

Lincoln's team in Division 2 North continued their quest to defend the trophy they won last season when Grimsby D were the visitors to South Park. Coming into tonight's match they shared top spot with Grimsby 1875 on 6 points, having won 3 and losing 1 (to Grimsby 1875) but having played 1 match less so there was an opportunity to open up a 2 point gap ahead of the pack. Grimsby D, on the other hand were propping up the table with 2 draws and 2 losses although they brought a strong team showing this was perhaps a false position.

It was my pleasure as captain to be paired on board 4 as black against my opposite number Phil Gutcher with the opening following the King's gambit 1. e4 e5 2. f4 exf4 where white gives away his pawn on f4 hoping to regain it later 3. Nf3 g5 4. Bc4 d6 5. d3 Be6. Normally white plays h4 at some point making life difficult but did not as play continued 6. Nc3 Bxc4 7. dxc4 Bg7 8. 0-0 Nc6 9. Nd5 Ne5 10. Nxe5 dxe5 11. c3 Nf6 and I have retained the pawn advantage and white now has an isolated pawn on e4 12. b4 Nxe4 which he unfortunately overlooked.

I consolidated the advantage with 13. Qd3 f5 14. b5 c6 15. bxc6 bxc6 16. Nb4 Qxd3 17. Nxd3 Nxc3 forcing an exchange of queens and picking up the bonus of a third pawn (see diagram) and my central pawns now have a clear path 18. Ba3 e4 19. Nb2 e3 20. Rae1 0-0-0 21. Rf3 Ne4 22. Re2 Rd2 23. Kf1 Rhd8 24. Rxd2 Nxd2+ 25. Ke2 Nxf3 26. Kxf3 Rd2 and white resigned.

A win for Herman Kok in a tense finish with seconds left on the clock plus a draw for Jules Brown gave Lincoln a win 2½ to 1½.

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)

