

Lincolnshire's team in the Under 120 grade competition played their final game in their second season when played Staffordshire at the neutral venue of Thurmaston Old School in Leicestershire. With only a draw against Nottinghamshire to show in this season's campaign they were hoping for a positive result.

However, the main reason for running the team is to give our junior players some valuable experience and one such junior is 14 year old James Kelly who attends the King's School at Grantham where Phill Beckett runs a successful chess club.

James was paired as black on board 10 against Jacob Cartlidge from Cheddleton & Leek and the opening moves were 1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. f3 e6 4. Nc3 dxe4 5. fxe4 Bb4 6. Nge2 an unusual opening on white's part which allowed James to exploit a weakness (see diagram) - can you see it?

James played 6. ...Qh4+ 7. g3 Qxe4 winning the pawn 8. Rg1 e5 9. a3 Bxc3+ 10. bxc3 Nf6 11. Bg2 Qf5 12. Rf1 Qe6 13. Bg5 Nbd7 14. Qd2 h6 15. Be3 Ng4 16. Bh3 Qg6 17. dxe5 Nxh2 18. Bf5 Qh5 19. g4 Qh3 and despite white's best efforts to chase James's queen round the board he still holds the advantage 20. 0-0-0 0-0 21. g5 Nxf1 22. Bxh3 Nxd2 23. Bxd2 and with James now the exchange to the good he went on to win.

A win also for Chris Cumbers and draws for captain John Grasham, Adam Wardlow, Paul Chaplin and Hadyn Godfrey were not quite enough as Staffordshire ran out 8-4 winners meaning that Lincolnshire finished joint bottom of the group on 1 point.

Look up the King's School Chess Club on kingschesscoaching.weekly.com set up in conjunction with Grantham Chess Club.

