

Lincoln's team in Division 2 North played their last match of the season when they were the visitors to the Scunthorpe Steel Works Sports ground on Ashby Road where Scunthorpe B were the hosts. The two teams were level on 11 points, 4 points behind this season's champions Grimsby D, with Lincoln ahead on points difference so a draw or better would see Lincoln runners-up.

On board 3, Lincoln's Dave Bull was paired as black against Scunthorpe's Tony Dixon with the opening following Dave's favourite Pirc defence 1. d4 d6 2. e4 Nf6 3. Nc3 g6 4. Nf3 Bg7 5. Be2 Nc6 6. 0-0 h5 7. d5 Nb8 and in a deviation from the main line Dave has to retreat his knight 8. Bb5+ Bd7 9. Bxd7+ Nbx7 10. Rb1 Nc5 but comes out again to put pressure on the pawn on e4 11. Ng5 c6 12. f3 h4 13. Be3 cxd5 14. exd5 Ncd7 15. Nce4 and white is hoping for 15. ...Nxe4 16. fxe4 (see diagram) but Dave found a better move - can you see it?

Dave played 15. ...Qa5 attacking the pawns on a2 and d5. White played 16. c4 Qxa2 17. Bd4 Qxc4 18. Nxf6+ Bxf6 19. Bxf6 Nxf6 and after this latest exchange Dave remained two pawns to the good and went on to win a few moves later. Dave's busy work schedule means that his availability is limited but he managed to play 5 games this season, winning 2 and drawing 3. Last season he played 6 games, winning 3 and drawing 3. In fact the last time Dave lost a game was in the 2014/15 season - quite a record.

Draws for Herman Kok and Jules Brown meant that the match was drawn 2-2 so Lincoln finished runners-up having been champions for the previous 2 seasons.

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

