

Lincolnshire's team in the Under 140 grade competition played their final game in the Midland Counties group stage when they played Worcestershire and the neutral venue of St.Hilda's church hall in East Goscote just north of Leicester.

Both counties had lost both of their first 2 matches against Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire but with 3 teams going forward to the national finals in the 4 county group this match was the decider for the 3rd national final place.

On board 15 Peter Metcalfe from Lincoln was paired as white against Finlay Bowcott-Terry from Halesowen with the opening following the Sicilian Defence 1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d3 e6 4. c3 d5 5. Bf4 dxe4 6. dxe4 Qxd1+ 7. Kxd1 and the exchange of queens has denied Peter the ability to castle 7. ...Nf6 8. Nbd2 Be7 9. Bb5 Bd7 10. h3 0-0-0 and black has elected to castle queen's side 11. Kc2 h6 12. Rad1 a6 13. Bxc6 Bxc6 14. Rhe1 and Peter has found a relatively safe place on c2 for his king and has brought his rooks into strong central positions 14. ...g5 15. Be5 Rhg8 and Peter's bishop also remains active (see diagram).

Peter now played 16. Nc4 and it looks like he has given away a pawn as black played 16. ...Bxe4+ but this was a trap, can you see it?

Peter played 17. Rxe4 Nxe4 18. Nb6 mate.

There were wins also for Arya Parnian from Grimsby, Chris Cumbers from Grantham and Adam Cook from Louth plus draws for Behzad Parnian, Bill Egan, David Scott, Peter Damms, William Orr and yours truly which meant that Worcestershire narrowly won by 9 points to 7.

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

