

Lincoln's team in Division 2 South were in action when Grantham were the visitors to South Park. Last season Grantham were champions three point ahead of Lincoln with the rest of the field well adrift. Both team have won their opening matches so it looks like these two heavyweights will be in the mix at the end of the season so this fixture could well be key to the final outcome.

On board 4 Lincoln's Dave Bull was paired as black against Grantham's Chris Cumbers and we pick up the game after Dave has just played 21. ...Nb6 (see diagram) leaving the pawn on b5 to the mercy of white's knight - but was this a trap?

Chris duly played 22. Nxb5 Nc4 23. Qd3 Qb6 and white cannot move his knight as 24. ...Qxb2 mate would follow. White played 24. b3 axb3 25. Qxb3 and it looks like white has wriggled out of it but it has opened up the position in front of white's king.

Play continued 25. ...Ne3 26. Qxe3 Qxb5 27. Rd3 Rfc8 28. Rb3 Qc4 29. Qd3 Ra4 30. Qxc4 Raxc4 31. Rb2 Rxd4 and Dave regained the pawn 32. Rb4 Rxb4 33. axb4 Rb8 34. Rd1 e6 35. Rd4 Bf8 36. g4 Rxb4 37. Rxb4 Bxb4 and another pawn falls 38. f5 Bc3 39. fxg6 hxg6 40. h4 Bxe5 winning a third pawn and Dave went on to win a few moves later.

Draws for Herman Kok, captain James Irwin and Qais Karimi gave Lincoln a narrow victory by 2½ to 1½.

This season's Christmas Blitz playing for the Tony Turp memorial trophy will take place on Wednesday 23 December when John Box will be defending the trophy. Mince pies galore - all 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)

