

Lincolnshire entered a team in the ECF Under 18 Counties Team Championship held earlier this year in Syston near Leicester in a high calibre event where the top teams were brimming with internationals.

The team comprised Hannah Dale (12) Ben Smith (13) and Tom Smith from Lincoln Minster School, Sam Milson (12) Amy Milson (10) and Jamie Pratt (11) from Louth, David O'Neill (16) and Jessica O'Neill (13) both from the Priory LSST, John Corke (15) from QEGS Horncastle, Christopher Bridgwood (12) from William Farr and Charlie Granger (13) from Swinderby.

A very young side, but with several players making their mark in county circles they were not overawed and finished with a creditable $7\frac{1}{2}$ out of 20 in 6th place. Credit should also go to Robert Dale, aided by parents, who put the team together and with several players available for a few more years they should become in force in junior chess.

The feature of the day was Hannah Dale's match on board 1 playing against Mural Mohammed from Yorkshire who finished in 3rd place behind Wiltshire and Kent, and we pick up the game after Hannah, as black, has just played 28. ...Qc4 (see diagram) with both players threatening hanging pawns 29. Rxe7 Rxb2 30. Qa7 Qxd5 and Hannah won the pawn on d5 whilst defending the pawn on f7 31. h3 R8b7 32. Qe3 Rxe7 33. Qxe7 Qd2 34. Rg1 a4 35. Qa7 Ra2 36. Qd4+ Qxd4 37. cxd4 Rd2 38. Ra1 Rxd4 and with Hannah two passed pawns to the good a win shortly followed. Hannah also won her other game, the only board 1 to win both games.

