

Lincoln's team in Division 1 played their second match in a week when they travelled to the picturesque market town of Louth to play in the church hall under the gaze of St.James spire.

Having lost to league leaders and reigning champions Grimsby the previous week Lincoln needed a win to keep pace whereas Louth, without a point so far this season, needed a win to avoid the wooden spoon.

In Division 1 matches the away team have white on odd boards so on board 1 Lincoln's Herman Kok had the white pieces against David Bale from Louth with the opening initially following the Sicilian Defence 1. e4 c5 but Herman frequently upsets his opponents but following unusual lines and this was no exception as he played 2. b4 perhaps followed by 2. ...cxb4 3. a3 bxa3 4. Bxa3 conceding a pawn but with an awkward bishop on a3. However, black played 2. ...g6 3. bxc5 Bg7 4. d4 so Herman now has the extra pawn.

Play continued 4. ...Nc6 5. Nf3 Nf6 6. Nc3 0-0 7. Bc4 Qa5 8. Bd2 Qb4 9. Qe2 (see diagram) where upon black played 9. ...Nxd4 10. Nxd4 Qxc5 sacrificing the knight hoping for some return but Herman played 11. Nb3 Qc7 forcing black to retreat. With the extra piece Herman went on the attack with 12. e5 Ne8 13. f4 d6 14. Nd5 Qd8 15. Rd1 dxe5 and black's last move has opened up possibilities involving the rook on d1 16. Ba5 Qd6 17. Bb4 and black resigned as 17. ...Qb8 18. Nxe7+ follows.

A win for James Irwin and a draw for Dave Bull meant that the match finished in a 2½-2½ draw.

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

