

Lincolnshire's team in the Minor Counties competition continued when they played Leicestershire at the nicely appointed Braunstone village hall. This season only 5 teams are playing in an all-play-all format with the top three teams qualifying for the national finals.

Lincolnshire were crowned Midland counties champions last season but having lost to Nottinghamshire in their first match Lincolnshire needed a good result to put their title defense back on track. On board 9 Denis Georgiou, who is the Scunthorpe Chess Club secretary, was paired as white against Sean Sheahan from the Shepshed Chess Club near Loughborough and we pick up the game after black has just played 40. ...Nge7 (see diagram) materially even with black having a passed d-pawn countered by white's better pawn structure.

Denis played 41. Nd4 Nxd4 42. Kxd4 Kc6 43. Bc2 to counter 43. ...Nf5 so black played 43. ...Nc8 44. Bh7 Nb6 and black is probably looking at 45. ...Nc4 but Denis played 46. Bg8 f6 47. exf6 winning a pawn Kd6 48. f5 Nd7 49. Bxd5 Nxf6 50. Bb7 Ne8 51. Bxa6 and Denis is now 2 pawns to the good and black resigned a few moves later.

Wins for Samuel Milson from Louth, Graham Ladds from Newark and Stuart MacDonald from Grimsby plus draws for Nick Stead, Joe Kilshaw, captain Nigel Birtwistle, Stuart Williams, Andy Hebert, Steve Allott and Ivan David was not quite enough as Leicestershire narrowly won by 8½ points to 7½.

Meanwhile, are you a member of a U3A group in the Lincoln area and would like to play chess. If yes, then come and join me at Branston Library on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Friday of each month from 1.30pm to 4pm.

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

