

Lincoln's team in Division 2 South continued their campaign when Spalding were the visitors to South Park. Last season Lincoln were runners up to Grantham but having already beaten the champions this season in their two wins and a draw they were in confident mood although Spalding themselves are no slouches having been crowned champions themselves a couple of years ago.

On board 2 Lincoln's Qais Karimi was paired a black against Spalding stalwart Jan van Gemeren with the opening following the Scandinavian Defence 1. e4 d5 2. exd5 Nf6 3. g3 Nxd5 4. Bg2 e6 5. Ne2 Bd6 6. 0-0 0-0 and both sides have castled 7. d4 c6 8. c4 Ne7 9. Nbc3 h6 10. Bd2 Nd7 11. Rc1 Nf6 12. a3 a5 13. Qc2 Nf5 14. Ne4 Be7 15. Bc3 Nxe4 16. Bxe4 Bf6 17. Bxf4 exf4 and Qais now has doubled up f-pawns but the centre is now open.

Play continued 18. f4 b6 19. Rcd1 Qc7 20. Nc1 Ba6 21. b3 a4 22. Rfe1 axb3 23. Qxb3 Rfd8 24. Ne2 Re8 25. Nc1 Rad8 and now rooks on both sides are poised on the central files 26. Ne2 Bc8 27. Bb2 Bd7 28. Qd3 c5 29. Qb3 cxd4 and Qais breaks the impasse (see diagram).

This precipitated an exchange of pieces 30. Bxd4 Bxd4+ 31. Rxd4 Bc6 32. Rxd8 Rxd8 33. Nc3 Rd2 a decisive move giving control of the second rank to black 34. Nd5 Bxd5 35. cxd5 Qc5+ 36. Kh1 Qf2 and white resigned as mate follows.

Draws for captain James Irwin, Jules Brown and yours truly gave Lincoln a narrow win by 2½ to 1½.

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

