

Pandora's Box Grantham were in action in their penultimate week-end on this season's 4NCL at the Barcelo Hotel at Hinkley. On the Saturday they played their final match in Group A of Division 2 against FCA Solutions I winning 5½ to 2½ which confirmed their position as winners of the group with 13 points out of 14.

The top four teams of the group went forward to the Promotion pool carrying forward the points gained against the other qualifiers from Group A so Pandora started with 5 points.

On the Sunday they played their first match against the teams from Group B when Warwickshire Select I were the opponents. On board 1 Pandora's Jerzy Slaby was paired as white against Brandon Clarke and we pick up the game after black has just played 21. ...Bg4 (see diagram) with Jerzy mounting a pawn advance against black's king.

Play continued 22. c5 Ne6 23. cxd6 cxd6 24. Nxe7+ Qxe7 25. f5 Bxe2 26. Qxe2 Nf4 27. Bxf4 exf4 28. fxg6 putting white a pawn up. Presumably, black preferred this line to 26. ...gxf5 27. exf5 which would have given white a very strong attack 28. ...Qe5 29. Qxh5 winning another pawn Rc7 30. Qg4 Nd4 31. Bf3 b5 32. Rd1 Re8 33. Rfd2 Nxf3+ 34. Qxf3 Rc3 35. Rd3 Rc6 36. Rd5 Qe6 37. Rf5 Qxe4 38. Qxf4 Qxf4 39. Rxf4 and with the queen's exchanged black resigned.

A win for Richard Polaczek and draws for Chris Ross, Martin Burrows and Paul Cumbers was not quite enough as Warwickshire won 4½ to 3½ leaving Pandora in equal second place with the top four teams being promoted.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the RAOB Club, 58 South Park on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. [www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk](http://www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk)

