

The first junior coaching day took place at Lincoln Chess Club recently when Paul Blackman from Rotherham came to give some useful tips and hints. Ten juniors came along to benefit from Paul's knowledge and experience interspersed with a four round rapidplay tournament.

As well as picking up a few tips myself it was my pleasure to adjudicate the prize for the best game. My choice was the game in round 3 between Amy Norman from Tollbar BEC in Grimsby playing white and Ben Smith from the Lincoln Minster School with the opening following the Scotch game 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 exd4 4. Nxd4 Bc5 5. Be3 d6 6. Bb5 Bd7 7. 0-0 Nf6 8. e5 dxe5 9. Nxc6 bxc6 10. Bxc5 cxb5 and after an explosive opening the smoke has cleared with Ben a pawn up.

Play continued 11. Re1 e4 12. Nc3 Bc6 13. Qxd8+ Rxd8 14. f3 Rd2 15. Rac1 a5 16. Nxe4 Nxe4 17. fxe4 h6 and Amy has regained the pawn 18. a3 Kd7 19. b4 a4 20. Be3 Rd6 21. Bc5 Re6 22. Rcd1+ Kc8 23. e5 Rd8 24. Bd4 f5 (declining en passant 25. exf6 as this loses a piece) 25. g3 g5 26. h3 f4 27. c3 h5 28. h4 gxh4 29. gxh4 Rg6+.

In his lectures Paul pointed out that bishops like long diagonals, rooks like open files and pawns like to be promoted. All three are demonstrated in the position shown in the diagram - Amy's bishop controls the a8-h1 diagonal, her rook controls the g-file helping the pawn on f4 in its quest for promotion.

After this Ben stoutly defend his position and won on time although both players deservedly received medals for excellent play.

The very best for Christmas and the New Year from all at Lincoln Chess Club.

