

Lincoln's team in Division 2 South were in action when they played hosts to Grantham at South Park. The top of the table showed both teams level on 7 points from 4 matches and with identical points difference with the rest of the field well adrift so this match would go some way to deciding this season's champions.

On board 1 Lincoln's Herman Kok was paired as white against Grantham secretary Chris Holt with the opening following the Giuoco Piano opening 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 a supposedly passive opening but with white's bishop on c4 aimed at the pawn on f7, 3. ...Nf6 4. Nc3 Be7 5. d4 Nxe4 and Chris took the pawn on e4 perhaps looking at 6. Nxe4 d5 (see diagram) but Herman had other ideas - can you see his next move?

Herman played 6. Bxf7+ Kxf7 7. Nxe4 d5 8. Neg5+ Kg8 and black elected to retreat his king 9. dxe5 Nxe5 10. Nxe5 Bxg5 11. Bxg5 but then Chris realised that he could not play 11. ...Qxg5 as 12. Qxd5+ Kf8 13. Qf7 is mate so he had to play 11. ...Qd6 leaving Herman a piece up.

Black still had some counterplay with 12. Qe2 Bf5 13. 0-0-0 Re8 14. f4 h6 15. Bh4 Kh7 16. g4 Be4 17. Rhe1 Rhf8 18. Bg3 c6 but this last move gave Herman another opportunity with 19. Qxe4+ and black resigned as 19. ...dxe4 20. Rxd6 follows.

A draw for Dave Bull was Lincoln's only other contribution as Grantham took the spoils by 2½ to 1½ and are now in pole position with Lincoln needing a win when the teams meet at Grantham.

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

