

Lincoln's team in Division 1 played in their latest game when they were the visitors to Brumby Hall home of the Appleby Frodingham Social club in Scunthorpe. At the half way stage of the season all four teams have played 3 matches. Last season's champions are top on 6 points whereas Louth, Lincoln and Scunthorpe are contesting the minor places as each has 2 points so tonight's match may help to decide the outcome of this tussle.

On board 4 Lincoln's Qais Karimi was drafted in as a late replacement for Jules Brown who was ill. As is customary the away team is white on odd boards so he was paired as black against Joanne Hutchinson from Scunthorpe and we pick up the game after white has played 15. g4 (see diagram) evenly matched but with Qais yet to castle.

Qais played 15. ...h5 hoping to open up the h-file 16. Bf5 hxg4 17. Bxg4 0-0-0 and Qais castled queen's side 18. Kg2 Be7 19. Bxd6+ exd6 20. Ne5 Bxa6 - a freeby pawn - 21. Rc2 Bd6 22. Qg4 Rde8 23. Nd3 Nd7 24. Ne5 Bxe5 25. dxe5 Qxe5 and another pawn goes 26. Qg3 Qf5 27. Ra2 e5 28. b4 Nf6 29. Rc1 Ne4 30. Qg4 Qxg4 31. hxg4 Nxc3 32. Rxc3 and with a 2 pawn advantage Qais went on to win a few moves later.

A win for Herman Kok, also as black, and a draw for yours truly meant that the match was drawn 2½-2½. In fact apart from my game on board 5 all the games were won by black so the outcome of the minor places is no clearer.

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

