

Lincoln's team in Division 1 started this season's campaign when Louth were the visitors to South Park. Neither team faired that well last season with Louth holding the wooden spoon and Lincoln just above them in third place behind Scunthorpe and last year's champions Grimsby so this encounter was a chance for either team to start off on the front foot.

On board 2 Lincoln's Herman Kok was paired as white against Louth captain David Bale with the opening initially following the Sicilian Defrense but deviating into one of Herman's unusual variations 1. e4 c5 2. b4 (expecting 2. ...cxb4 3. a3 bxa3 4. Bxa3 sacrificing a pawn but with a awkward bishop on a3) but David played 2. ...Qb6 3. bxc5 Qxc5 4. d4 Qb6 5. Ba3 maintaining parity but Herman has control of the centre and that menacing bishop 5. ...d6 6. Nf3 g6 7. Nbd2 Bg7 8. c3 Nf6 9. Rb1 Qc7 10. Qb3 0-0 11. Bd3 Nc6 12. 0-0 Rb8 and after a period of development both sides have castled.

Play continued 13. Qc4 Qd8 14. Qa4 Bd7 15. Qc2 Qc7 16. d5 Nd8 and black elects to retreat (see diagram) Herman now played 17. e5 Nxd5 18. exd6 Qxc3 and appeared to have given away 2 pawns but 19. dxe7 Qxa3 20. exf8(Q)+ Qxf8 regained the advantage and Herman is now an exchange up 21. Be4 Bc6 22. Bxd5 Bxd5 23. Qc7 Ne6 24. Qa5 and Herman is attacking both the bishop on d5 and the pawn on a7. Black played 24. ...Qc5 25. Rb5 Qc6 26. Rxd5 winning the piece 26. ...b6 27. Qb5 and black resigned.

Wins also for James Irwin and yours truly gave Lincoln a narrow 3-2 win. 14

Lincoln Chess Club play at the RAOB Club, 58 South Park on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. [www.lincolnchessclub.co.uk](http://www.lincolnchessclub.co.uk)

