

Louth were the visitors to Lincoln's South Park for the Division 1 encounter. Both teams had won both of their two opening matches with Louth top of the table on points difference so a close encounter was anticipated. However, it was a night that Lincoln would probably like to forget as Louth ran out winners 3-2 and so have the advantage in the run in of this season's championship which Lincoln have won for the last three seasons.

Apart from draws for captain David Coates and yours truly Lincoln's only success was Herman Kok's win over Charles Ayton and we pick up the game after Charles, as black, has just played 11. ...Nd5 (see diagram) providing an opportunity for Herman to open up black's defence - can you see it?

Herman played 12. Bxh7+ Kh8 13. Nfg5 Bxe5 and should now have played 14. Bc2 but in a game that Herman described as a comedy of errors he played 14. Qh5 looking for a quick win. Charles played 14. ...Nf6 followed by 15. Nxf7+ Rxf7 16. Qxf7 Bxh2+ 17. Kh1 Nxb7 and it looks like Charles has turned the tables.

Play continued 18. Re3 Rf8 19. Qh5 Rxf2 20. Rf3 Rxf3 21. gxf3 and it looked like Charles was about to close in for the kill with 21. ...Nxd4 but it was his turn for a mental aberration when he played 21. ...Bf4 giving Herman the opportunity to counter attack with 22. Qe8+ Nf8 23. Qxf8+ Kh7 24. Bxf4 Qd8 and now Herman has the advantage of the exchange and he went on to win a few moves later.

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

