

This week I want to look back to the county match played between Lincolnshire and Warwickshire in the East Midlands round robin. Warwickshire, until last season, played in the West Midland section but with Nottinghamshire withdrawing from the open competition there was an imbalance.

Warwickshire are one of the strongest counties in the Midland Counties as they include Birmingham in their catchment area in line with the pre 1974 boundaries. Lincolnshire, being one of the weaker counties, have got used to being out graded and in this match Lincolnshire's Kevin Shutt, graded 156, was paired against Alan Lloyd from Olton in Birmingham, graded 178.

Kevin, who was a regular in this column in his Lincoln days, now plays for Louth having moved to the Grimsby area is no mean performer with the chess pieces as this game shows. We pick up the game after Alan, as black, has just played 27. ...Bxe5 retaking the pawn (see diagram) and threatening 28. dxe5 Qxc5+.

Kevin instead continued with 28. Rbf1 f5 29. Bd2 Bg7 30. Be3 Re4 31. Kh1 Rce8 32. Bg1 Re1 33. Rxe1 Rxe1 34. Re3 Rc1 35. Re2 Qf6 36. Rd2 Re1 37. Rd1 Re4 38. b4 and after a bit of by-play which gave no advantage to either player Kevin decided to push the queen side pawns 38. ...Qh4 39. b5 axb5 40. axb5 Qe7 41. Qb3 Qe6 42. Qc3 f5 and black's advancing f pawn also looks threatening.

So to the finale 43. c6 bxc6 44. bxc6 f3 45. c7 fxg2+ 46. Kh2 (not 46. Kxg2) and black resigned unable to force home the attack before the c pawn queens, helping Lincolnshire to a respectable scoreline, loosing 10-6.

