

Pandora's Box Grantham continued their season playing their third match in Division 2A of the 4 Nations Chess League (4NCL). Having gained a win and a draw in their opening week-end they needed a good result against King's Head to keep in touch with the leading teams.

On board 6 Pandora's Peter Batchelor, who normally plays for Willesden and Brent, has been draughted in and was paired as white against Colin McKenzie and we pick up the game after black has just played 17. ...cxd3 so Peter is now an exchange and a pawn down so had it all to do (see diagram).

Play continued 18. Ne5 Be2 19. Nxe2 dxe2 20. Kf2 Nd5 21. Kxe2 Bc5 and Peter regained the pawn 22. e4 Nf6 23. Be3 Bxe3 24. Kxe3 c5 25. Rc1 b6 but black still has the advantage of the exchange 26. Bf1 h5 27. h3 Rad8 28. Bd3 Rd4 and now threatens the pawn on e4.

Peter defended with 29. b4 Red8 30. bxc5 bxc5 31. Rxc5 regaining another pawn but black now attacked the pawn on a3 31. ...Ra4 32. Rc3 Nd7 but this was a mistake on black's part as 33. Nxd7 Rxd7 34. Bb5 forked black's rooks and 34. ...Rad4 35. Bxd7 Rxd7 left white a pawn up and Peter went on to win.

Wins also for Colin Crouch, Richard Polaczek and Paul Cumbers together with draws for Chris Ross, Marcos Capuzzo, Martin Burrows and Nigel Birtwistle gave Pandora a comfortable 6-2 win moving them up into second place with the top four teams going forward to the end of season promotion playoff with the top four teams in Division 2B.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the RAOB Club, 58 South Park on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. [www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk](http://www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk)

