

Lincoln's team in Division 2 South were in action when Horncastle were the visitors to South Park. Having lost to Grantham the previous week Lincoln needed a good result to maintain their title challenge but having drawn with Horncastle earlier in the season a tight match was expected.

On board 4 Lincoln secretary Dave Bull was paired as black against Horncastle captain Andrew Watson with the initial moves following the English opening 1. c4 Nf6 2. Nc3 g6 3. g3 Bg7 4. Bg2 d6 5. Nf3 0-0 6. 0-0 c6 and both players have castled 7. d3 Bg4 8. Bd2 Re8 9. b4 e5 10. e4 d5 11. c5 dxe4 12. dxe4 Na6 13. a3 and having opened up the d file (see diagram) Dave now takes advantage by playing 13. ...Qd3. Andrew defends with 14. Re1 Rad8 15. Re3 Qc4 forcing Dave's Queen away 16. h3 Bxf3 17. Bxf3 Bh6 and now Dave's other bishop comes into play 18. Re2 Rd3 19. Bg2 Red8 and now white's bishop on d2 looks doomed 20. Qc2 Bxd2 21. Rxd2 Rxd2 22. Qc1 and Dave now has control of the second rank and takes advantage with 22. ...Qd4 23. Ra2 Qxf2+ and white resigned as 24. ...Qxg2 mate follows.

Draws for Herman Kok, James Irwin and Qais Karimi meant that Lincoln scraped a win by 2½ to 1½ which means that Lincoln lead the table with 9 points from 6 matches (out of 8) followed by Horncastle on 6 points from 7 matches and current champions Grantham with 5 points from 4 matches so if Lincoln and Grantham win their remaining matches the title could be decided on points difference.

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

