

This week's game was sent to me by Louth and Lincolnshire County secretary John Grasham. This season Louth have entered the National Club Championship Minor section where players must be graded under 145 and the average grade for the 4 players in each team must be 120 or less.

In the first match Louth were drawn away in a tricky trip to Harrogate whose average grade was 113 compared with Louth's 98. John was paired as white on board 2 against Andrew Zigmond 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 Nbd7 and John's central pawns now control the centre 7. Qd2 c5 8. d5 Nh5 9. Bh6 Qb6 10. Bxg7 Nxc7 and John has nullified the potentially dangerous bishop on g7.

Play continued 11. b3 f5 12. Bd3 Nf6 13. 0-0-0 Qb4 14. exf5 Nxf5 15. Rhe1 Ng4 and black is eyeing up the pawn on f2 but has opened up an opportunity for John (see diagram) - can you see it?

John played 16. Bxf5 Bxf5 17. Rxe7 winning the pawn and also taking control of the 7<sup>th</sup> rank 17. ...Nxf2 18. Qb2 (not 18. Qxf2 Qxc3+) Nxd1 19. Nxd1 and black has won the pawn on f2 and also the exchange but now has problems as John threatens 20. Qg7 mate. Black played 19. ...Rf7 20. Rxf7 Kxf7 21. Ng5+ Kg8 and John closed in for the kill 22. Qf6 Rf8 23. Qe7 Qa3+ 24. Nb2 and black resigned unable to prevent mate.

A win for Adam Wardlow and a draw for Cameron Marnoch gave Louth a narrow victory by 2½ to 1½.

Louth Chess Club play at the St. James Church Hall on Tuesdays at 7.30pm contact John Grasham on [jcgrasham@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jcgrasham@hotmail.co.uk)

