

Pandora's Box Grantham were in action in the 4NCL Division 2A. The all-play-all format for the 8 team group means that the matches are played over 3 week-ends culminating in the spring bank holiday so their second match of the first week-end, held at the picturesque De Vere Venues Hotel at Staverton Park, was against White Rose 2.

On board 3 Pandora's Richard Polaczek was paired as black against Peter Shaw and we pick up the game after white has just played 23. Qxb7 (see diagram) taking the pawn meaning the Richard, being 2 pawns down, had his work cut out but did now have an open b-file to play with.

Richard took advantage with 23. ...Rb8 24. Qc7 Nb2 25. Rb1 Rc8 26. Qb7 Nc4 enabling his knight to take up a very strong c4 square 27. Rd3 Nxa3 regaining a pawn 28. Ra1 Nc4 29. Qb1 f5 30. Bf2 fxe4 31. fxe4 Rb8 32. Qe1 Rb2 33. Rb1 Rxb1 34. Qxb1 a4 and now Richard's passed pawn comes into play 35. Nc1 Qa8 36. Qb4 a mistake on white's part as 36. ...Rb8 means that white's queen is trapped and he resigned.

A win for Marcos Capuzzo together with draws for Jerzy Slaby, Chris Ross, Nigel Birtwistle and Sue Maroroa meant that the match ended in a 4-4 draw which added to their win the day before means that Pandora are in equal 3<sup>rd</sup> place on 3 points. The top 4 teams will join the top 4 from group 2B in a promotion playoff with the top 4 teams being promoted into Division 1.

You can follow Pandora's exploits on the 4NCL web-site [www.4ncl.co.uk](http://www.4ncl.co.uk)

