

Grantham Sharks II, Lincolnshire's team in the 4NCL, played their second match in Pool 2A when they were paired against Barbican Youth. Having lost their opening match a good result was needed to put them in contention for a top 4 finish and qualification for the promotion pool.

On board 6, Louise Head from Crowthorne on the Berkshire Surrey border, was paired as black against 15 year old Max French with the opening following the Queen's gambit accepted variation 1. d4 d5 2. c4 dxc4 3. e3 e5 4. Bxc4 exd4 5. exd4 Bd6 leaving white with an isolated pawn on d4.

Play continued 6. Nf3 Nf6 7. 0-0 0-0 8. Nc3 Nc6 9. Bg5 h6 10. Bxf6 Qxf6 11. Ne4 Qf4 12. Nxd6 Qxd6 (keeping the d-file open) 13. h3 Bf5 14. Bd3 Be6 15. Be4 Rad8 16. Qa4 Bd5 17. Bxd5 Qxd5 18. Rfe1 and white realises that the pawn on d4 is lost tries to set up and attack via e7 (see diagram).

Louise duly won the pawn 18. ...Nxd4 19. Nxd4 Qxd4 20. Qxd4 Rxd4 21. Re7 Rc8 22. Rc1 Rd2 23. b4 Rxa2 24. Rd1 Ra6 25. Rdd7 Rf6 26. b5 Kf8 27. Rxc7 Rxc7 28. Rxc7 Rb6 29. Rc8+ Ke7 30. Ra8 Rxb5 31. Rxa7 and despite white's best efforts Louise was able to maintain her pawn advantage and white resigned a few moves later.

A win for Shawn Tavares and draws for Nigel Birtwistle, Rupert Willis, Ben Purton, Aditya Munshi, Graeme Kafka and Claire McLaverty meant that none of the team lost in the 5-3 win.

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

