

Grantham Sharks 2, Lincolnshire's team in the 4NCL, played in the penultimate week end of this season's competition. On the Saturday they played their last match in Pool B of Division 2 and were lying in joint second place with London based Gonzaga hoping to get a top 4 finish and proceed to the promotion pool.

As luck would have it these two teams were paired against each other and on board 2 Chris Dorrington from Bourne was paired as black against Oliver Gill and we pick up the game after white has just played 41. Bxf2 after an exchange of queens (see diagram) with both sides materially equal but white having a passed pawn on a5.

Chris played 41. ... Ng4 42. Bg1 Ra1 43. Rd2 to prevent 43. ... Nf2+ 44. Kh2 Nxe4 but 43. ... Rxa5 winning a pawn anyway 44. g3 Ra4 45. Re2 Kg6 46. Kg2 Rc4 47. Bb6 Kf7 48. Bg1 Ke6 49. Bb6 Nh6 50. Bg1 Nf7 51. Kf3 Nd6 and white has run out of ideas with his repeated moves while Chis moves his knight to attack the pawn on e4 52. Bf2 Rc3+ 53. Kg2 g5 54. hxc5 fxc5 55. Re1 Rc4 56. Bb6 Nxe4 gaining another pawn 57. Rh1 Rc2+ 58. Kf3 Nf6 59. Bd8 g4+ 60. Ke3 Rc3+ 61. Ke2 Ne4 and white resigned.

Wins also for Guy Moss and Leon Cazares plus a draw for Alla Pleasants meant that Gonzaga won 4½ to 3½. The other results plus an inferior points difference meant that Grantham finished in 5th place and thus join the demotion pool - more next week.

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

