

Lincoln's team in Division 2 North were on their travels when they visited the salubrious Millfields Hotel in Bargate Grimsby where Grimsby D were the hosts. Lincoln are reigning champions but have not had the best of starts with 1 point from two matches whereas Grimsby have won their only match so far. Early days but Lincoln need a result to get their title defense back on track.

On board 3 it was my pleasure to be paired as black against Grimsby captain Pete Holman, a long serving member of the club with whom I have had many a tussle of the years with the opening following the Sicilian Defence 1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 d6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 Nf6 5. Nc3 a6 6. Bc4 e6 7. a3 b5 8. Ba2 Bb7 and I am attacking the pawn on e4 9. Bg5 Be7 10. Bxf6 Bxf6 11. 0-0 Qb6 and now I am attacking the knight on d4 and also preventing white from playing f3 12. Nde2 Nd7 13. Qd2 Nc5 14. Ng3 again attacking e4 which white defends but now an opportunity to gain material (see diagram) can you see it?

First I castled 14. ...0-0 15. Kh1 Bxc3 16. Qxc3 Nxe4 17. Nxe4 Bxe4 winning the pawn and play continued 18. Rac1 Rac8 19. Qd2 Qc6 20. f3 Bg6 (I thought about 20. ...Bxc2 but 21. Bb1 loses the piece) 21. c3 d5 22. Rcd1 Rfd8 23. Rfe1 Rd6 24. Qf4 Rcd8 25. Qd4 Qb6 26. Qe5 f6 27. Qe2 Bf7 28. f4 Re8 29. Qf3 Qc6 30. Qg3 Qd7 31. Bb1 d4 and at last I am able to start advancing the pawns 32. Qh4 f5 thwarting white's mate attempt but his flag dropped anyway.

Unfortunately, mine was our only point as Grimsby won 3-1 to go top of the table on 4 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

