

Lincoln's team in Division 2 South played hosts to the league's newcomers Horncastle - now in their third season. Founded from elements of Louth Chess Club both Horncastle and Louth have found this season difficult - occupying the bottom two places although a draw at home to Lincoln earlier in the season means they are not to be taken lightly. Meanwhile at the top of the table Lincoln are just behind Grantham so a win is needed to maintain the pressure before the teams meet next week.

On board 3 Lincoln's secretary Dave Bull was paired as white against Horncastle captain Andrew Watson with the French opening of 1. e4 e6 being left aside after 2. Nc3 Bb4 3. f4 Bxc3 4. bxc3 Nf6 5. d3 giving Dave's pawns control of the centre 5. ...0-0 6. c4 d5 7. e5 Nfd7 8. cxd5 exd5 9. Nf3 b6 10. Be2 c5 11. 0-0 d4 and black's pawn queen's side pawns look solid but this has given Dave and opportunity (see diagram) - can you see it?

Dave played 12. Nxd4 cxd4 13. Bf3 Nc6 14. Bxc6 Rb8 and black has to give up a piece to save his rook so Dave was now a pawn up 15. Ba3 Nc5 16. Rb1 Be6 17. Rb2 Rc8 18. Bxc5 bxc5 19. Be4 Bd5 20. Bxd5 Qxd5 21. Qf3 Qe6 and Dave now takes advantage of the open b-file 22. Qb7 h6 23. Qxa7 Rc6 24. Rfb1 f6 25. Rb7 Rf7 26. Rxf7 Qxf7 27. Qa8+ Kh7 28. Qxc6 winning the rook and black resigned a few moves later.

Wins also for Qais Karimi, James Irwin and Paul Fischer gave Lincoln a 4-0 win, a useful score if points difference comes into play.

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)

