

Lincoln's team in Division 2 South played hosts to Horncastle recently. Captain Jules Brown was continuing his policy of giving debuts to players who have recently joined the club. The latest debutant was Alex Ashworth who lives in the Newcastle area but works in Lincolnshire during the week.

Alex was paired as black on board 2 against Horncastle captain Graeme Rae and we pick up the game after white has just played 20. Nxd4 (see diagram) gaining a pawn. Can you see how Alex regained the pawn.

Alex played 20. ...Nxd3 21. exd3 Bxd4 22. Bc3 Qg7 23. Bxd4 Qxd4 24. Qe3 Qxe3 25. exf3 and the latest exchanges have left an interesting endgame with each side having 7 pawns supported by the king and a pair of rooks.

Play continued 25. ...b6 26. Rbe1 d5 27. Rc1 dxc4 28. d4 gaining Alex a pawn advantage 28. dxc4 Rd3 would also have won a pawn as the rook would have both pawns on a3 and e3 in its sights. 28. ...Rac8 29. Rc3 Rc7 30. Rfc1 Rdc8 31. Kf3 Kf7 32. Kf4 Kf6 33. h4 h6 34. a4 g5+ 35. hxg5+ hxg5+ 36. Kf3 e5 37. R1c2 g4+ and white's king is forced to retreat 38. Ke2 Ke6 39. Rc1 Kd5 40. dxe5 Re8 41. Rd1+ Kc5 42. Rd4 Kb4 43. Kd2 Rxe5 and Alex regained the pawn but, more importantly, he was able to move his king to b4 with the pawns on a4 and b5 now at his mercy and he went on to win a few moves later.

Ian McDonald gained a draw on board 1 but the two other debutants Arlan Musurov and Kieran Burt lost their games but gained valuable experience.

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)

