

Lincoln's team in Division 1 paid a visit to St.James Church Hall where Louth were the hosts. Since the draw between the two teams at the start of the season Louth have had a resurgence beating both Scunthorpe and reigning champions Grimsby and led the table by a point from Grimsby coming into this match. Lincoln on the other hand are at the foot of the table with the draw against Louth their only point.

On board 1 Lincoln's new recruit Murray Smith, who has recently moved from Australia to take up a position in the Health Faculty at Lincoln University, was paired as white against Louth's top player Samuel Milson with the opening following the Ruy Lopez 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. 0-0 Be7 6. Qe2 b5 7. Bb3 0-0 8. c3 d6 9. d4 Bg4 10. Rd1 exd4 11. cxd4 d5 12. exd5 Nb4 and black elects to delay the retake of the pawn.

Play continued 13. h3 Bh5 14. g4 Bg6 15. Nc3 Re8 16. Ne5 Bf8 17. f4 h6 18. f5 Bh7 and black's bishop has to retreat to h7 and is current out of the game. This also sets up a position where black's pawn on f7 is weakened (see diagram) - can you see how Murray exploited this?

Murray played 19. a3 Nbx d5 20. Nxd5 Nxd5 21. Qf3 Nf6 (not 21. ...c6 22. Nxc6) 22. Nxf7 Qe7 23. Nxf6+ Kh8 24. Nf7+ Kg8 winning two pawns and now closes in 25. g5 c5 26. gxf6 Qxf6 27. Bg5 Qb6 28. Nd8+ c4 29. Qd5+ Kh8 30. Qxa8 Qc7 31. Ne6 Qg3+ 32. Qg2 Qxg2+ 33. Kxg2 Bxf5 34. Nxf8 cxb3 35. d5 Rxf8 36. d6 and after all this carnage Murray is a rook to the good with his d-pawn homing in on promotion and black resigned.

A win for yours truly was Lincoln's only other contribution meaning that Louth won 3-2 and now lead the table by 3 points.

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

