

Lincoln's team in Division 2 North played the final match of the season when they visited St. James Church Hall in Louth. The hosts led the table on 9 points ahead of Scunthorpe on points difference and there was an interesting situation whereby a 4-0 win for Lincoln would mean that Scunthorpe would be champions. Lincoln on the other hand were in 4<sup>th</sup> place on 6 points and a win would put them in third place ahead of reigning champions Grimsby on points difference.

It was my pleasure on board 4 to be paired as white against 13 year old Amogh Pilani, one of a number of young players at Louth who could be stars of the future. I opened with 1. d4 Nf6 2. e3 d6 3. Nf3 g6 4. h3 Bg7 5. Bd3 Nbd7 6. b3 c5 7. Bb2 0-0 8. 0-0 with black responding with the King's Indian defence.

Play continued 8. ...Qc7 9. Nbd2 a6 10. c4 b5 a mistake on black's part as I now played 11. cxb5 axb5 12. Bxb5 winning a pawn Bb7 13. Bd3 Rab8 14. Qc2 Rfc8 15. Rfc1 Nb6 and maybe black is looking at moving the knight to d5 and b4 but this now gave me an opportunity for further gains (see diagram) can you see it?

I played 16. dxc5 dxc5 17. Be5 Qc6 18. Bxb8 Rxb8 winning the exchange 19. Qxc5 and another pawn falls and I went on to win a few moves later.

A win for Jules Brown and a draw for Herman Kok secured the win for Lincoln but the 2½ to 1½ scoreline meant that Louth were crowned champions.

Meanwhile in Division 2 South a late rally by reigning champions Grantham, including a decisive 3-1 win over Lincoln, meant that they retained the title with 11 points just ahead of Lincoln on 10 points.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the Lincoln Labour Club, Grafton House, 32 Newland. LN1 1XG on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.  
[www.lincolnchessclub.co.uk](http://www.lincolnchessclub.co.uk)

