

Grantham Sharks 2, Lincolnshire's team in the 4NCL, played their second match of the penultimate week end. Having lost to Gonzaga on the Saturday they found themselves in the relegation pool where they join the bottom four teams from Group A with the top 4 teams staying in Division 2 and the bottom 4 being relegated to Division 3.

The results from the other 3 teams in Group 2B were carried forward so Grantham, with 2 wins and a draw, started in second place on 5 points.

In the first match they were paired against Bradford DCA Knights A and on board 8 Samuel Milson from Louth was paired as black against David Patrick with the opening following the Sicilian Defence 1. e4 c5 2. c3 e6 3. d4 d5 4. exd5 Qxd5 and Samuel's queen now controls the centre 5. Nf3 Nc6 6. Be3 cxd4 7. Nxd4 a6 8. Qa4 Bd7 9. Nxc6 Bxc6 10. Qd4 Qh5 but now its white's queen's turn 11. Nd2 Rd8 12. Qb6 Nf6 13. Be2 Qg6 14. 0-0-0 and white castles queen side 14. ...Nd5 15. Qd4 and white's queen again controls the centre but this time it is in grave danger (see diagram) - can you see how?

Samuel played 16. ...Nb4 threatening 17. ...Qc2 mate and white cannot play 17. Qxb4 Bxb4 so he is forced to play 17. Qxd8+ Kxd8 losing the queen for a rook 18. cxb4 Bxb4 19. Nc4+ Kc8 but Samuel needs to take care as white still has some useful pieces left 20. Bf4 b5 21. Ne5 Qe4 attacking both bishops 22. Nd3 Qxe2 23. Nxb4 Qc4+ 24. Kb1 Qxb4 and another piece falls and white resigned.

Wins also for Nigel Birtwistle and Ioanis Lentzos plus draws for Liam Varnam and Ben Purton meant that the match was tied 4-4 putting Grantham in 3rd place on 6 points.

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

