

Grantham Sharks 2, Lincolnshire's team in the 4NCL played their 3rd week-end in this years tournament. Playing in Group A of Division 2 they had not had the best of starts to the season lying in 7th place on 2 points after the first 4 rounds.

On the Saturday their opponents in round 5 on were Kings Head based in Hemel Hempstead and on board 4 Samuel Milson from Louth was paired as black against Andrew Gilfillan and we pick up the game after white has just played 24. b4 (see diagram) trying to dislodge Samuel's bishop on c5. However, Samuel had something better in mind - can you see it?

Samuel played 24. ...Nf6 25. Qe2 Bd4 26. Kg1 Nxe4 27. Qxe4 Qxe4 28. Rxe4 Nd3 29. Rc2 Nxf4 30. gxf4 and although materially still equal white's pawn structure is in a mess 30. ...b5 31. Rc7 Bb6 32. Re7 Rd2 33. Ng2 Rxf2 34. Ne3 R2xf4 35. R7xe6 Rxe4 36. Rxe4 Rf3 and white's knight on e3 is lost being pinned by the bishop 37. Rxc4+ Kf7 38. Kg2 Rxe3 and Samuel went on to win a few moves later.

Kings Head were only able to field 6 players so the 2 defaulted boards plus a win for captain Nigel Birtwistle, and draws for Liam Varnam and Charles Linford gave Grantham a 5-2 win (5-3 but Kings Head were deducted 1 point for the defaults).

On the Sunday unfortunately Grantham drew 4-4 with White Rose 2 and now lie in 5th place on 5 points needing a good result in the final match to finish in the top 4 and entry into the promotion pool along with the top 4 from Group B.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XG on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.
www.lincolnchessclub.co.uk

