

Lincoln's team Division 2 South played their final match of the season when they were the visitors to the Spalding Services and Social Club. This was the pivotal match of the season as Lincoln needed to win the match to become this season's champions. Lincoln lead last season's champions Grantham by one point with each having a match to play so even a draw would open the door for Grantham.

On board 1 Lincoln's Herman Kok was paired as black against Spalding stalwart Ted Nottingham and we pick up the game after Ted had just played 46. b6 (see diagram) and although he was a piece down after an earlier sacrifice he had an extra pawn two of which on b6 and d5 were getting ominously close to gaining promotion. To add to the tension the other 3 games had finished with the match all square on 1½ to 1½ thanks to a win for Jules Brown and a draw for captain James Irwin.

So, you can imagine the situation, with the match and indeed the title in the balance, under time pressure and with the other players looking on Herman played 46. Nd6 blocking the progress of the d pawn and covering the b pawn. White played 47. Ba6 N2e4+ 48. Kc6 Nc3 49. Bc4 and white brings his bishop back to protect the d pawn. Herman played 49. ...g5 (not 49. ...Nxc4 50. b7) 50. g4 Nce4 51. Bd3 Nf6 52. b7 Nxb7 53. Kxb7 Kxd5 and although he had to sacrifice a knight he was now a pawn to the good and white resigned.

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

