

Lincoln's team in Division 2 South were on the road when they visited the Gonerby Social Club when Grantham were the hosts. Reigning champions Grantham had not had the best of starts to this season's campaign with as they were bottom of the table only 2 points from their opening 3 games. Lincoln, also on 2 points from 2 games, were just above them on points difference. However, there is still lots to play for as the top 3 teams are each only on 4 points.

On board 2 Lincoln's Neil Roberts was paired as white against Richard Chillcott with the opening following the Morra Gambit variation of the Sicilian Defence named after the French master Pierre Morra with the opening 1. e4 c5 2. d4 cxd4 3. c3 dxc3 giving the pawn away hopefully in return for better development.

Play continued 4. Nxc3 Nc6 5. Nf3 d6 6. Bc4 Nf6 and already Neil has his sights on black's f7 pawn 7. e5 dxe5 8. Qxd8+ Kxd8 9. Ng5 e6 10. Nxf7+ Ke7 11. Nxh8 g6 12. Bg5 Bg7 13. Nxc6 hxg6 and Neil has a good return of the pawn plus the exchange together with black's king being stuck in the middle with the knight on f6 pinned 14. Ne4 a6 15. 0-0 Bd7 16. f4 b5 17. Bxb5 axb5 and Neil is happy to give away a bishop for a pawn (see diagram) as his next move win's back the piece - can you see how?

Neil played 18. fxe5 Nxe5 19. Nxf6 Bxf6 20. Bxf6+ Kd6 21. Rfd1+ and black resigned as the knight on e5 is also lost. A win also for Paul Fischer meant that the match finished 2-2 closing the gap to 1 point behind the top 3.

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

