

This week's game has been given to me by Herman Kok taken from last week's drawn match between Scunthorpe and Lincoln. Herman, who is Finance Director at the Lindum Group in based next to Hykeham Railway Station which Herman kindly makes available for county matches free of charge. Herman been a regular at Lincoln Chess Club for many years and indeed was one of my predecessors as the author of this chess column.

In this match Herman was paired as black on board 2 against Rod Wardlaw from Scunthorpe and we pick up the game after Herman has just played 19. ...Nc2 (see diagram) and appears to have gained the upper hand by forking white's rooks. However, Rod played 20. Rc3 turning the tables so Herman responded with 20. ...Qxc3 21. bxc3 Nxa1 losing his queen in exchange for both of white's rooks 22. Nd2 Nxb3 23. Qxb3 0-0 24. f3 Nd7 25. Ba3 Nc5 26. Bxc5 Rxc5 27. Nf5 Bg5 28. Nb1 Bxf5 29. exf5 and now white's pawn structure has been weakened and his knight is stuck on b1.

Play continued 29. ...Be3+ 30. Kf1 Rfc8 31. Ke2 Bf4 32. Kf2 Rc4 33. Qa3 Ra4 34. Qb2 Rc5 35. g3 Bg5 36. h4 Bd8 37. Qb3 Ba5 and Herman concentrates on the pawn on c3 38. Ke3 Rac4 39. Kd3 Rxd5+ 40. Ke2 Rdc5 41. Qa3 Ra4 42. Qb3 h5 43. a3 Rac4 44. Kd3 d5 and now Herman can advance his central pawns 45. Qb2 e4+ 46. fxe4 Rxe4 47. Qf2 Bb6 48. Qf3 Rg4 49. Kd2 Bc7 50. Qe3 Bd6 51. Ke8+ Bf8 52. Qa8 Rxg3 53. Qxa6 Rg4 and white resigned as his flag was about to fall.

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)

