

A few weeks ago I received an email from Callum Cosens of the Lincoln University Chess Society asking about the possibility of them entering a team in the Lincolnshire League. A meeting was duly arranged to discuss between myself, Callum, Elliott Hughes and others to discuss this and they are hopeful of being able to enter a team in time for the new season starting in October.

We also arranged a five board friendly between a team from the University and, essentially, our Lincoln 'B' team that plays in Division 2 South.

On board 2, it was my pleasure to be paired a black against Akhil Sharma and we pick up the game after white had just played 14. f5 (see diagram). I played 14. ...exf5 15. exf5 Bxg2 winning the pawn. A mistake on white's part, not necessarily as it opened up the g-file 16. Rh2 Bf3 17. Be3 Bxe2 18. Nxe2 (any other recapture loses the knight on c3) Nc4 19. Qc1 Nxe3 20. Qxe3 0-0 and I castled, into safety? Perhaps not.

Play continued 21. Rg2 Rfe8 22. Qh6 and now I have a problem. I could have played 22. ...g6 but 23. fxg6 fxg6 24. Bxg6 hxg6 25. Qxg6+ would follow. So instead I played 22. ...Bf8 knowing that white would play 23. Qxf6 winning the knight however I had in counter in mind but first I had to play 23. ...Re5 fortunately white did not see my cunning plan as he played 24. Qg5 Qc3+ 25. Kf1 (unable to play 25. Nxc3) Qxa1+ winning the rook and I went on to win a few moves later.

Wins also for Neil Roberts, Charles Moss and Ben Ashcroft gave Lincoln a 4-1 win but I am sure the University will be more competitive next season.

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](http://www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk)

