

Lincoln's Team in Division 2 North completed their fixtures with the visit of Louth to South Park. After losing their first 2 matches they had staged a recovery by winning the next three so a win in the last match was needed to post a competitive total.

On board 3, Lincoln's Herman Kok was paired as white against Louth's Francis Birkbeck with the opening following the colle system 1. d4 d5 2. e3 c5 3. Nf3 Nc6 4. c3 e6 5. Bd3 Nf6 6. Nbd2 Bd6 7. 0-0 a6 8. dxc5 Bxc5 9. e4 0-0 10. e5 Ng4 and after a quiet opening Herman has disrupted black's defense with the pawn on e5, 11. Nb3 Bxf2+ 12. Rxf2 Nxf2 13. Kxf2 who countered by exchanging bishop and knight for rook and pawn.

Play continued 13. ...f6 14. exf6 Qxf6 15. Kg1 e5 16. Bg5 Qd6 17. Qd2 Bg4 and Herman needs to use his resources well to counter black's threatening central pawns (see diagram).

Herman now played 18. Be4 d4 (not 18. ...dxe4 19. Qxd6) 19. cxd4 Bxf3 20. Bxf3 Nxd4 21. Nxd4 exd4 but Francis now has a passed pawn on d4 22. Rd1 Qc5 23. Bh4 d3+ 24. Bf2 Qc2 25. Bd5+ Kh8 26. Bb3 Qxd2 27. Rxd2 Rad8 28. Bc4 b5 29. Bxd3 Rd7 and Herman has captured the passed pawn but must take care not to allow his bishop to be pinned 30. Kf1 Rd4 31. Ke1 Rdf4 32. Bg3 Ra4 33. b3 Rd4 34. Bf2 Rd7 35. Bc5 Re8+ 36. Be2 and Herman seemed to have weathered the storm when black's flag fell.

Unfortunately, Herman's was Lincoln's only joy as Louth took the spoils 3-1 leaving Lincoln destined for a mid-table position on 6 points.

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

