

Lincoln's team in Division 2 North were in action when Scunthorpe were the visitors to Grafton House. Defending champions Lincoln had not had the best of starts to the season with only one point from their opening 3 matches whereas Scunthorpe had won all three of theirs, so a win for Lincoln was needed to haul in the league leaders.

On board 1 Lincoln's Herman Kok was paired as white against Scunthorpe secretary Denis Georgiou and we pick up the game Herman has just played 24. Bb5 (see diagram) pinning the knight to black's queen. However, Denis played 24. ...Nxe5 taking a pawn and exposing both queens to attack.

Herman played 25. Nxe5 Rxc3 26. Bxe8 Rc1+ 27. Kh2 Rxe8 28. Rxa7 Rd1 exchanging queens and black wins back the piece but Herman takes the pawn on a7 and although materially equal Herman's rooks command the 7th rank and are targeting the pawn on h7 although, at the moment this is defended by the bishop.

Herman countered this by manoeuvring his knight 29. Ng4 Rf8 30. Nxh6+ Kh8 31. f3 Bg6 32. h5 Bd3 33. Ng4 Rd2 34. Ne5 Bf5 35. Ng6+ Bxg6 36. hxg6 and now Herman's rooks can close in 36. ...Re8 37. Rxh7+ Kg8 38. Rh4 Re6 39. g7 Ree2 40. Rh8 mate.

Interestingly, post game analysis had 39. ...Re7 40. Rxe7 Rxc2+ 41. Kxg2 and the game is drawn as black is stalemated.

A win for William Orr meant that the match was drawn 2-2 meaning that Scunthorpe extended their lead over Grimsby D to 3 points.

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

