

Lincoln's team in Division 1 were on the road when they visited St. James church hall in Louth under the gaze of the tallest spire of any medieval church in Britain. The table showed Grimsby top on 5 points with Lincoln and Louth both on 3 points so a win for either team would see them draw level with the leaders.

On board 3 Lincoln's Herman Kok was paired as black against David Scott, one of a number of useful young players from the wolds area, with the opening following the queen's gambit 1. d4 d5 2. c4 e6 3. Nc3 Nf6 4. Nf3 c6 5. e3 Bd6 6. Bd2 Nbd7 7. Bd3 0-0 and in a circumspect opening Herman has castled with all the pieces still on the board.

Play continued with Herman breaking the deadlock 8. Rc1 dxc4 9. Bxc4 e5 10. Qc2 exd4 11. Nxd4 Ne5 12. Be2 Bg4 13. Bxg4 Nfxg4 and Herman is building an attack in front of white's king 14. h3 Qh4 bringing the big guns into play and preventing 15. hxg4 so instead white castled 15. 0-0 perhaps hoping the Herman would move his knight on g4 (see diagram) - however Herman had a better move - can you see it?

Herman played 15. ...c5 16. f4 cxd4 17. exd4 Qg3 threatening mate next move 18. hxg4 Nxg4 maintaining the mate threat 19. Rf3 Qh2+ 20. Kf1 Qh1+ 21. Ke2 Qxg2+ 22. Kd3 Qxf3+ winning a pawn and a rook and white resigned a few moves later.

Wins also for Murray Smith, David Coates and Ian McDonald plus a draw for yours truly gave Lincoln a win by 4.5 to 0.5 drawing level with Grimsby and a superior points difference.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XJ on Wednesdays at 7.30pm although we are not meeting during the Coronavirus crisis.
www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk

