

Lincoln's team in Division 1 were on the road to visit St.James School in Bargate Grimsby. Our hosts, Grimsby, are the current champions and having won all their games last season pose formidable opponents. With our top two players unavailable we were somewhat out graded - in fact their board 5 Stuart MacDonald had a higher grade (151) than our board 1 James Irwin (142).

Undaunted our board 3, Jules Brown, playing his first Division 1 game but who has impressed since joining the club earlier in the year was paired as white against Joe Kilshaw and we pick up the game after black has just played 22. ...a5 (see diagram). Jules took the pawn with 23. Nxa5 c5 24. Nb3 cxb4 25. cxb4 Rc4 and black thought he could regain the pawn as he was attacking both pawns on b4 and f4 however Jules played 26. Rd4 Rc2 27. Rd2 Rc4 28. Rd4 Rc2 29. a4 Rb2 avoiding a draw by repetition.

Jules continued the advance with 30. Nc5 h5 31. a5 h4 32. h3 Rb1+ 33. Rxb1 Bxb1 34. a6 Ba2 35. Rd1 Bc4 36. Ra1 Kf8 37. a7 Ke7 38. Nb7 f5 39. Nd6 Kd7 40. b5 Kc7 41. Ra6 a key move as black's king cannot get to the pawn on b5. Black felt he had to sacrifice his bishop to stop the pawn advance with 41. ...Bxb5 42. Nxb5+ Kb7 43. Rxe6 Rd8 44. Rd6 Rc8 45. e6 and black resigned.

Draws for Dave Bull and yours truly were not quite enough as Grimsby started their title defense with a 3-2 win.

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

