

Lincoln's team in Division 2 North were in action when they played hosts to reigning champions Grimsby. The visitors quest to retain the trophy were being thwarted by Louth who topped the table with 8 points with Grimsby second on 7. However, Lincoln on 4 points were holding the wooden spoon so they needed the points as well for different reason. So, with all teams having 2 matches to play tonight's match was important at both ends of the table.

On board 1, Lincoln's Kevin McCarthy was paired as white against Grimsby's Stuart MacDonald with Kevin playing the Queen's opening Blackmar-Diemer variation 1. d4 d5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. e4 dxe4 4. f3 exf3 where white gives away a pawn in return for better development retaking the pawn with either the knight or queen.

In this case Kevin played 5. Nxf3 e6 6. Bg5 Be7 7. Bd3 c6 8. 0-0 h6 9. Be3 Nbd7 10. Qe1 0-0 11. Qg3 and now black has castled but white has his forces concentrating on black's defense with his queen coming to the party.

Play continued 11. ...Nh5 12. Qh3 Ndf6 13. Ne5 g6 14. g4 Ng7 15. Qxh6 Nd5 (see diagram).

In the game Kevin played 16. Nxd5 exd5 17. Nxc6 f5 (not 17. ...fxg6 18. Bxc6) 18. gxf5 Bf6 19. Qh8+ Kf7 20. Qxf8+ Qxf8 21. Nxf8 Kxf8 leaving white the exchange and two pawns up and black resigned a few moves later.

However, Kevin considered at the time and later analysis confirmed that, from the diagram, 16. Rxf7 Rxf7 17. Bxc6 Bf6 18. Nxf7 would have been a more devastating win.

Wins also for Herman Kok and Ian McDonald plus a draw for Neil Roberts lifted Lincoln off the bottom of the table with a 3½ to ½ win.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XG on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.  
[www.lincolnchessclub.co.uk](http://www.lincolnchessclub.co.uk)

