

Lincoln's team in Division 2 North played their penultimate match in this season's campaign when Louth were the visitors to Grafton House. At the start of play Lincoln were top of the table with 5 points from 4 games while both Grimsby D and Louth were joint second with 4 points from 3 games so Lincoln need to win this match as well as their final match against Grimsby D.

Louth's evening did start well when their top board Peter Damms had to withdraw it the last minute due to an illness in the family and on board 2 Lincoln's Herman Kok was paired as black against Louth's Charles Ayton with Charles playing 1. b4 following his unusual Polish (Sokolsky) attack. However, Herman was wise to this having studied the opening during his youth when he was living in Amsterdam and replied 1. ...c6 2. Bb2 Qb6 3. a3 a5 4. bxa5 (see diagram) and Herman needed to be careful as Charles was laying a trap.

Herman played 4. ...Qxb2 winning the piece 5. Nc3 and Herman had to be careful as 6. Ra2 traps the queen so he played 5. ...Rxa5 6. Ra2 Qb6 and found an escape route for his queen. Play continued 7. e3 e5 8. Bc4 d5 9. Bb3 Rxa3 10. Rxa3 Bxa3 and Herman gained a pawn 11. Qa1 Bd6 12. Nf3 Nf6 13. 0-0 Qc7 14. g3 Bg4 15. Ne1 d4 16. Nd1 Be2 17. f3 Bxf1 18. Kxf1 winning the exchange for Herman and he went on to win a few moves later.

A win also for Ian McDonald, a draw for Andreas Sivacenko plus the default gave Lincoln the win and a handy points difference by $3\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$.

As it happens Grimsby D defaulted the last fixture so Lincoln took the title by 3 points.

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

