

Lincoln's team in Division 2 North were again in action in their quest to retain the trophy they won last season. This time Grimsby D were the visitors having travelled the 46 mile journey over the wolds. Both teams were on 4 points but Grimsby were better placed with a superior points difference and having placed 2 matches less. Scunthorpe on 7 points and new boys Skegness on 5 points occupied the top 2 places so a good result for either team would keep them in the mix.

On board 1 Lincoln's Neil Roberts was paired as white against Grimsby's Stuart MacDonald with Neil opting for the queen's opening 1. d4 d5 2. Bf4 c6 3. c3 Nf6 4. e3 e6 5. Nd2 Be7 6. Bd3 0-0 7. Ngf3 Re8 and in a circumspect opening both players are marshalling their troops. Neil is the first to advance beyond the half way line 8. Ne5 Nbd7 9. Qf3 Nf8 10. g4 Ng6 and Neil is starting to build an attack on black's king.

Play continued 11. Bg3 Nxe5 12. dxe5 Nd7 and black's knight has to retreat to d7 exposing his king 13. Bf4 Nf8 14. h4 f5 15. exf6 (en passant move - French for "in passing" - where black's pawn moves from f7 to f5 but is intercepted on f6) Bxf6 16. g5 Be7 17. Qh5 Bc5 18. Nf3 Re7 and black's pieces are hemmed in (see diagram) whilst Neil closes in for the kill - can you see how?

Neil played 19. Ne5 Qe8 20. g6 Bd7 (not 20. ...hxc6 21. Bxe6 Nxe6 22. Nxe6) 21. gxh7+ Kh8 22. Bg6 Qd8 23. Bg5 Be8 24. Bxe7 (winning the exchange) Qxe7 25. Bxe8 Qxe8 26. Nf7+ Qxf7 27. Qxf7 winning the queen and black resigned.

Wins also for William Orr and Graeme Rae plus a draw for yours truly gave Lincoln a comprehensive win by 3.5 to 0.5.

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

