

Herman Kok, known in other circles as the Finance Director for the Lindum Group, is a mean chess player and is also a member of the Lincolnshire correspondence chess team playing in Division 2 of the Counties and District Correspondence Chess Championship.

Each player plays two games, one as white and one as black, against the same opponent and in Herman's game on board 4 as black against Michael Clark from Yorkshire we pick up the game after white has just played 15. Nf3 (see diagram) with Herman bringing pressure to bear on white's pawn on d4.

Herman played 15. ...b4 16. axb4 axb4 17. Rxa8 Bxa8 18. d5 b3 19. Qb1 exd5 20. exd5 Nxd5 winning the pawn 21. 0-0 Nxc3 22. bxc3 and now has the basis for a good attack with the pawns on c4 and b3. 22. ...Qd5 23. Rd1 Qe6 24. Bf1 Rd8 25. Re1 Qd5 26. h3 Bb7 27. Re4 Ba6 28. Re2 g6 29. Qc1 Kg7 30. Re1 Bc8 31. Qf4 Be6 32. Qxc7 and white looks to have regained the pawn 32. ...Qd6 33. Qb6 Ne5 34. Qd4 Qxd4 35. Nxd4 Rxd4 36. cxd4 and Herman sacrificed the exchange to give him the two passed pawns 36. ...Nc6 37. Rd1 c3 38. d5 c2 and white resigned.

Unfortunately Herman lost his other game.

Next season the 20 counties in this division will be further split making 3 divisions in all so the aim is to finish in the top nine to stay in Division 2. Unfortunately, we finished on 8½ points out of 16 leaving us in 10th place and so start next season in the new Division 3.

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

