

Lincoln's team in Division 2 North were in action when Scunthorpe were the visitors to Grafton House. Scunthorpe were runners to Louth up last season so a tough match was anticipated. So far both Lincoln and Scunthorpe has drawn their opening matches.

On board 2 Lincoln's Herman Kok was paired as black against Scunthorpe's Bernard Pratten with the opening following the Ruy Lopez 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. Bb5 a6 4. Ba4 Nf6 5. 0-0 d6 6. Re1 Bg4 and Herman immediately puts pressure on the knight on f3 7. d3 b5 8. Bb3 Nd4 9. Nbd2 c5 10. c3 Nxf3 11. Nxf3 Be7 12. d4 c4 13. Bc2 Qc7 14. a4 0-0 maintaining the pressure on the f3 knight and his advanced queen side pawns have white pinned back.

Play continued 15. Be3 Rfd8 16. d5 Nd7 17. a5 Nc5 18. h3 Bh5 19. g4 Bg6 and now the pressure is transferred to the pawn on e4 20. h4 and white is maybe looking at 21. h5 to trap Herman's bishop and also has Bb6 should Herman take the pawn on e4 with his knight (see diagram). However Herman saw a better move - can you see it?

Herman played 20. ...Qc8 21. Bxc5 and white relieves the pressure on e4 and was hoping for 21. ...Qxc5 22. h5 but instead Herman played 21. ...Qxg4+ 22. Kh1 dxc5 and has now opened up white's king 23. Nxe5 Qxh4+ 24. Kg1 Bh5 25. Nf3 Qg4+ 26. Kf1 Qh3+ and white resigned.

Wins also for Andreas Sivachenko and Andrew Harris plus a draw for Jules Brown gave Lincoln the spoils by 3½ to ½.

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

