

Lincoln's team in Division 2 North were on the road in their penultimate match of the season when they visited the Bull Inn in Horncastle. Lincoln, defending champions, learned before the match that Grimsby D had been crowned champions after their win against Scunthorpe B. So tonight's match, together with Lincoln's final match against Scunthorpe B, will decide the minor places with Lincoln and Scunthorpe B occupying second and third place.

On board 3 it was my pleasure to be paired as black against Paul Rutter with the opening following the Ruy Lopez 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Bc4 Bc5 rather than 4. Ba4 b5. Play continued 5. d3 Nf6 6. h3 h6 7. b3 0-0 8. Bb2 d6 9. Nbd2 Be6 10. Qe2 b5 forcing black to exchange bishops on e6 11. Bxe6 fxe6 opening up the f-file with my bishop on c5 looking at f2.

White castled queen side 12. 0-0-0 Nh7 13. g4 Ng5 14. h4 Nxf3 15. Nxf3 Qf6 and now I am threatening the knight on f3 or pawn on f2 16. Rh3 Qf4+ 17. Kb1 Qxg4 I did think long and hard about this as I won the pawn (see diagram) but opened up the g-file for white 18. Rg3 Qh5 but my queen had a safe haven on h5 19. Rdg1 Rf7 20. Bc1 Raf8 maintaining the threat on f3 but my pawn on g7 a target for white.

White played 21. Be3 Bxe3 22. Qxe3 Kh8 23. Nd2 Nd4 removing the threat to f3 but now 24. ...Ne2 comes into play. White saw this with 24. R1g2 but this allowed 24. ...Qd1+ 25. Kb2 Qxc2+ 26. Ka3 c5 and white resigned.

A win for Neil Roberts and draws for Herman Kok and Jules Brown gave Lincoln a 3-1 win bringing us level on points with Scunthorpe B but with a better points difference.

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)

