

Lincoln's team in Division 2 South, led by newly appointed captain James Irwin, played their first match of the season when they frequented the nicely appointed Bull Inn in the centre of Horncastle. Last season was the first season for the hosts but they found life difficult finishing the last place although they did have a couple of good results towards the end of the season. Lincoln themselves finished just above them in fourth so both teams were hoping for a better start to this season's campaign.

On board 3 Lincoln's Qais Karimi was paired as black against Horncastle's Gary Scott with the players following an unusual opening 1. d4 d5 2. Bf4 c6 3. e3 h6 4. Nf3 Bg4 5. Nbd2 Nf6 6. h3 Bh5 7. Bd3 e6 8. c3 Nbd7 9. g4 Bg6 10. Bxg6 fxc6 11. Qc2 Kf7 but Gary has forced Qais to move his king to defend the weak pawn on g6.

White now castled queen side and 12. 0-0-0 a5 13. Rdg1 a4 14. h4 a3 15. h5 (see diagram) and looks to have the basis of a strong attack with the advanced pawns supported by the rooks and queen.

Qais replied 15. ...g5 16. b3 c5 17. Qg6+ Ke7. White now played 18. dxc5 gxf4 allowing Qais to take the bishop but now played 19. g5 hxg5 20. Nxc5 threatening 21. Qf7 mate. However, Qais found 20. ...Ne5 21. Qc2 forcing white to retreat.

Qais now went on the attack himself 21. ...fxe3 22. fxe3 Qc7 23. b4 b6 24. cxb6 Qxb6 25. e4 Rc8 26. Qb3 Qe3 27. Kd1 Rxc3 28. Qa4 Nd3 and white resigned.

A win also for Paul Fischer but losses for both James and yours truly meant that the match finished as a 2-2 draw.

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

