

Lincoln's team Division 2 South were in action when Spalding were the visitors to South Park. The table is very tight with 2 points covering the 5 teams. Grantham are top with 5 points from 5 games, Horncastle, Louth and Spalding all on 4 points from 4 games with Lincoln last on 3 points from 3 games. However, a win for Lincoln will see them go top on points difference.

On board 2, Lincoln's Neil Roberts was paired as black against Pawel Szutkowski and we pick up the game after white has just played 18. Nxe5 (see diagram) taking the pawn on e5 and now has a pawn advantage.

Neil played 18. ...Rae8 19. Nf7+ Rxf7 20. Qxf7 and Neil is forced to give up the exchange. However, he does have some compensation as he now played 20. ...Qxe3+ 21. Kh1 Bxb2 and now has 2 pieces for the rook. In a game of twists and turns white now played 22. Rae1 and Neil now has to lose his queen being forced to play 22. ...Qxe1 23. Rxe1 Rxe1+ 24. Kh2 and now has a rook and two pieces against the queen but white has the threat of Qf8 mate.

Play continued 24. ...Be5+ 25. g3 Bd6 26. Qc4 Nc5 27. Qc3+ Re5 28. d4 Re2+ 29. Kg1 Ne4 30. Qb2 Bxg3 and now Neil is closing in for the kill 31. d5+ Kg8 32. d6 Bf2+. In fact Neil could have played 32. ...Bh2+ 33. Kf1 or Kh1 Ng3 mate but it mattered not as play continued 33. Kf1 Ng3+ 34. Kg2 Bd4+ winning the queen and white resigned.

A win also for Herman Kok and a draw for Alex Ashworth gave Lincoln a narrow win by 2½ to 1½ to put them top of the table.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XG on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.
www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk

