

This season Louth have entered two teams in Division 2 North, Skewers and Pins - named after well known chess strategies - and it was the Skewers who visited South Park recently.

In Division 2 North the table showed Lincoln, Scunthorpe B and Grimsby 1875 (named after their year of formation) all on 5 points from 4 games so a win for Lincoln would see them pull away from the pack. Meanwhile, Skewers were on 3 points but only having played 2 games so a win for them would see a 4 way tie at the top.

On board 3 Lincoln's James Irwin was paired as white against Louth's young rising star David Scott with the opening following the Queen's gambit accepted 1. d4 d5 2. c4 dxc4 3. e3 Nf6 4. Bxc4 e6 and James wins back the pawn 5. Nc3 Bd7 6. Nf3 Be7 7.0-0 0-0 and both players have castled after deploying their troops.

Play continued 8. b3 Nc6 9. Bb2 a6 10. Qe2 b5 11. Bd3 Nb4 12. Bb1 c5 and James is forced to retreat his bishop whilst David advanced his pawns 13. a3 cxd4 14. Nxd4 Nc6 15. Ne4 Nxd4 16. Bxd4 Bc6 and black puts pressure on James's knight on e4 but has created an opportunity to win a piece (see diagram) can you see it?

James played 17. Nxf6+ Bxf6 18. Qc2 threatening 19. Qxh7 mate so black has to play 18. ...g6 19. Qxc6 winning the piece and James went on to win.

A draw for yours truly was not enough to prevent Skewers from winning by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  and they now top the table on points difference.

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)

