

Lincoln's team Division 2 North, champions for the last two seasons, got their title defense underway when they visited Brumby Hall the home of the Appleby Frodingham Steel Works Sports complex to play Scunthorpe A.

With a number of their top players unavailable Lincoln drafted in Neil Roberts on board 4. Neil joined Lincoln Chess Club earlier in the year and is still ungraded but has impressed in the club competitions so far so I, as captain, had no hesitation in putting him in the team.

Paired as white against Scunthorpe's William Bazley, we pick up the game after black has just played 16. ...Ra7 (see diagram). Neil played 17. g5 posing the question to black's knight on f6 suggesting he either retreats opening up black's king side defense or maybe move to e4.

In fact black chose the latter 17. ...Ne4 18. Nxe4 dxe4 19. Bxe4 Bxe4 20. Qxe4 but this option left Neil a pawn up. Work still needed to be done as play continued 20. ...f5 21. gxf6 (en passant) Rxf6 22. a3 g6 23. Qe5 Qe7 24. Kd2 Kg8 25. Raf1 Rf5 26. Qe4 Rd7 27. Kc2 Kf7 28. Rfg1 a5 29. h4 Rdd5 30. Rg5 a4 31. Rhg1 Rxd5 32. hxd5 Kg7 exposing the pawn on h7 to attack 33. Qh1 Qf7 34. Qh6+ Kh8 35. Rh1 Rd7 36. Rh2 Qf5+ 37. Kc1 Rg7 38. Qh3 Qe4 39. Rf2 Rf7 40. Qf3 Qd5 41. Qxd5 exd5 and with only a king and rook left to support the pawns Neil was able to press home his advantage.

Draws for Jules Brown and Paul Fischer meant that the match finished in a 2-2 draw.

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)

