

Lincolnshire's team in the Open/Minor counties were in action when they played the second round robin match in the East Midland's zone when they played hosts to Leicestershire at the Lindum Business Group atrium in North Hykeham.

In the first match, Lincolnshire beat Nottinghamshire 9-7 and captain Nigel Birtwisle has again put together a strong team and a win in today's match would put them in a strong position to move forward to the Midland Counties semi-finals and possibly a place in the national stages.

On board one Claudio Mangione was paired as white against Leicestershire's Martin Burrows. Claudio, who is originally from Sicily and also plays for Lincoln and Grantham, is due to return home in the new year so he will be missed by both clubs and county and we pick up the game after black has just played 30. ...Kh8 (see diagram) materially equal with black having the slight advantage of a passed pawn.

Claudio played 31. Re5 Nde6 and black has to retreat 32. Bh3 Nxc5 33. Bxc5 a4 34. b4 a3 35. Qe3 Qf7 and possibly black was looking at 36. ...d4 37. Qxd4 Qxa2 with the pawn on a3 but Claudio played 36. Re7 d4 37. Bxd4 and black cannot play 37. ...Qxa2 and instead has to give up his queen 37. ...Qxe7 38. Qxe7 Bxd4+ 39. Kf1 Rb8 40. Qd6 Ba7 41. Qc7 and black resigned.

Wins also for captain Nigel Birtwisle from Grantham, Harry Russell from Louth, Lincoln's Russell Ludlow, Alastair Summers from Peterborough and Grimsby's Stuart MacDonald plus draws for Paul Cumbers, Nick Stead, John Naylor, Keith Palmer, Andy Hebert, Ian McDonald and Graham Ladds gave Lincolnshire another major scalp by 9½ to 6½.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the RAOB Club, 58 South Park on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. www.lincolncchessclub.co.uk

