

Grantham Sharks 2, Lincolnshire's team in the 4NCL, played their final week-end in this season's competition. They started the season in Group B of Division 2 and after round 4 they led the table on 7 points. However, they fell away gaining only 1 more point in the remaining 3 rounds finishing on 8 points - level with Gonzala and Sussex Martlets 1 - but their inferior points difference put them in 5th place.

This meant that they had to join the bottom 4 teams in group 2A in the demotion pool with the bottom 4 teams being relegated to Division 3 and the top 4 staying in Division 2. However, they carried forward the points gained from the other teams from group B so started the pool on 5 points. Draws with Bradford DCA Knights 1 and Manchester Manticores 1 meant that coming into the penultimate round against Warwickshire Select 1 Grantham were in 3rd place on 7 points and on board 7 Louth's Samuel Milson was paired as white against Donald Mason from the Shirley and Wythall in Birmingham and we pick up the game after black has played 33. ...Qf2 (see diagram) with Samuel 2 pawns up but with black trying to mount a counter attack.

Play continued 34. Ne6 Re8 35. Qg6 Rh8 and black must keep his rook on the back rank to avoid mate 36. Qg7 Re8 37. Qf7 Rh8 38. Qe7 Qb6 39. Bc3 Rg8 40. Qf7 and black resigned with the rook having nowhere to go.

A win also for James Holland helped Grantham to draw this match as well and although they lost 5-3 to The ADs in the final match they finished in 4th place and thus stay in Division 2 - just.

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