

Lincoln's team in Division 1 completed the league season with the visit to St. James Church Hall in the centre of Louth. Our hosts had little to play for in terms of league position as their third place spot was secured. Equally, Lincoln had already secured the third title in a row by winning all five games so far. So Louth's quest was to stop Lincoln from a clean sweep.

On board 4 it was my pleasure to be paired as black against Louth's young starlet Amy Milson with the opening moves following the Giuoco Piano 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Be7 4. d3 Nf6 5. Nc3 0-0 6. 0-0 d6 7. h3 h6 8. Be3 and in a quiet opening both of us have secure positions.

My next strategy was 8. ...Na5 9. Bb3 Nxb3 10. axb3 a6 11. b4 Be6 giving my white squared bishop free reign and doubling Amy's b-pawns 12. Qd2 Kh7 (preventing 13. Bxh6) 13. d4 exd4 14. Nxd4 Qd7 15. Kh2 (equally preventing 15. ...Bxh6) Rad8. Amy could have played 16. Nxe6 but instead played 16. b5 looking to clear the doubled pawns but provided me with an opportunity (see diagram) - can you see it?

I played 16. ...axb5 17. Ndxb5 Bc4 forking the knight and rook 18. Rfd1 Bxb5 winning the piece 19. b3 Bc6 20. f3 Ra8 21. Qd3 Kh8 22. b4 b6 23. b5 Bb7 24. e5 hoping for 24. ...dxe5 25. Qxd7 Nxd7 26. Rxd7 winning back the piece but instead I played 24. ...Rxa1 25. Rxa1 dxe5 winning the pawn and Amy resigned a few moves later.

Wins for Claudio Mangione and Fredrik Gustafsson and draws for Paul Cumbers and Geoff Collyer gave Lincoln a 4-1 win.

