

Grantham Sharks II, Lincolnshire's team in the 4NCL (4 Nations Chess League) played their second week end when they played rounds 3 and 4 in Division 2A. Lying on 2 points after the first week-end they needed some good results but their week-end got off to a bad start when they lost to MK Phoenix I by 3½ to 4½ in round 3.

On the Sunday they were paired against Guildford III and on board 4 Grantham's Liam Varnam, who normally plays for the Royston club in Hertfordshire, was given the black pieces against Guildford's Alex Golding and we pick up the game after white has played 27. d3 (see diagram) with Liam already a pawn up but this advantage blunted by the doubled d-pawns. However, Liam saw a move to make further gains can you see it?

Liam played 27. ...Qd7 attacking the pawn on h3 28. Kg2 Qf5 and white cannot protect the pawn on d5 29. g4 Qxd5 30. g5 Bd8 31. Kh2 Qc6 32. Qh4 d5 and Liam now took advantage 33. Re2 Kg8 34. Qg4 Bc7 35. Kg2 Re8 36. f5 Re3 37. Rxe3 dxe3 and now Liam has an advanced passed pawn 38. Bxg7 d4+ 39. Kf1 Qh1+ and the end is nigh 40. Ke2 Qh2+ 41. Kf3 Qf2+ 42. Ke4 e2 43. g6 e1(Q)+ 44. Kd5 Qh1+ 45. Kxc5 Qc6+ and white resigned.

Wins also for Rupert Willis, Graeme Kafka and Guy Batchelor plus draws for Shawn Tavares, Nigel Birtwistle, Hugh Murphy and Claire Summerscale gave Grantham a comprehensive 6-2 win putting them in equal 3rd place on 4 points.

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

