

Lincoln's team in Division 2 South visited the Electric Social Club in downtown Grantham for the match which will probably determine the destiny of this season's trophy. In the proverbial two horse race Grantham and Lincoln were level on 11 points with third place Spalding trailing 5 points behind. Lincoln were slightly ahead on points difference but Grantham had played 1 game less thanks to the result of the meeting earlier in the season when Grantham ran out winners $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $1\frac{1}{2}$.

On board 4 it was my pleasure to be paired as white against one of Grantham's up and coming young players Will Grummitt who is one of many players who have benefited from the chess club set up by Phil Beckett at King's School in Grantham.

The game was nip and tuck all the way and we pick it up after black has just played 42. ...g5 (see diagram) will only the kings and three pawns left but with Will's g-pawns being doubled. I played 43. g4+ Kf6 and thought long and hard about my next move. Should I play 44. h5?

I calculated that 44. h5 Ke5 45. Kf2 Kf4 puts me on the back foot and probably loses after 46. Kg2 or 46. Ke2 f5 47. gxf5 Kxf5 leaving my pawn on h5 very vulnerable. As it happens I played 44. hxg5 Kxg5 45. Ke4 and a draw was agreed.

Draws for Herman Kok, Qais Karimi and James Irwin meant that the match was drawn 2-2. In their final match Grantham, needing only a draw, beat Louth $2\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ to take the Division 2 South title by 2 points.

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

