

The Lincolnshire County Championship took place recently with 17 of the county's finest competing in a five round swiss tournament. A reasonable turnout, comparable with previous years, despite the event clashing with the Nottingham Congress.

After the first day the leader board stood with Lincoln's Ayman Hammam on a maximum 3 points leading Jason Dilley from Grantham and Scunthorpe's Denis Georgiou both on 2½ who had drawn with each other in round 2.

So, the early morning sunshine filtered through the windows of the RAOB club onto the deciding game between Ayman and Jason and we take up the game after Jason, as black has just played 35. ...h2 (see diagram) an interesting position with Ayman a pawn up and both players threatening a pawn promotion. Ayman played 36. Qa1 Kxf3 37. a8(Q) Qxa8 38. Qxa8 h1(Q) and both players have indeed promoted their pawns but Jason has recovered the pawn advantage.

In a fast and furious finish with both players short on time it was Jason who gained the upper hand and went on to win the game and also won his last game to take the title with 4½ points.

Denis Georgiou and Boston's Kevin McCarthy shared second place on 4 points with Allan Marshall, also from Boston, and Scunthorpe's Bernard Pratten sharing the Under 125 grading prize with 2½ points.

Meanwhile, the annual Louth Rapidplay, renamed the Alf Newman Memorial Rapidplay will take place on June 23, 10am at St.James church hall. Contact Alex McMullen on 01507 606440 or alexmcmullen@onetel.net. Also on that date the next Under 18 training day will take place at Lincoln Chess Club.

