

The Lincoln Rapidplay took place on August Bank Holiday at St Peter & St Paul's Church on Skellingthorpe Road where organiser Kevin McCarthy's efforts were rewarded with an entry of 46 of which 14 formed a very strong Open Section including two International Masters Andrew Ledger from Sheffield and James Sherwin from Bath.

Also in the Open Section was Lincoln's Ayman Hammam and in his game in round 3 as black against IM James Sherwin the opening following the Queen's Gambit 1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. cxd5 exd5 5. Bg5 c6 6. e3 Bd6 7. Bd3 h6 8. Bh4 Be6 9. Nf3 Nbd7 10. Qc2 Qc7 11. Rc1 Rc8 with each player poised to strike and neither player having castled.

Play continued 12. Bg3 Bg4 13. Nd2 a6 14. f3 Be6 15. Nf1 c5 16. Bxd6 Qxd6 17. Ng3 cxd4 18. exd4 Qf4 and Ayman's queen has now become active 19. Ne2 Qg5 20. h4 Qxg2 21. Rg1 Qxf3 22. Rxg7 Ng4 23. Ng1 Qf6 and white's Rook is trapped (see diagram).

James lost the exchange 24. Rxg4 Bxg4 25. Qh2 Qxd4 26. Kd2 Ne5 27. Qg3 Bf5 28. Re1 f6 29. Re3 Kf7 30. Rxe5 fxe5 losing another exchange and white resigned.

Coming into the sixth and last round the two IMs shared the lead on 4 points but the event turned on its head when Alex Posazennikov of Nottingham beat Andrew Ledger and John Cooper of Hull beat James Sherwin to take win the event outright with 4½ points.

Lincolnshire players did well in the other sections, Lee Hall of Boston and Geoff Collyer of Louth shared first place in the U-135 event and Louth protégé 12 year old Samuel Milson took the U-100 title all with 5 points.

