

With over the board chess on hold for the time being Mark Morrell, the National Counties controller has set up an online version of the Inter Counties Championship. He has brought in two sections - Open and U1825 FIDE grade (equivalent to U150 ECF). Lincolnshire have entered a team in each section but such is the interest nationally 23 teams have entered the Open section and 9 teams in the U1825 section. The Open section has been further split into 4 groups and Lincolnshire are in Division 1A with 5 other counties and, initially, they will play in a round robin during the summer.

In their first match Lincolnshire were away to a team representing Cheshire & North Wales. Fortunately, no travelling was involved as all players were sat next to their computers. The format was 12 players on each team with the clocks starting on 60 minutes with 15 seconds added for each move.

On board 2, Samuel Milson from Louth, was paired as white against Bryan Whyte from Oswestry and we pick up the game after black has just played 34. ...Nb2 (from d3) (see diagram) with the game materially equal. Samuel was down to 7 minutes 35 seconds at this stage but black was on 2 minutes 7 seconds.

Play continued 35. Rd5 f5 36. Ng3 Na4 37. Ne2 Rc8 38. Rxe5 Nxc3 39. Nxc3 Rxc3 40. Rxf5 Rb3 41. Rxb5 and after these exchanges Samuel is two pawns to the good and went on to win on move 61.

Wins also for Jason Dilley, Daniel Wells, Joe Kilshaw, and Andrew Hebert plus draws for captain Nigel Birtwistle, Murray Smith, Paul Cumbers and David Coates plus a defaulted board 4 meant that Lincolnshire got their campaign underway with an 8-4 win.

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

