

Lincoln's team in Division 2 North made their way to St.James School common room in Bargate Grimsby where Grimsby D played hosts. Having beaten Scunthorpe A and drawn with Barton-on-Humber Lincoln wanted to continue their good start to the season.

On board 2 Lincoln's James Irwin was paired as white against Grimsby's Mark Bradshaw and we pick up the game after black has just played 19. ...Rc6 (see diagram) preventing 20. Nd6 but allowing James to play 20. Nxa7 Re6 21. Nb5 cxd4 and black was perhaps looking to push his pawn on e4 backed up by rooks and queen but James played 22. Nc7 d3 23. Nxe8 Qxe8 winning the exchange.

James applied more pressure with 24. Rc7 Nc5 protecting the bishop but 25. b4 put pay to that idea 25. ...Qa8 26. bxc5 Qxa2 27. Rxb2 Bb3 and despite losing two more pieces black still has some counterplay 28. Nb1 Ba5 29. cxb6 d2 30. Re2 Rc6 threatening 31. ...Rc1 but James played 31. Rc7 Rxb6 32. Rc8+ Kg7 33. Nxd2 Rb2 34. Be5+ and black resigned.

Paul Fischer drew his game and with the match score level at 1½ to 1½ Qais Karimi was the last to finish and had a won game but unfortunately ran out of time meaning that Grimsby D won 2½ to 1½.

Meanwhile, John Box returned from York University where he is taking a PhD in Business Studies to win the Christmas Blitz handicap tournament playing for the Tony Turp Memorial Trophy, beating Ian McDonald in an exciting last round.

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

