

A couple of times this season I have been called upon by Chris Cumbers to play for Grantham in the Nottinghamshire League. Grantham have 2 teams in Division 1 but that is way above my level, instead I am pleased to help out by playing for Grantham 3 in Division 4.

In the latest venture I played against Radcliffe & Bingham 2 and managed to draw my game on board 3 but this week's game is taken from board 1 where my good friend Ben Mason was paired as white against Barry Redburn with the opening moves following the King's Gambit 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 exd4 4. Bc4 h6 5. Nxd4 Bc5 6. Nxc6 bxc6 and black elected to retake the knight with the b-pawn (see diagram) which provided Ben with an opportunity to gain an advantage - can you see it?

Ben played 7. Bxf7+ Kxf7 8. Qh4+ g6 9. Qxc5 winning the pawn with black's c-pawns also being doubled. Ben took advantage after 9. ...Nf6 10. 0-0 Qe7 11. Qc4+ Qe6 12. Qxe6+ dxe6 13. Nc3 Bd7 14. Bf4 Rac8 15. Rad1 g5 16. Be5 Rhd8 17. f4 Kg6 18. fxg5 Ng4 19. Bf6 Nxf6 20. gxf6 and Ben now has a passed pawn 20. ...Be8 21. Rxd8 Rxd8 22. Rf2 Bf7 23. e5 Rd4 24. Kf1 Kg5 25. Ke2 Rf4 and it looks like Ben's two advanced pawns could be in danger 26. Nd1 Kf5 27. Ke3 Rxf2 28. Nxf2 Kxe5 29. Ng4+ Kf5 30. Nxh6+ Kxf6 31. Nxf7 Kxf7 maintaining his pawn advantage and black resigned.

A win also for Chris Cumbers and a draw for Grenville Wollerton meant that Grantham won 3-2. In their final match of the season Grantham beat West Nottingham 4 3-2 and thus gained promotion to Division 3 as runners-up.

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)

