

Lincoln's team in Division 1 were in action when they visited Brumby Hall in Scunthorpe. Our hosts have been wooden spoonists for the last few seasons but it is good that they continue to persevere with a Division 1 team although they also field two teams in Division 2 North who normally fair a lot better. Lincoln, on the other hand, have won the Division 1 title for the last 3 seasons but a loss to Louth in their last match has seen the trophy slipping from their grasp so a good result was needed to main the pressure on the leaders.

On board 1 Lincoln's Sicilian import Claudio Mangione was paired as white against Scunthorpe captain Denis Georgiou and we pick up the game after black has just played 14. ...Be6 (see diagram). Claudio saw an opportunity to win a pawn - can you see it?

Claudio played 15. f4 Nd7 16. Bxg7 Kxg7 17. Qxd6 winning the pawn 15. ...Ng4 would not have saved the pawn either. Denis counter-attacked with 17. ...Qa5 18. Qd4+ f6 19. Ne4 Rad8 20. Qc3 Qc7 21. Rd2 Qb6+ 22. c5 Qc7 successfully defended by Claudio who now had an advanced pawn to aid his own attack 23. Rad1 Bd5 24. Ng5 (threatening 25. Rxd5 and 26. Ne6+) 24. ...h6 25. Rxd5 hxg5 26. Rd6 gxf4 27. Qd4 Rf7 28. gxf4 Kg8 29. e4 and black resigned.

A win for David Coates and draws for Geoff Collyer and yours truly gave Lincoln a narrow 3-2 win.

Lincoln Chess Club play at the RAOB Club, 58 South Park on Wednesdays at 7.30pm. www.lincolinchessclub.co.uk

