

Lincolnshire entered the ECF Under 18 and Under 13 combined event held at Eton College. This is an annual tournament where some of England's strongest players are on show. In the Under 18 competition, for teams of 12 each playing 2 games Lincolnshire were outgraded and finished in 14th place out of 15 on 4 points out of 24, well behind winners Hertfordshire on 18½.

In the Under 13 competition, for teams of 6 each playing 3 games, we fared a bit better finishing in 10th place out of 15 on 8 points out of 18. Winners were Sussex on 13½ points. Best performance for Lincolnshire was Ben Walker from Caistor Grammar School who finished on 2½ out of 3.

County Junior secretary Robert Dale wishes to thank Phill Beckett from Kings School Grantham and Grimsby Chairman Paul Chaplin for their support and help with transport.

Today's featured game was played by Max Vasey from Caistor Grammar School and Grimsby Chess Club who was paired as black on board 12 in round 1 of the Under 18 competition against Rafe Whitehead of Devon with the opening following the Chigorin Defence 1. d4 d5 2. c4 Nf6 3. Nc3 e6 4. Nf3 Nc6 5. e3 Be7 6. Be2 Bd7 7. Bd2 0-0 8. 0-0 a6 9. Qc2 Nb4 10. Qb3 c5 11. dxc5 Bxc5 12. Na4 Bxa4 13. Qxa4 Nc6 and Max was able to retreat his knight without exposing the pawn on b7.

White played 14. Bc3 (see diagram) and Max responded with 14. ...d4. White should have now played 15. exd4 but instead played 15. Bd2 Ne4 16. Bc1 which allowed Max to advance the pawn with devastating effect 16. ...d3 17. Bd1 d2 18. Bc2 dxc1(Q) 19. Raxc1 winning a piece for a pawn and went on to win.

Grimsby Chess Club play at St.James School, Bargate on Mondays and Thursdays at 7.00pm. www.grimsbychessclub.co.uk

