

Lincoln's team in Division 2 South, champions last season, began their title defense when Spalding were the visitors to South Park. With last season's captain James Irwin moving to Norwich Paul Fischer has come forward to take the reins.

On board 1 Lincoln's Herman Kok was paired as white against Pawel Szutkowski with the opening moves following the Nimzowitch Defence named after the Danish chess master Aron Nimzowitch 1. e4 Nc6 2. Nf3 f5 3. e5 d6 4. d4 dxe5 5. dxe5 Qxd1+ 6. Kxd1 g6 but the queens are exchanged with Herman unable to castle.

Play continued 7. Bc4 Na5 8. Bb5+ c6 9. Bd3 b5 10. b4 Nb7 forcing black to retreat 11. a4 a6 12. axb5 cxb5 which sets up an opportunity for Herman (see diagram) - can you see it?

Herman played 13. Bxb5+ Bd7 (not 13. ...axb5 14. Rxa8) 14. Rxa6 Rd8 (winning a second pawn for white) 15. Bxd7+ Rxd7+ 16. Bd2 Nh6 17. h3 Bg7 18. Re1 Nd8 and now Herman starts to advance his queen side pawns 19. c4 e6 20. Kc2 Nhf7 21. Nc3 Ke7 22. b5 Nb7 23. Na4 Rc8 and black brings his rooks across to try to fend off the pawn attack but allows Herman to make further gains with 24. Nb6 Rdc7 25. Nxc8 Rxc8 and he went on to win a few moves later.

Captain Paul Fischer also won but loses on the other two boards meant that the match finished as a 2-2 draw.

Meanwhile, this season's Christmas Handicap Blitz when we play for the Tony Turp Memorial Shield, name after our past chairman who passed away in 2002 will take place on Wednesday 21 December - all are welcome.

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

