

Lincoln's team in Division 2 South ventured to picturesque market town of Louth for their encounter under the watchful gaze of St. James Church which this year celebrates its 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary which includes a chess tournament.

Lincoln were lying in second place in the table on 7 points, 4 points behind league leaders Grantham - who they lost to in their last match - but with a game in hand, so a win was vital to keep in touch with the return fixture at Grantham to come.

On board 4 Lincoln's Paul Fischer, a retired school teacher who now lives in Sleaford, was paired as white against Pater Damms from Louth and we pick up the game after black has just played 30. ...Qd6 (see diagram) presenting Paul with an opportunity to gain the advantage - can you see it?

Paul played 31. Nxc4 Qd8 (not 31. ...dxc4 32. Qxd6). Paul gained further material after 32. Nb6 Bc6 33. Nxa8 winning the exchange and despite a stout rear-guard action by Peter Paul won a few moves later.

Wins for captain James Irwin and Qais Karimi and a draw for Herman Kok meant that Lincoln went on to win by 3½ to ½ which may prove useful if points difference decides the title race.

Meanwhile, I have now established a chess interest group within the University of the Third Age (U3A) and we meet at Branston Library on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Fridays of each month from 1.30pm to 4pm. Beginners and experienced players are most welcome.

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)

