

Following on from last week Grantham Sharks 2 played the second match of the first week end in the 4NCL. Having won their opening match in Group B of Division 2 they were hoping to continue their good start when their opponents were West is Best 2 from Wales.

Samuel Milson was again on form when he was paired as white against Matthew Davies from Cardiff with the opening following the French defence 1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. e5 c5 4. c3 Nc6 5. Nf3 Qb6 6. a3 c4 and black, rather than increasing the pressure on d4 elects to advance his c-pawn to c4.

Play continued 7. Nbd2 Bd7 8. g3 Na5 9. Bg2 Ne7 10. 0-0 and Samuel has secured his position by castling whereas black's king is still in the centre 10. ...Nb3 11. Nxb3 Ba4 12. Ng5 and Samuel is looking to exploit this by moving his knight to threaten the pawn on f7 12. ...Bxb3 13. Qf3 (see diagram) and it looks like black has got his hands full as after 13. ...Nf5 Samuel played 14. Nxf7 Kxf7 15. g4 Bc2 16. gxf5 Bxf5 17. Bh3 Rd8 18. Bxf5 exf5 19. Qxf5+ Ke8 20. e6 Rd6 21. Qf7+ Kd8 22. Bg5+ and black resigned.

Wins for Aditya Munchi and Hugh Murphy plus draws for Nigel Birtwistle, Adam Bremner, Rupert Willis, Liam Varnam and Paul Cumbers gave Grantham a win by 5½ to 2½ to lie joint top of the table on 4 points. A good start with the top 4 teams going forward into the promotion pool together with the top 4 from Group 2A.

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