

Lincoln's team in Division 2 North made their visit to Barton-on-Humber. With teams playing each other once this was Lincoln's first visit to the nicely appointed Corn Exchange hotel in the town centre as Barton had joined the league last season when their visit to South Park resulted in a 3-1 win for Barton. However, these turned out to be their only points and they finished joint bottom in a disappointing first season.

So, starting as slight favourites Lincoln still needed to be on their best mettle to avoid a repeat of last season and on board 3 Neil Emmans was making his debut for Lincoln and was paired as black against Barton's Mike Dew and we pick up the game after Mike has just played 26. c3 (see diagram) forking Neil's knights so Neil has it all to do.

Neil replied with 26. ...f5 27. cxb4 fxe4 28. Rxe4 cxb4 29. f4 Qd6 and the game is materially even with white overlooking some opportunities 30. Qe3 Nf5 and now Neil's knight has moved to a more menacing position 31. Qe1 Rce7 32. Rbe2 exf4 33. Re6 giving Neil an opportunity for decisive finish with 33. ...Qd4+ 34. Kf1 Ne3+ 35. R2xe3 with Mike having to sacrifice the exchange 35. ...fxe3 36. Rxe7+ Rxe7 37. g3 Re5 38. Qxb4 e2+ and white resigned as 39. Ke1 or 39. Kg2 followed by 39. ...Qa1 is terminal.

Wins also for Geoff Collyer, Charles Moss and yours truly gave Lincoln a comprehensive 4-0 win meaning that we have 6 points from 5 matches giving us an outside chance of the title.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the RAOB Club, 58 South Park on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. [www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk](http://www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk)

