

Grantham Sharks 2, Lincolnshire's team in the 4NCL, played their final week-end when the Division 2 promotion pool came to a conclusion.

In the previous week-end they came 4th in the Group 2A thus qualifying for the promotion pool where the top four go up to Division 1. However, they carried forward the points gained, or in Grantham's case not gained, in their matches with the other qualifiers from Group 2A when they started on zero points having lost to all three.

Needing some good results from the matches against the qualifiers from Group 2B they started badly in the Sunday of the penultimate week-end when they lost to North East England 5½ to 2½ and then in the first match of the last week-end they also lost 5-3 to Anglican Avengers 1 and in their next match could only draw 4-4 with Guildford 3 so with only pride to play for in their last match against Manchester Manticores 1 they were rooted to the foot of the table on 1 point just behind Manchester on 2.

On board 5 Grantham's Hugh Murphy was paired as black against Malcolm Peacock and we pick up the same after white has just played 28. Re7 (see diagram) threatening mate with 29. Qxg7 next move. However, Hugh's next move turned the tables on white - can you see it?

Hugh played 28. ...Qxe7 29. Rxe7 hxg4 finishing up a rook to the good and white resigned a few moves later. Wins also for Liam Varnam and Carlo Russian plus draws for Nigel Birtwistle, Samuel Milson and Graeme Caraka gave Grantham a win by 4½ to 3½ finishing in 7th place on 3 points, consigned to remain in Division 2 next season.

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