

Lincoln's team in Division 1 started off the new season when Scunthorpe were the visitors to Grafton House. Lincoln were runners up to Grimsby last season whilst Scunthorpe held the wooden spoon so Lincoln were hoping for a good start to the campaign.

On board 4 Lincoln's Herman Kok was paired as black against John Day and we pick up the game after white has just played 19. Nb3 (see diagram) attacking Herman's queen on d4. Herman played 19. ...Qf4 looking to support the strong pawn advance on white's king 20. g3 Qg5 21. Qc1 and white offers to exchange queens but Herman played 21. ...f4 adding to the pressure.

Play continued 22. Nc5 Bf5 23. Ne4 Bxe4 24. dxe4 Rd4 and now Herman's rook is in a very strong position controlling the d-file 25. Bf1 h5 26. Bg2 h4 27. Ra2 Qh5 28. Rd2 hxg3 and now Herman opens up white's defence in front of his king 29. fxg3 Rh8 30. Bh1 fxg3 31. Qc2 Rxd2 32. Qxd2 gxh2+ and Herman has added two passed pawns to his formidable arsenal 33. Kf1 Rf8+ 34. Ke2 Nf4+ and white resigned as Herman has multiple threats to finish off the game. Wins also for Murray Smith, David Coates and Neil Roberts saw Lincoln to a comfortable 4-1 victory.

Meanwhile, changes have been made to the time controls this season, last season we had 1 hour and 15 minutes with 15 minutes added after 36 moves but with all clubs now having digital clocks they are initially set at 1 hour and 20 minutes with 10 seconds being added for each move. Interesting.

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

