

Pandora's Box Grantham completed their second week-end of fixtures at the nice appointed Barcelo Hotel at the Hinckley Island with a match against Barbican Youth. Having been relegated from Division 1 last season they have put together a strong squad of players and were unbeaten in their first three fixtures in Division 2A of the 4NCL (4 Nations Chess League) so were in confident mood.

On board 4 Pandora's Paul Cumbers a regular in this column in his Lincoln days but who now lives in Sheffield was paired as black against Julian Farrand and we pick up the game after white has just played 29. f4 (see diagram). Paul replied with 29. ...gxf4 30. gxf4 meaning that both kings were now exposed with the open g and h files 30. ...exf4 31. exf4 also opened the e-file, 31. ...Rg7 and Paul is the first to take advantage.

Play continued 32. Rd2 Rdd7 33. Kf1 Qh4 34. Qf2 Qg4 and Paul had the initiative. White counterattacked with 35. Rcc1 Rh7 and seemed to have gained a pawn after 36. Bxd5+ Bxd5 37. Rxd5 but overlooked 37. ...Rh1+ and white resigned as 38. Qg1 is his only option.

Wins for Colin Crouch and Peter Batchelor together with draws for Richard Polaczek, Chris Ross, Nigel Birtwistle, Marcos Capuzzo and Martin Burrows meant that all eight players were unbeaten in the 5½ to 2½ win. Pandora now lie in equal first place on 7 points from 4 matches so are in a good position as the top 4 teams go forward to the promotion playoff with the top 4 teams in group 2B.

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

