

Lincoln's team in Division 2 South played their final match of the season when Spalding were the visitors to South Park. With Lincoln 3 points clear of Spalding this match had no bearing as Lincoln were already champions when Spalding, the only team still in contention, lost their previous two matches. However, Lincoln wanted to remain unbeaten in this season's campaign and also Herman Kok, having won all his Division 2 matches this season, wanted to maintain his record.

So, it is Herman's match that is featured where he is paired as white on board 3 against Spalding's Jamie Smith with the opening following the Tromowsky Attack 1. d4 Nf6 2. e3 c5 3. c3 e6 4. Bd3 d5 5. Nd2 Be7 6. Ngf3 0-0 7. e4 and Herman opens up the position with a pawn advance 7. ... dxe4 8. Nxe4 cxd4 9. Nxd4 Nbd7 10. Bg5 h6 11. Bh4 Nc5 12. Nxc5 Bxc5 13. Nb3 Be7 14. Qc2 Bd7 15. Rd1 Qb6 and black develops his pieces perhaps looking to take advantage of Herman not castling but has presented an opportunity to Herman to win a piece (see diagram) - can you see it?

Herman played 16. Bxf6 Bxf6 17. Bh7+ Kh8 18. Rxd7 winning the bishop. Black played 18. ...g6 trapping the bishop but 19. Bxg6 fxg6 20. Qxg6 Bxc3+ 21. Kd1 and black resigned unable to prevent mate without further loss of material.

A win for Dave Bull together with draws for Geoff Collyer and yours truly gave Lincoln the honours by 3-1 meaning that Lincoln finished with four wins and two draws and Herman won all six of his games.

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

