

Lincoln's team in Division 2 North were on their travels when an away fixture against Scunthorpe B was a mouthwatering prospect. Scunthorpe B are the current reigning champions having only dropped one point in last season's campaign. This season they carried on where they left off with 2 wins and a draw and, on 5 points, had opened up a 2 point gap ahead on 4 teams on 3 points, including Lincoln, so a win for Lincoln was needed to reign in the lead.

On board 4 Lincoln new superstar Qais Karimi was paired as white against Scunthorpe's Robert Stokes with the opening following the Trompowsky attack 1. d4 Nf6 2. Bg5 d6 where white's bishop moves to g5, named after the Brazilian champion Octavio Trompowsky.

Play continued 3. Nd2 Bf5 4. Bxf6 exf6 5. e4 Bg6 and Qais now controls the centre with black having doubled f-pawns 6. Bd3 Be7 7. f4 h6 8. Qg4 0-0 9. f5 Bh7 and now Qais is homing in on black's king 10. Ne2 d5 11. c3 dxe4 12. Bxe4 c6 13. Ng3 Qe8 14. 0-0 Nd7 15. Rael Rb8 16. b4 Nb6 17. Bc2 Nd5 18. Rf3 g5 19. fxe6 fxe6 and having countered black's menacing knight Qais can now close in for the kill (see diagram) can you see his next move?

Qais played 20. Nf5 Kh8 21. Nxe7 f5 22. Qh4 Nxe7 23. Rxe7 Qd8 24. Qe1 f4 and unfortunately black overlooked 25. Qe5+ and resigned as 25. ...Kg8 26. Qg7 mate follows.

Draws for Herman Kok, James Irwin and yours truly meant that Lincoln scraped home by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  bring us level on points with the league leaders.

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

