

Lincoln's team in Division 2 North played hosts to Horncastle. The visitors have been regulars in Division 2 South for a few years but this is their first season in the North section and things have not gone as they would have liked as they are rooted at the foot of the table on 4 points. Lincoln, themselves, have also had an indifferent season lying in 4th place on 7 points so needed a win to maintain a slender hope of retaining the title they have won in the last two seasons.

On board 4, Lincoln's Dave Bull was paired as black against Horncastle's Andrew Watson who began play with the queen's opening 1. d4 d6 2. e3 g6 3. c4 Bg7 4. Nc3 Nf6 5. Nf3 0-0 6. Be2 Nbd7 7. Bd2 c5 and Dave challenges the white's initial control of the centre 8. Qc2 cxd4 9. Nxd4 Ne5 10. f4 Ned7 11. g4 e5 12. Ndb5 Nb6 13. g5 Ne8 and Dave has to retreat from white's king side pawn advance.

Play continued with Andrew castling queen's side bring his rook into play 14. 0-0-0 a6 15. Na3 Be6 16. h4 Rc8 and Dave is looking at the pawn on c4 and also white's king and queen 17. b3 exf4 18. exf4 d5 19. Kb1 d4 and Dave now has a passed pawn (see diagram).

White played 20. Be1 dxc3 21. Bxc3 (21. Rxd8 winning the queen could have been a better option) Qe7 22. Bxg7 Nxg7 23. h5 Bf5 24. Bd3 Bxd3 25. Rxd3 Qe4 and Dave overlooked 25. ...Qxa3 but it mattered not as he was now a piece up and went on to win.

Wins also for Herman Kok and Jules Brown gave Lincoln a 3-1 win.

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

