

Lincoln's team in Division 1 played hosts to Grimsby in the battle of the heavy-weights. Grimsby are the current champions whereas Lincoln, runners up last season, had been champions for the previous 7 seasons. This season both teams had won their opening fixtures against Scunthorpe and Louth so a win for either team would open up a 2 point gap.

On board 3 Lincoln's Herman Kok, who some will also know as Finance Director of the Lindum Group, was paired as black against Grimsby's Steve Allott with the opening following Steve's favourite English defence 1. c4 e6 2. g3 d5 3. cxd5 exd5 4. Bg2 Bf4 5. d4 Bxb1 and Herman deviates from the main line by taking white's knight on b1 6. Rxb1 c6 7. Bd2 Nd7 8. Nf3 Bd6 9. 0-0 Ngf6 10. Qc2 0-0 11. a3 Re8 and after both players have castled Herman is looking at the e4 square.

Play continued 12. e3 Ne4 13. Bc1 Ndf6 14. Nd2 Qd7 15. Nxe4 Nxe4 16. f3 Nf6 and white forces Herman to retreat but the pawn on e3 is now weak 17. Bd2 Rac8 18. Rbel c5 19. dxc5 Bxc5 20. Qd3 Re7 21. Re2 Rce8 22. Rfel Qc6 23. Bc3 Nd7 24. Bd4 Qb6 and all the attention is on the e3 pawn 25. Bxc5 Qxc5 26. Kf2 Ne5 27. Qd4 (see diagram) but this now opens up an opportunity for Herman - can you see it?

Herman played 27. Qxd4 exd4 28. Nd3+ Kf1 29. Nxe1 and white resigned.

Unfortunately, Lincoln's only other contribution was a draw for Ian McDonald as Grimsby took the honours with a win by 3½ to 1½.

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

