

Grantham Sharks 2, Lincolnshire's team in the 4NCL (4 Nations Chess League), were in action in the second week-end of this season's campaign when Chester based Spirit of Atticus A were there opponents in Division 2B.

Starting the week-end on 1 point from their first 2 matches a good result was needed to put them in contention for a top four place and a chance of promotion.

On board 5 Paul Cumbers, who now lives in Sheffield, was paired as black against Sheila Jackson and we pick up the game after Sheila has just played 16. a3 (see diagram) and Paul sees an opportunity to open up white's position - can you see it?

Paul played 16. ...Rxf3 17. Qxf3 Nxd4 18. Qd1 Bxh2+ 19. Kh1 sacrificing a rook but gaining a knight and 2 pawns in return 19. ...Be5 20. Rc1 Qg7 21. Bg5 Bd7 22. Kg1 Rf8 23. Be3 Qf6 24. Qg4 Nf4 25. Bxf4 Qxf4 26. Qxf4 Bxf4 and with the queens off the board Paul is better placed to bring his extra pawns into play.

Play continued 27. Rcd1 Nf5 28. g3 Bb8 29. Kg2 Ba7 30. Bxf5 Rxf5 31. f3 g5 32. g4 Rf7 33. Ne2 Kg7 34. Nd4 Kf6 35. Ne2 Ba4 36. Rc1 Bc6 37. Ng3 e5 38. Nf5 h5 39. Ne3 Bxe3 40. Rxe3 hxg4 41. fxg4 d4 and Paul has found a discovered check to win the rook and white resigned.

All the other 7 games involving Adam Bremner, Hugh Murphy, Nigel Birtwistle, Daniel McGowan, Ben Purton, Graeme Kafka and Amisha Parmar were drawn meaning that Grantham snook over the line by 4½ to 3½.

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)

