

Lincolnshire's team in the Under 140 grade competition played their third match in the Midland Counties qualifying competition when they played Nottinghamshire at the Bramcote Memorial Hall on the outskirts of Nottingham. Having lost their opening two matches and with our hosts winning their three Lincolnshire needed to be at their best to get anything out of the match.

On board 9 Mark Newstead who played for Horncastle until they folded last year was paired as white against Callam Rigney from Nottingham University with the opening following the Sicilian Defense 1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 d6 6. h3 g6 with black going with the dragon variation 7. Bc4 Bg7 8. Be3 0-0 9. 0-0 a6 but with both players castling king side.

Play continued 10. Qd2 Nxd4 11. Bxd4 b5 12. Be2 b4 13. Nd5 Nxe4 14. Qxb4 e5. Mark was expecting black to play 14. ... Bxd4 15. Qxd4 Nc5 but the move of 14. ...e5 has provided Mark with an opportunity (see diagram) can you see it? Mark played 15. Bb6 Qh4 to protect the knight on e4 but Mark now played 16. g3 Qxh3 17. Qxe4 winning the knight for a pawn 17. ...Qe6 18. Nc7 Qd7 19. Qxa8 winning the rook and black resigned.

Wins also for Grenville Wollerton and Allan Nelder from Grantham, David Scott from Louth, Alex Ashworth from Lincoln and Terry Bennett from Spalding plus draws for John Mainwaring, Graeme Rae, Paul Fischer, John Pocock and yours truly meant that Lincolnshire won $8\frac{1}{2}$ to $7\frac{1}{2}$.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XJ on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.
www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk

