

Lincolnshire's team in the Minor Counties competition played their second match in the MCCU group stages when Greater Manchester were the opponents played at the neutral venue of Handsworth Village Hall near Sheffield. Having won the first match Lincolnshire wanted to continue their good form although Greater Manchester were no push over.

On the top board Chris Dorrington from Bourne was making a welcome return to the county scene and was paired as black against Andy Reeve from Stockport and we pick up the game after 32. ...Bd4 33. Rf1 with white defending the pawn on f2 (see diagram) having moved the rook from b1.

Play continued with 33. ...Nf6 34. Kg2 Qc2 and Chris now applied pressure to the pawns on b2 and d3 35. Ne5 Bxe5 36. Qxe5 Ng4 37. Qf4 Qxb2 and with white's queen unable to defend the pawn on b2 Chris was able to take advantage.

Chris closed in with 38. Rd1 b3 39. d4 cxd4 40. e5 Ne3+ and Chris compounded problems for white by forking king and rook 41. Kg1 Rxd1. White still had some counterplay 42. Ne4 Qb1 43. Kh2 Qxe4 so Chris had to sacrifice his queen but 44. Qxe4 Rb8 ensured that the pawn on b3 could not be stopped and white resigned.

Wins also for Nick Stead, Joe Kilshaw and Stuart MacDonald from Grimsby, Harry Russell from Louth and Ian McDonald from Lincoln together with draws for Andrew Dyce from Grimsby, Claudio Mangione and Geoff Collyer from Lincoln, Samuel Milson from Louth, captain Nigel Birtwistle and Ivan David from Grantham meant that Lincolnshire just edged the match by 9 points to 7.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the RAOB Club, 58 South Park on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. [www.lincolnchessclub.co.uk](http://www.lincolnchessclub.co.uk)

