

Lincolnshire's team in the Under 120 grade competition visited the Bramcote Memorial Hall in Nottingham when Nottinghamshire were the hosts in the second of the Midland Counties group stage. Having lost heavily to Worcestershire in the first match Lincolnshire wanted a better showing against our near neighbours.

On board 7 Lincolnshire's Adam Wardlow from Louth was paired as white against Dorothy Blampied, a seasoned campaigner, and we pick up the game after black has just played 13. ...Rb8 (see diagram). Adam replied with 14. Nxf6+ Qxf6 15. Qxd6 Rbc8 winning the pawn although 14. ...gxf6, whilst saving the pawn weakens black's pawn structure.

Adam took advantage with 16. Qd2 h6 17. Rad1 Rfd8 18. Qc2 Rxd1 19. Rxd1 Rd8 20. a4 Bc4 21. axb5 axb5 22. Bxc4 bxc4 and now black has an isolated pawn on c4 to add to her problems 23. Qe2 g5 24. Rxd8+ Qxd8 25. Qxc4 Qd1+ and although Adam is checked on the back rank he was able to play 26. Qf1 Qb3 27. Qc1 retaining the now 2 pawn advantage and despite stout resistance from Dorothy Adam went on to win a few moves later.

Wins also for Mark Bradshaw and Paul Chaplin from Grimsby and Adam Coats from Spalding together with draws from captain John Grasham from Louth, Philip Gutcher from Grimsby, 14 year old Hadyn Godfrey and 15 year old Nathan McKiernon, both from King's School Grantham, enabled Lincolnshire to come away with a creditable 6-6 draw.

In fact King's School Grantham, who have a thriving chess club, provided the bottom 4 boards the others being Daniel Southern and Will Taylor who gained valuable experience in this match.

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)

