

Lincoln's Division 2 North team continued their season with the visit to South Park of Scunthorpe A. Having won their opening match Lincoln were matched against one of the division's high flyers having narrowly lost out to Louth B on points difference in last seasons campaign so Lincoln needed to be on their mettle to continue their good start.

On board 4 Lincoln's Charles Moss was paired against one of the county's top juniors Joshua Masterman and we take up the game after Charles, as black, has just played 33. ...Kxd7 after the last of the rooks has been exchanged leaving an interesting endgame involving the king and seven pawns on each side - see diagram.

Play continued with Charles aiming his sights on the pawn on e5 which Joshua is finding difficult to defend 34. f3 a6 35. Kf2 c5 36. Ke3 Kc6 37. a3 Kd5 38. Kd3 c4+ 39. Ke3 Kxe5 and Charles wins the pawn 40. g3 Kd5 41. a4 e5 42. f4 g4 43. fxe5 Kxe5 44. a4 h5 and now the earlier move 38. ...c4+ has forced white's king to retreat in a classic zug-zwang (translated from the German as "compulsion to move") situation 45. Ke2 Ke4 46. Kd2 Kf3 47. Ke1 Ke3 and now Charles is in a position to attack the pawn on c3 48. Kd1 Kd3 49. Kc1 Kxc3 50. Kd1 Kb2 and Charles was able to shepherd in the c pawn to gain promotion to a queen and white resigned a few moves later.

Draws for Geoff Collyer and yours truly meant, however, that the match was drawn 2-2.

