

Lincoln's team in Division 1 played their opening match of the season when Louth were the visitors to South Park. For Louth it was their second match having lost to current champions Grimsby in their first. Grimsby had also beaten Scunthorpe so a good result was needed by both teams in order to stay in touch.

On board 4 Herman Kok was paired as white against Louth secretary John Grasham with the opening following the Scotch game 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 exd4 4. Nxd4 Bc5 5. Be3 Bxd4 6. Bxd4 Nxd4 7. Qxd4 and after a sharp exchange of pieces Herman's queen now controls the centre. John countered with 7. ...Qf6 8. Qc3 Qxc3 9. Nxc3 c6 10. 0-0-0 but after more exchanges Herman castled queen side - 10. ...b5 11. Be2 Bb7 (see diagram).

Herman now played 12. e5 Ne7 a key move as it gave his knight a path to d6 - 13. Ne4 Rb8 14. Nd6+ Kf8 15. Bg4 and Herman is now looking at the weak pawn on d7 - 15. ...Ng6 16. Nxb7 Rxb7 17. Bxd7 Nxe5 remaining materially even but Herman now played 18. Bc8 threatening 19. Rd8+ so John had to play 18. ...Re7 19. Rd8+ Re8 20. Rxe8+ Kxe8 21. Re1 pinning the knight - 21. ...Kd8 22. Rxe5 Kxc8 23. Re7 Rd8 24. Rxf7 Rd7 25. Rxd7 Kxd7 giving Herman a pawn advantage into the end game and he went on to win.

Wins also for Russell Ludlow and Ian McDonald and a draw for Claudio Mangione gave Lincoln the spoils by 3½ to 1½.

Meanwhile, this coming Saturday I and other members of Lincoln Chess Club will be at Lincoln Central Library as part of a festival of board games between 9.30 and 12.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the RAOB Club, 58 South Park on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. [www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk](http://www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk)

