

Pandora's Box Grantham completed their third week-end in this season's campaign in Division 2A of the 4NCL (4 Nations Chess League). Having won 4 and drawn 1 so far they had already secured a top 4 place meaning that they would be taking part in the end-of-season promotion play-off.

Their opponents in today's match, Poisoned Pawns, had also secured a place in the promotion play-off but this was far from being a dead rubber as the points gained against other teams in the play-off are carried forward.

One of the rules of the competition is that each team must play at least one lady or junior player in the eight person team and in Pandora's case Sue Maroroa was the lady player. Sue was paired on board 8 as white against Corinne Mountford who was the lady player for Poisoned Pawns and we pick up the game after black has just played 17. ...Qd7 (see diagram) setting up a winning combination - can you see it?

Sue played 18. dxe5 Ncxd5 (not 18. ...dxe5 19. Rxd7) 19. fxe5 Nxe5. However, it looked like black had recovered the position by forking queen and rook but Sue played 20. Qd4 preventing 20. ...Nxf3 21.Qxh8+ so black had to play 20. ...Bg7 21. Rh3 and Sue retained her advantage and went on to win.

Wins also for Colin Crouch, Marcos Capuzzo and Peter Batchelor together with draws for Jerzy Slaby, Chris Ross, Paul Cumbers and captain Nigel Birtwistle meant that Pandora had a comfortable 6-2 win.

Pandora will now go forward to the promotion play-off carrying forward 5 points out of a possible 6.

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

