

Lincoln's team in Division 1 played their last match of the season when they were the visitors to Grimsby. The regular venue of St.James School common room has become unavailable to one of the classrooms was offered instead which interestingly had two doors - one marked "Waiting room" and the other "Master's office" - perhaps the door used by the pupils was determined by how much trouble they were in.

Our hosts Grimsby, last season's champions and also this season's champions as well as they have won all 5 matches. For Lincoln, a win would secure second place and perhaps prevent a clean sweep.

On board 2 Lincoln's Herman Kok was paired as black against Grimsby's Joe Kilshaw with the opening following the Ruy Lopez 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 b5 5. Bb3 Nd4 6. Nxd4 exd4 and Herman deviates from the main line to force an exchange of knights 7. 0-0 c5 threatening to trap the bishop 8. Bxf7+ Kxf7 and white sacrifices the bishop to keep Herman's king in the centre.

Play continued 9. Qh5+ g6 10. Qd5+ Kg7 11. Qxa8 Ne7 and white wins the rook but his queen is trapped in the corner 12. Qb8 d6 13. d3 Nc6 14. Bg5 Qd7 15. Qb6 h6 16. Bf6+ Kxf6 17. e5+ dxe5 and despite a bishop sacrifice white queen is still trapped 18. Nd2 Be7 19. Ne4+ Kg7 20. Nxc5 Qd5 21. Ne4 Bf5 22. Qxa6 Rb8 23. Ng3 Bc8 (see diagram) and this time there is no escape and white resigned.

Draws for Qais Karimi and James Irwin were Lincoln's other contributions as Grimsby won 3-2. In the final game of the season Scunthorpe drew with Louth to take second place on points difference from Lincoln.

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

