

Lincolnshire's team in the Under 140 grade competition played their fourth match in this season's midland counties qualifying competition. Thus far Lincolnshire had one win from their 3 matches whereas Worcestershire have a 100% record and topped the group so a difficult match was anticipated.

Undaunted, Neil Roberts from Lincoln was paired as white on board 5 against Worcestershire captain Tony Shaw with the opening following the queen's opening Mason variation 1. d4 d5 2. Bf4 Nf6 3. e3 Bf5 4. c4 c6 5. Nc3 e6 6. Qb3 Qb6 7. c5 Qxb3 8. axb3 and queens are exchanged with Neil's b-pawns being doubled but opening up the a-file for his rook 8. ...Nbd7 9. b4 b6 (see diagram) and black's latest move has presented Neil with an opportunity - can you see it?

Neil played 10. Ba6 Nh5 11. Bc7 bxc5 12. bxc5 Be7 13. Bb7 and black's rook on a8 is trapped 13. ...0-0 14. Bxa8 Rxa8 winning the exchange 15. Nf3 Bd3 preventing Neil from castling king side so he played 16. Kd2 Bg6 17. Ra6 Nb8 and Neil now concentrates on the pawn on c6 18. Bxb8 Rxb8 19. Na4 (protecting the pawn on b2) Nf6 20. Ne5 Ne4+ 21. Ke2 Rb7 22. Nxc6 and the pawn falls with Neil going on to win a few moves later.

Wins also for Adam Cook from Louth and captain William Orr from Lincoln plus draws for David Scott, Allan Nelder, Andrew Watson, Terry Bennett, Paul Fischer and yours truly was not enough as Worcestershire ran out 10-6 winners.

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)

