

Lincoln's team in Division 2 North were in action when they ventured to Louth. After a win and a draw in their first 2 matches Lincoln were lying in equal first place on 3 points while Louth's only match thus far had ended in a draw.

It was my pleasure to be paired as white on board 4 against Louth's Amogh Pilani with the opening following the Old Indian Defence 1. d4 d6 2. c4 Nd7 3. e4 Nf6 4. Nc3 g6 5. Nf3 Bg7 6. Bd3 0-0 7. 0-0 c5 and after we have both castled black contests the centre with his c5 pawn.

Play continued 8. d5 Qc7 9. Qc2 Ng4 10. Bd2 Nge5 11. Nxe5 Nxe5 12. Be2 h6 13. f4 Nd7 and I regain control of the e5 square 14. Nb5 Qd8 15. Bc3 a6 16. Bxg7 Kxg7 nullifying the threat from the bishop on g7 17. Nc3 Nf6 (see diagram) and black's latest move gave me an opportunity to advance - can you see it?

I played 18. e5 dxe5 19. fxe5 Ng4 20. Bxg4 Bxg4 21. h3 Bd7 forcing black to retreat whilst my central pawns were poised to advance and also opening up the f-file for my rooks.

Play continued 22. Rf3 b5 23. b3 Qc7 24. Qe2 e6 25. d6 Qa5 and now I have a passed pawn on d6 and the f6 square looks inviting for my rook 26. Qe3 Qb6 27. Rf6 b4 28. Ne4 Rc8 29. Raf1 Qc6 30. Nf2 h5 and black sees the threat of 31. Ng4 but opens up the g5 square so I played 31. Ne4 a5 32. Ng5 Be8 33. Nxe6+ fxe6 34. Rxf8 winning a rook and pawn for a knight and I went on to win a few moves later.

A win also for Jules Brown meant that the match was drawn 2-2.

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

