

Lincolnshire's team in the Minor Counties competition visited the picturesque village of Kemerton in Worcestershire, a convenient half way house, to play Devon in the National semi-finals. Reigning national champions from last season, Lincolnshire have won all their matches this season so far they were in confident mood to retain their trophy.

On board 10, Scunthorpe secretary Denis Georgiou was paired as black against Paul Hampton from Seaton near Exeter and we pick up the game after white has just played 63. a7 (see diagram) with both players having linked passed pawns supported by a single rook.

Denis was forced to play 63. ...Rxa7 64. Rf7+ Kc8 65. Rxa7 losing his rook but he still had his passed pawns and so played 65. ...f2 66. Rf7 g3 67. Rf3 g2 68. Rxf2 g1(Q) so now has the advantage of a queen and pawn against a rook and two pawns.

Denis closed in for the kill after 69. Rc2+ Kd7 70. Kb4 Qd1 71. Rc3 Ke6 72. Kc6+ Kf5 73. Kc5 Qb3 74. Rd6 Qc4+ and the noose tightens 75. Kb6 Qxd4+ 76. Kc7 Qc4+ 77. Rc6 Qxb5 and with both his pawns gone white resigned.

Wins also for Matthew Turner from Scunthorpe who teaches at Millfield School, Paul Cumbers from Sheffield, Joe Kilshaw from Grimsby, Ivan David, Peter Cusick and Andrew Hebert from Grantham, Francis Bowers from Peterborough - all with Lincolnshire connections despite being located far and wide, plus draws for captain Nigel Birtwistle, Samuel Milson, Murray Smith and Kevin McCarthy gave Lincolnshire and comfortable 10-6 win and now play Surrey in the final at Warwick Castle.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XG on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.  
[www.lincolnchessclub.co.uk](http://www.lincolnchessclub.co.uk)

