

Lincoln's team in Division 2 South played hosts to Spalding at South Park recently. The two teams were joint leaders together with Grantham on 3 points so a win for either team would see them pull ahead of the pack.

On board 2 Lincoln's captain James Irwin was matched as black against Spalding stalwart Jan van Gemeren with the opening following James's favourite the Caro-Kann named after the English player Horation Caro and the Austrian Marcus Kann who jointly formulated the opening in the 1880's 1. e4 c6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 dxe4 4. Nxe4 Bf5 5. Nc5 Qc7 6. Nf3 Nd7 7. Nb3 and Jan elected to retreat his knight.

Play continued 7. ...Ngf6 8. Bd3 Bxd3 9. Qxd3 e6 10. 0-0 Be7 11. h3 0-0 and both players castle king's side 12. c3 Rad8 13. Qc2 Rfe8 14. Re1 h6 15. Bd2 c5 16. dxc5 Nxc5 17. Nxc5 Bxc5 and this latest exchange has opened up the c and d files for James 18. Rad1 Bb6 19. Nd4 and there was an opportunity for James to gain an advantage (see diagram) - can you see it?

James played 19. ...Bxd4 with white unable to play 20. cxd4 Qxc2 and being a piece up he went on to win.

A win also for Qais Karimi and a draw for Dave Bull gave Lincoln the win by 2½ to 1½.

Meanwhile, Louth Chess Club are organising a chess tournament On Saturday March 28 involving both adults and juniors to be played in James Church as part of their 500th anniversary celebrations. Contact John Grasham on 07707-624975.

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)

