

Pandora's Box Grantham continued this season's campaign when they played their second match in the first week-end in 4NCL Division 2 when Cambridge based Anglian Avengers I were their opponents. Having won their first match Pandora were keen to continue their good start and on board 6 for Pandora was Claudio Mangione who hails from Sicily but has been a regular for Lincoln, Grantham and the Lincolnshire county team as well as being the current Lincolnshire County champion.

Paired as white against Philip Tozer Claudio began with his favourite English opening 1. c4 f5 2. g3 Nf6 3. Bg2 e6 4. Nf3 d5 5. 0-0 c6 6. d3 dxc4 7. dxc4 Qxd1 8. Rxd1 Nbd7 and with the queens off the board there was now a race to deploy the minor pieces 9. Nc3 Bc5 10. e4 Ng4 11. Rf1 but Claudio has to back track to defend the pawn on f2.

Play continued 11. ...0-0 12. exf5 exf5 13. Bf4 Ndf6 14. Na4 Ne4 and black is putting more pressure on the f2 pawn but has presented Claudio with an opportunity to gain an advantage (see diagram) - can you see it?

Claudio played 15. Nxc5 Nxc5 16. Bd6 Ne4 17. Bxf8 Kxf8 winning the exchange but still had work to do 18. Nd4 Nd2 19. Rfc1 c5 20. Nb5 Ne5 21. Rc2 Ne4 22. Rd1 Ke7 23. f3 Nf6 and now forces black to retreat 24. Re2 and black resigns as 24. ...Ke6 is met with either 25. f4 or 25. Rd6+ causing further loss of material.

Wins also for Chris Ross and Peter Batchelor together with draws for Marcos Capuzzo, Martin Burrows and Nigel Birtwistle gave Pandora a narrow  $4\frac{1}{2}$  to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  victory.

Read more about Grantham Chess Club in Ivan David's blog on [grantham-chess-world.blogspot.com/](http://grantham-chess-world.blogspot.com/).

