

Lincolnshire's team in the Minor Counties competition played their second match in this season's Midland Counties qualifying competition when they played Worcestershire at the neutral venue of Frolesworth Village Hall near Leicester. Last season Lincolnshire won all their qualifying matches and eventually reached the national final losing narrowly to Surrey. In their opening match this season they drew with Nottinghamshire so a good result was needed.

On board 12 Lincolnshire's David Coates was paired as white against Worcestershire captain Stephen Woodhouse. David was a regular in this column up to 5 years ago when he took a break from chess but has decided to make a welcome return this season. In this game the opening followed the Dutch Defense 1. d4 e6 2. c4 f5 characterized by black's f5 move 3. g3 Nf6 4. Bg2 Be7 5. Nf3 0-0 6. 0-0 d6 and both players have castled in the classical variation.

Play continued 7. Nc3 Ne4 8. Nxe4 fxe4 9. Nd2 d5 10. f3 exf3 11. Nxf3 c6 12. Qc2 Bd7 13. Be3 Be8 14. Bh3 and David puts pressure on the pawn on e6 (see diagram) 14. ...Bf7 15. Ne5 Bf6 16. Nxf7 Kxf7 and black has to retake with the king as 16. ...Rxf7 17. Bxe6 wins the pawn and exchange. As it was David won the pawn with 17. Qxh7 Rh8 18. Rxf6+ Qxf6 19. Qxh8 winning the rook and is now a piece and a pawn up and went on to win a few moves later.

Wins also for Nigel Birtwistle, Peter Cusick and Ivan David from Grantham, Joe Kilshaw and Arya Parnian from Grimsby and Samuel Milson from Louth plus draws for Paul Cumbers, Nick Stead, Francis Bowers, Andy Hebert and Graham Ladds gave Lincolnshire a win by 9½ to 6½.

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

