

Grantham Sharks 2, Lincolnshire's team in the 4NCL played their final match in Group 2A when they were paired against Sussex Martlets 1. After the previous round they were lying in 5th place so needed a good result to gain a top four finish and thus go forward to the promotion pool along with the top four from Group 2B.

On board 5 Samuel Milson from Louth was paired as black against Matthew Lunn and we pick up the game after white has just played 46. Nxa6 (see diagram) winning back the pawn lost earlier in the game. However, this has set up an opportunity to gain an advantage for Samuel - can you see it?

Samuel played 46. ...Nxe5+ 47. fxe5 Rxc1 winning a rook and pawn for a knight. However, white now had a passed pawn on a5 48. Nb4 Rc4 49. Nc2 Ra4 50. Rxa4 bxa4 51. a6 Ra7 52. Nb4 Kd7 53. Kc4 Kc7 54. Kb5 a3 55. Na2 Ra8 and white resigned.

A win also for Carlo Russian and draws for Ben Purton, Nigel Birtwistle, Louise Head and Hugh Murphy gave Grantham a 5-3 meaning that they finished in 4th place and thus qualified for the promotion pool where the top 4 are promoted to Division 1.

Grantham go forward into this pool carrying forward the results from the other teams in Group 2A who also qualified. Unfortunately, having lost to Manx Liberty, Wood Green Monarchs and Celtic Tigers in Group 2A their starting position was at the foot on the table on zero points - more anon.

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

