

Lincoln's team in Division 2 South began this season's campaign with a visit to Louth. Last season Lincoln were runners-up to Grantham and needed a good start to the season. However an eventful evening ensued even before play started. I had agreed with captain James Irwin that I would not play but as I was settling down to watch some telly a phone call told me that James was caught in traffic and could I step in.

Of course I could and with the troops I ventured to Louth where our hosts were waiting in the familiar St. James church hall and on board 4 Paul Fischer was paired as white against Louth captain Cameron Marnoch with the opening following the Gioco Piano the so called quiet game 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bc4 Bc5 4. c3 Nf6 although it is anything but quiet to the unwary. Paul played 5. d4 exd4 6. cxd4 Bb4+ 7. Nc3 Nxe4 winning a pawn for black 8. 0-0 Nxc3 9. bxc3 Bxc3 10. Qb3 attacking the pawn on f7 and the bishop on c3 10. ...d5 11. Bxd5 Be6 12. Bxc6+ bxc6 13. Qxc3 and Paul is a piece up (see diagram).

Play continued 13. ...Qd5 14. Ba3 preventing black from castling 14. ...Rb8 15. Bc5 a6 16. Qa5 Rb5 17. Qxc7 Rb2 18. Qd6 Qxd6 19. Bxd6 Bxa2 20. Rfc1 Bd5 21. Rab1 Rb5 22. Rxb5 axb5 23. Ne5 Kd8 24. Ra1 c5 25. Bxc5 Kc7 winning the pawn and Paul went on to win a few moves later.

I also won my game on board 3 putting up 2 up putting pressure on the remaining games causing them to lose what would normally have been drawn games so there were also wins for Qais Karimi and Jules Brown giving Lincoln a 4-0 win.

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

Best wishes for the new year to all.

