

Lincoln's Team in Division 2 South were out on the road to St. James church hall in Louth. Having drawn our first 2 matches we found ourselves in second place a point behind Spalding so a win would put us in pole position.

On board 4 Lincoln's Dave Bull was paired as white against Francis Birkbeck one of Louth's younger players making his debut in the league with the opening following the Vienna Game 1. e4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. Nf3 d6 5. 0-0 0-0 6. h3 Nc6 7. d3 h6 a quiet opening leading to a symmetrical pattern.

This changed with 8. Na4 Bb6 9. Nxb6 axb6 10. Be3 Ne7 11. Kh2 Ng6 12. Rg1 an interesting move on Dave's part allowing him to mount a pawn advance on black's king 12. ...Bd7 13. g4 c6 14. g5 hxg5 15. Nxc6 opening up the g-file for his rook.

Meanwhile, Francis mounted a counter attack with 15. ...d5 16. Bb3 Qc7 17. Qf3 c5 18. a3 c4 19. Ba2 forcing Dave's bishop to retreat 19. ...Bc6 20. Qg3 and now Dave threatened black's king with 21. Nxf7 a possibility. Black countered with 20. ...Nh5 21. Qg4 Nhf4 22. Bxf4 Nxf4 but this only allowed Dave to play 23. Qh4 Re8 24. Qh7+ Kf8 (see diagram). Dave could have played 25. Qh8+ Ke7 26. Qxc7 winning the pawn found a better move can you see it?

Dave played 25. Qxc7+ gaining a tempo. Black played 25. ...Ke7 not 25. ...Kxc7 as 26. Ne6+ and 27. Nxc7 follows 26. Nxf7 Qc8 27. Nxe5+ Kd8 28. Qf6+ and black resigned.

Wins also for Herman Kok and yours truly gave Lincoln a 3-1 victory.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the RAOB Club, 58 South Park on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk

