

Lincolnshire's team in the U120 counties competition continued this season's campaign when they played Warwickshire at the neutral venue of the Syston Social Club near Leicester. Having a loss and a draw in their first two matches in the Midland Counties group stages Lincolnshire were hoping for better things but were up against tough opponents.

On board 1 captain John Grasham, who is also secretary of Louth Chess Club, Lincolnshire Chess Association and the Midland Counties Chess Union was paired as white against Dave Reeves from the Westminster club in Birmingham with the opening following the King's Indian 1. d4 Nf6 2. Nf3 g6 3. Bf4 Bg7 4. c4 d6 5. Nc3 0-0 6. e4 Bg4 7. Be2 c5 8. d5 Nbd7 9. h3 Bxf3 10. Bxf3 Re8 11. Qd2 Nf8 12. 0-0-0 and John castled queen side preparing a king side attack 12. ...N6d7 13. Bh6 Qa5 14. Bxg7 Kxg7 15. b3 h6 16. Nb5 Qxd2+ 17. Rxd2 Rec8 18. Be2 Nh7 19. f4 Nhf6 20. Bf3 h5 21. g4 h4 22. g5 Nh7 23. Rg2 f6 24. gxf6+ Ndx6 and this latest exchange has opened up the g-file for John's rooks (see diagram).

John took advantage with 25. Rhg1 g5 26. fxe5 Nd7 27. Bg4 Rd8 and now John's knight can step in 28. Nc7 Ne5 29. Ne6+ Kf7 30. Nxd8 Rxd8 winning the exchange 31. g6+ and black resigned as further loss of material would follow.

A win for Neelay Sant from Boston Grammar School, his second win for the county, and a draw for Hadyn Godfrey from King's School in Grantham were Lincolnshire's only other contributions from their junior ranks as Warwickshire won by 9½ points to 2½.

Louth Chess Club play at the St.James Church Hall on Tuesdays at 7.30pm.

