

Lincoln's team in Division 1 played the last game of the season when Grimsby were the visitors to South Park. This was effectively a dead rubber as a win for Grimsby a couple of weeks earlier had given them an unassailable 3 point lead with only this match remaining.

However, as is always the case between these two heavyweights with pride and grading points at stake a closely fought match was in prospect.

On board 1 Lincoln's Claudio Mangione was paired as black against Grimsby's Andrew Dyce in a rematch of the game at Grimsby where Andrew had won to win the match and the title and we pick up the game after Andrew had just played 33. Rb8 (see diagram) threatening the pawn on b7. Claudio replied with 33. ...Nd8 protecting the pawn and blocking white's rook in.

Claudio took advantage with 34. Kc3 Kd7 35. Ra8 a6 36. h4 Re8 37. h5 Rh8 38. Kd3 gxh5 winning a pawn 39. Ke3 h4 40. Nh1 Rh5 41. Kf4 Kc7 42. a4 Rh6 43. Kf3 Rd6 44. b4 Rd4 45. b5 Rxa4 46. bxa6 Rxa6 47. bxa6 and Claudio is now two pawns up and went on to win.

Draws for David Coates, Herman Kok and yours truly meant that the match finished all square on 2½ points each meaning that Lincoln, Division 1 champions for the previous 6 seasons, finished runners up to Grimsby who had won all their other matches.

Meanwhile, the Lincolnshire County Championship will take place of Saturday & Sunday 19 & 20 July at the Lindum Group Atrium. Entry forms are available on the Lincolnshire Chess Association web-site www.lincsches.org

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

