

Grantham Sharks II, Lincolnshire's team in the 4NCL, played their first match in the Division 2 promotion pool against 3Cs from Manchester, one of the 4 top teams in Group 2A. The points gained against the other qualifying teams in Group 2B are carried forward so the Sharks started with 2 points thanks to their win against Spirit of Atacus A.

On board 4 Grantham's Hugh Murphy from Rushden was paired as white against 14 year old Daniel Abbas one of many good young players from the 3Cs club and we pick up the game after black has just completed an exchange of rooks with 25. ...Qxd8 (see diagram) materially equal but Hugh's pieces are homing in on the pawn on f7.

Hugh added to the pressure with 26. e6 Qe7 27. exf7+ Kh8 winning the pawn 28. a4 Bc8 29. Qg6 Bb7 30. h3 Bc8 and black is playing cat and mouse perhaps hoping for a draw 31. Rf4 Bb7 32. c3 Rd8 and black is perhaps looking to counter-attack 33. Be6 Bc8 preventing 34. Bf4 so Hugh exchanged bishops with 34. Bxc8 Rxc8 but then played 35. Rxe4 and black resigned as 36. Re8+ follows.

Wins also for Stephen Prior and Stephen James plus a draw for Nigel Birtwistle were not quite enough as 3Cs took the match by 4½ to 3½ leaving Sharks in 6th place on 2 points with the top four teams being promoted to Division 1 and the bottom 4 remaining in Division 2.

Meanwhile, the George Renison Memorial Jamboree will be hosted by Hornastle Chess Club on Sunday September 20. Contact John Grasham on 07707-624975 for details.

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

