, Arya Parnian and Philip Gutcher from Grimsby, Paul Fischer from Lincoln and Louth's Peter Damms was not quite enough as Kent went through to the semi-final by 6½ to 5½.

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

