

Lincoln's team in Division 1 of the Lincolnshire League played hosts to Scunthorpe. This season reigning champions Grimsby have won all 4 of their matches and are run-away leaders on 8 points followed by Lincoln on 5 and Scunthorpe on 2 but our visitors have a game in hand so a win for Lincoln would effectively secure second place whereas a win for Scunthorpe would bring them within striking distance of their hosts.

On board 2 Lincoln's Ian McDonald was paired as white against Scunthorpe's Rod Wardlaw with the opening following the Sicilian Defence 1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. Bb5+ Bd7 4. Bxd7+ Qxd7 5. 0-0 with Ian preferring to exchange white squared bishops before castling king's side.

Play continued 5. ...Nf6 6. d3 e6 7. b3 Be7 8. Bb2 0-0 9. e5 Ne8 and Ian's other bishop is brought into play supporting the pawn on e5 10. Re1 Nc6 11. exd6 Bf6 but rather than taking the pawn immediately black counters the bishop on b2 12. Bxf6 Nxf6 13. Nbd2 Qxd6 restoring parity 14. Ne4 Nxe4 15. Rxe4 Nd4 16. c3 Nxf3+ 17. Qxf3 and after this latest exchange parity is still maintained (see diagram) and a draw was agreed.

Lincoln's only other contribution was a draw for James Irwin giving Scunthorpe the spoils 4-1.

Meanwhile, this season's Lincolnshire County Championship will take place at the familiar surroundings of the Lindum Business Park in North Hykeham on July 18 & 19. The Lincoln Junior Rapidplay will be held at the same venue on the 18th. Contact me for an entry form to either event on peter.sherlock4@ntlworld.com.

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

