

Lincoln's team in Division 1 of the Lincolnshire League were in action when Scunthorpe were the visitors to Grafton House. Lincoln were level on points with Louth but well behind runaway leaders Grimsby so a good result was needed to help secure second place. Scunthorpe, on the other hand, were root to the root of the table, yet to score a point this season.

On board 4, Lincoln stalwart Herman Kok was paired as white against Rod Wardlaw with the opening following the Sicilian Defence Marshall gambit 1. e4 c5 2. b4 cxb4 where white gives away a pawn to deflect black's control of the centre 3. a3 d5 4. exd5 Qxd5 5. Nf3 e5 6. c4 bxc3 and black takes Herman's pawn with the en passant move 7. Nxc3 Qa5 8. Bc4 Be7 and although black's queen is active and has an extra pawn Herman's pieces are better developed.

Play continued 9. Rb1 Nh6 10. Rb5 Qc7 and Herman concentrates his efforts on black's pawn on e5 11. Qe2 Be6 12. Bxe6 fxe6 and black now has doubled up pawns on the e-file 13. Rxe5 0-0 14. 0-0 Nc6 15. Rxe6 Ng4 and Herman is now a pawn up with his queen and rook controlling the e-file with black's last move aimed at preventing 16. Nd5. Herman instead played 16. d4 although he later felt that 16. Re1 could have been a better option. Black played 16. ...Rxf3 allowing 17. Nd5 Nxd4 18. Nxc7 Nxe2+ effectively exchanging queens 19. Rxe2 and although materially equal black resigned (see diagram) as both his rooks and his bishop on e7 are en prise (meaning that they can be taken without reply).

Wins also for David Coates and Ian McDonald meant that Lincoln won 3-2 and now occupy second place.

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

