

Lincoln's team in Division 2 South were on the road when they visited St. James church hall in Louth. Coming into the match Lincoln were in second place behind reigning champions Grantham on points difference but with a game in hand so a win tonight would put Lincoln in a strong position with the match between Lincoln and Grantham to come. Louth on the other hand are currently bottom of the table but do have games in hand over the teams above them.

On board 3 Lincoln captain Jules Brown was paired as black against his opposite number Charles Ayton with the opening following the unusual Sokolsky attack 1. b4 d5 2. Bb2 which can catch out the unwary. However, Jules was able to avoid any pitfalls as play continued 2. ...c6 3. e3 Bf5 4. f4 Nd7 5. Nf3 Ngf6 6. Be2 e6 7. a3 Be7 8. Nd4 Bg6 9. 0-0 0-0 and both players have castled in a circumspect opening.

Charles tried to open up Jules' defence with 10. f5 Bxf5 11. Nxf5 exf5 12. Rxf5 Ne4 13. Bd3 Bf6 14. Bxf6 Ndx6 but Jules was able to counter this and now has two strong knights working together 15. Qf3 Nd6 16. Rf4 Nfe4 17. Be2 (see diagram) with white trying to mount an attack but this given Jules an opportunity to gain material - can you see it?

Jules played 17. ...f5 18. d3 g5 and the rook is trapped 19. dxe4 gxf4 winning the exchange 20. exd5 fxe3 21. Nc3 Qf6 pinning the knight 22. Qxe3 Ne4 and the knight is still pinned 23. dxc6 bxc6 24. Bc4+ Kh8 25. Qh3 Qd4+ and white resigned as 26. Kh1 Nf2+ wins the queen followed by a smothered mate with 27. Kg1 Nxh3+ 28. Kh1 Qg1+ 29. Rxc6 Nf2 mate.

A win for Ian McDonald and a draw for Herman Kok gave Lincoln a 2½ to 1½ win.

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

