

Lincoln's team in Division 2 South embarked on this season's campaign when they had the long track to Spalding in the familiar surrounds of the Services and Social Club on High Street on the banks of the River Welland. In their first match Spalding had beaten last season's champions Grantham 4-0 so were in buoyant mood.

Jules Brown has taken on the mantle of captaining the team this season taking over from Paul Fischer and is hoping to blood some of Lincoln's new members during the season so, hopefully, some of their games could feature in this column.

However, it is Jules's game which is the subject this week where he was paired a white on board 2 against Spalding's Pawel Szutkowski and we pick up the game after black has just played 36. ...Bxh3 (see diagram) and Jules is on the ropes and is now three pawns down.

He played 37. Qb6 perhaps looking to escape with a draw after 38. Qd8+. However, black played 37. ...Rxg1 38. Qxg1 Qxg1+ 39. Kxg1 and Jules in now has bishop and rook against bishop and knight although black still has the 3 pawn advantage.

Play continued 39. ...Bg4 40. Rc7 Ne2+ 41. Kf2 b5 42. Rc6 a5 43. Bd1 Nd4 43. Bxg4 and black resigned as after 43. ...Nxc6 44. dxc6 promotion of the c-pawn follows.

A win also for Kevin McCarthy and a draw for Paul Fischer enabled Lincoln to win by 2½ to 1½. On board 4 Mark Atkins was making his debut for the team and, although he lost, I am sure that the experience gained will help him to become a valuable member of the team in the future.

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)

