

Lincoln's team in Division 1 were in action when Louth were the visitors to Grafton House. Grimsby led the table on 3 points with Lincoln and Louth both on 2 points, Lincoln courtesy of their win over Scunthorpe and Louth with 2 draws against Scunthorpe and Grimsby so a win for either team would see them go top of the table.

On board 2 Lincoln's David Coates was paired as black against Louth captain Nick Louth and we pick up the game after white has just played 15. Be3 (see diagram) may expecting 15. ...cxd4 16. Bxd4 but David had a better strategy in mind - can you see it?

David played 15. ...Nd5 16. Rae1 Nxe3 17. Rxe3 Bxf3 18. Rxf3 cxd4 19. cxd4 Bf6 and now the pawn on d5 is lost as 20. Re4 Rad8 follows. Instead white played 20. Rh3 g6 21. Kf1 Bxd4 winning the pawn 22. Re2.

David still had work to do to press home his advantage as play continued 22. ...Rac8 23. Bc4 Bf6 24. g4 Rfd8 25. f5 exf5 26. gxf5 Rc5 27. fxg6 hxg6 28. Rf3 Kg7 29. Ref2 putting pressure on the bishop on f6 or the pawn on f7. David replied with 29. ...Rd6 30. Ke2 b5 31. Bd3 a6 32. Kf1 Rc7 33. Kg2 Rcd7 34. Be4 Bh4 35. Re2 Rd2 36. Kf1 Rd1+ 37. Kg2 R7d2 38. Rxd2 Rxd2+ 39. Kh3 Bf6 40. Bb7 a5 41. Ba6 Be5 and now the pawn on h2 is under threat 42. Bxb5 Rxh2+ 43. Kg4 f5+ and white resigned as 44. Kg5 Rh5 is mate.

A win for Murray Smith and a draw for Neil Roberts meant that the match was drawn 2.5 to 2.5.

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

