

Lincoln's team in Division 2 North were in action when they took the short trip across the wolds to the market town of Louth playing in the church hall under the gaze of St. James church spire. Lincoln had won both their opening matches but were lying in second place a point behind Scunthorpe A but with a game in hand so a win would put them top of the table. Louth were in third place 2 points behind Lincoln so they needed a win to keep in touch with the leaders.

On board 3 Lincoln's Russell Ludlow was paired as black against Louth captain Stephen Cade and we pick up the game after white has just played 22. Ndf3 (see diagram) adding to the complex position with Russell finding it difficult to make any progress so he played 22. ...Bf8 in order to support the knight on c5. White played 23. Ng5 threatening 24. Nf7 so Russell was forced to break the deadlock with 23. ...Nxe5 24. Bxe5 Qd2 25. Qxd2 Rxd2 and is now attacking the bishop on c2. White defended this with 26. Rf2 but this set up a winning combination for Russell - can you see it?

Russell played 26. ...Nxb3 27. Bxb3 Bc5 pinning the rook 28. Raf1 a4 29. Bd1 Bxf2+ 30. Rxf2 Rxd1+ 31. Rf1 Rxf1+ 32. Kxf1 a3 and white resigned a couple of moves later.

Wins also for Geoff Collyer, Ian McDonald and yours truly gave Lincoln a 4-0 win which added to the previous 4-0 and 3-1 wins put Lincoln top of the table with an excellent points difference.

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

