

At the fixture meeting, where I arrange the Lincoln fixtures, the other club representatives kindly helped me out. Our Division 1 captain, David Coates, had asked if his fixtures could take place after Christmas, to compensate for this all the fixtures for our Division 2 North team were arranged before the break.

So, today's game was Lincoln Division 2 North team's fourth match out of six whereas for our visitors to South Park, Scunthorpe B, it was their opening fixture.

Having gained only 2 points from our opening 3 fixtures a win was needed to maintain any chance of competing for the title as well as avoiding an early claim for the wooden spoon.

On board 1 Lincoln's Geoff Collyer as paired as white against Scunthorpe's John Day and we pick up the game after black has just played 13. ...b4 (see diagram) setting up a position where Geoff can win a pawn - can you see it?

Geoff played 14. Ndx4 dxc4 15. Qxb7 b3 16. Bd1 Qc8 17. Qxc8 Raxc8 and with the queens off the board Geoff was able to consolidate his advantage 18. Bf3 Nxe5 19. Bxe5 Nd7 20. Bg3 Nb8.

Geoff saw a further opportunity with 21. Bb7 Rcd8 22. Bxb8 Rxb8 23. Ba6 and now John is unable to protect the pawn on c4 23. ...Bf6 24. Bxc4 putting Geoff 2 pawns up and he went on to win a few moves later.

A win also for yours truly and a draw for Dave Bull meant that Lincoln ran out winners by 2½ to 1½ putting us joint leaders with Scunthorpe A although I doubt if this will last.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the RAOB Club, 58 South Park on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. www.lincolnchessclub.co.uk

