

In Division 2 South, Lincoln A reigning champions and current league leaders were on the road when they visited the familiar haunt of the church hall next to St.James Church where Louth were the hosts. Lincoln A have won all four of their matches so far and have a 4 point lead over Grantham and Spalding but having played 1 game more whereas Louth are propping up the table with 1 point.

On board 2, Lincoln's Ian McDonald was paired as white against Joe Robinson with the opening following the Sicilian Defence Smith-Morra gambit 1. e4 c5 2. d4 cxd4 3. c3 tempting black to play 3. ...dxc3 4. Nxc3 losing a pawn in return for quicker development. Black declined this offer as play continued 3. ...Nc6 4. cxd4 d6 5. Nf3 Nf6 6. Nc3 Bd7 7. Bg5 g6 8. h3 Bg7 9. e5 dxe5 10. dxe5 Ng8 11. Bc4 and black retreats his knight but now Ian's pawn on e5 is in danger as black played 11. ...Bxe5 (see diagram) but this has set up one of those tricks that Ian has up his sleeve - can you see it?

Ian played 12. Bxf7+ Kxf7 13. Nxe5+ Nxe5 14. Qd5+ Be6 15. Qxe5 regaining the piece and Ian's queen is attacking black's rook. Black replied 15. ...Nf6 16. 0-0 Qd6 offering an exchange of queens but Ian played 17. Bxf6 Qxe5 18. Bxe5 gaining a piece (17. ...exf6 18. Qxd6 would win the queen). Black played on with 18. ...Rhd8 19. Rfd1 Rxd1 20. Rxd1 Rc8 21. a3 Rc5 22. Bd4 Ra5 23. f4 a6 24. g4 Bc4 25. Bb6 Bb3 26. Rd2 and black resigned as his rook is trapped.

A win also for Herman Kok and a draw for William Orr gave Lincoln A a narrow win by 2.5 to 1.5 extending their lead to 6 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

