

Lincoln's team in Division 1 were again in action when they played in the salubrious surroundings of the Millfields Hotel in Bargate, where Grimsby were our hosts. Both teams, together with Louth, shared first place on 3 points so a win for either team would open up a 2 point gap.

On board 5 it was my pleasure to be paired as black against Peter Holman who I had beaten recently in a Division 2 North match and we pick up the game after I had just played 13. ...Ncd7 (see diagram) which was a mistake on my part as white played 14. Bxe6. I could not reply with 14. ...fxe6 as 15. Nxe6 traps my queen. I played 14. ...Rxc3 15. bxc3 fxe6 16. Nxe6 Qc8 17. Nxg7+ Kf7 18. Nf5 and my queen escaped but I am the exchange and 3 pawns down.

I played on with 18. ...Qxc3 regaining a pawn 19. Nxe7 Kxe7 20. Qf2 Rc8 21. Rfc1 Rc4 22. Kh1 Ra4 thinking that I could put pressure on the isolated pawn on a3 23. Qd2 Qxd2 24. Bxd2 Ne5 25. Rd1 Nc4 26. Bb4 a5 and another mistake on my part as I should have played 26. ...Ke6 because white played 27. Bxd6+ Nxd6 28. e5 forking my knights Nc4 29. exf6+ Kxf6 30. Rd7 Bc8 31. Rc7 Bf5 32. c3 Rxa3 and in fact white resigned as he cannot stop my pawn on a5 from being promoted without loss of material.

Post game analysis showed that had white played 15. Bxd7+ then he would probably gone on to win. However, it mattered not as Lincoln's only other contribution was a win for Murray Smith as Grimsby won the match 3-2.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XJ on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.  
[www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk](http://www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk)

