

Lincolnshire's team in the ICCF (International Correspondence Chess Federation) Division 2 completed their matches. The 8 man team had started proceedings last November with each player having 2 games against the same opponent one as white and the other as black with the last of our matches finishing in July.

Each player was paired against the corresponding board of a different county and with 10 teams in the division we finished in 5th place on 8½ points - comfortably retaining our position in the league for next season.

The best of the games was that of Ian Scott from Louth on board 5 in his game as black against Mike Clarke of Merseyside with the opening following the French Defence 1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e5 c5 5. Bd2 cxd4 and Ian gains the pawn on d4 6. Nb5 Bxd2+ 7. Qxd2 Nc6 8. f4 Nh6 9. Nd6+ Kf8 however, white has prevented Ian from castling and looks to have the advantage.

Play continued 10. Nf3 Qb6 11. 0-0-0 Ng4 12. Nxd4 Nxd4 13. Qxd4 (see diagram). White was expecting 13. ...Qxd4 14. Rxd4 regaining parity but Ian had a better move - can you see it?

Ian played 13. ...Nf2 forking white's rooks 14. Qc3 Nxd1 15. Qa3 Qxb2+ 16. Qxb2 Nxb2 17. Kxb2 and being the exchange and a pawn up Ian went on to win.

Ian drew his other game. In the other games Harry Russell of Louth and Paul Fischer of Lincoln both gained a maximum 2 points, also from Lincoln James Irwin had 2 draws and Russell Ludlow gained ½ a point with yours truly gaining 1½.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the RAOB Club, 58 South Park on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. [www.lincolncchessclub.co.uk](http://www.lincolncchessclub.co.uk)

