

Lincoln's Team in Division 1 played their penultimate match in this season's campaign when Scunthorpe were the visitors to South Park. Having secured the title for the third season in a row, with two matches to spare following their win over Grimsby, Lincoln were looking to maintain their 100% record. Scunthorpe, on the other hand, were already consigned to the wooden spoon. Their quest to upset the apple cart took a blow before they started as they defaulted the bottom board.

On board 4 Lincoln's Geoff Collyer was paired as white against Scunthorpe's stalwart Rick Davey with the opening following one of Rick's specials 1. e4 b5 2. d4 Bb7 surrendering the centre to white 3. Bd3 Nf6 4. Qe2 e6 5. f4 Nc6 6. c3 a6 7. Nf3 Be7 8. Nbd2 0-0 but he still managed to develop his pieces.

Play continued 9. e5 Nd5 10. Ne4 f5 11. Nf2 (declining the en passant opportunity) Na5 12. Bd2 c5 13. 0-0 cxd4 14. Nxd4 Qb6 15. Kh1 Rac8 16. Nd1 Nc6 17. Nf3 Qa7 18. h3 b4 and Rick pushed the b-pawn hoping for 19. cxb4 opening up Geoff's centre (see diagram).

Geoff instead played 19. c4 Nb6 20. Be3 Rb8 21. Qf2 Ba8 and Rick has to retreat to protect the pinned knight on b6 22. b3 Qc7 23. Nb2 d6 24. exd6 Bxd6 a mistake on Rick's part as Geoff played 25. c5 forking knight and bishop. Rick tried to get out of it with 25. ...Bxf4 26. cxb6 Bxe3 27. bxc7 Bxf2 28. cxb8(Q) Nxb8 29. Rxf2 leaving Geoff a rook and piece up and he went on to win.

Wins also for Paul Cumbers, Claudio Mangione and David Coates gave Lincoln a 5-0 win.

