

Lincolnshire's team in the Minor Counties competition were in action when they played Warwickshire at the neutral venue of Syston, north of Leicester, in their final match of the Midland Counties qualifying competition. At the start of play Lincolnshire led the table on 5 points while Warwickshire in fourth place on 2 points with only the top 3 teams going forward to the national stages.

On board 15, Lincolnshire's Arya Parnian was paired as white against Keith Thomas from Boldmere St Michael in Sutton Coldfield. Arya, from Grimsby, is only 14 years old but has caught the eye for a number of years. This season he has played in all three of the previous county games, winning 1 and drawing 2.

We pick this game up after black has just played 30. ...Bc8 (see diagram) materially equal but with Arya having a menacing advanced pawn on c6 together with a powerful king side pawn advance.

Play continued 31. e4 Bd6 32. exd5 Bxe5 33. fxe5 and Arya has 3 linked pawns 33. ...Nxd5 34. Bxd5 and black has to lose his knight to stop the advance 34. ...Be6 35. Qe4 Rf8 36. Qc4 Qc8 37. Rf1 h5 38. Bxe6 fxe6 39. Rxf8+ Kxf8 (not 39. ...Qxf8 40. Qxe6+) 40. Bd4 Kg8 41. Bb6 Rf7 42. Rd1 Rf8 43. c7 and Arya's pawn is only one move away from promotion 43. ...Qb7 44. Qxe6+ Kh8 45. Rd8 Qf3 and black counter-attacks but too late as Arya played 46. Rxf8+ Qxf8 47. c8(Q) and black resigned.

Wins also for Paul Cumbers, Jason Dilley and Stephen Prior plus draws for Nigel Birtwistle, Peter Cusick, Stuart Williams, David Coates, Chris Holt and Graham Ladds were not quite enough as Warwickshire won 9-7.

Wins for Leicestershire and Worcestershire in the remaining matches meant that Lincolnshire still qualified as group champions.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XJ on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.
www.lincolnchessclub.co.uk

