

Pandora's Box Grantham completed their fixtures in the 4NCL Division 2 Promotion play off at the Hinckley Island Hotel in Leicestershire. In their third match against the teams from Division 2B they narrowly lost 4½ to 3½ to Sambuca Sharks meaning that they were now in 5<sup>th</sup> place on 6 points with South Wales Dragons and Sambuca Sharks one point ahead.

Their last match was against AMCA Dragons who were run-away leaders of the Promotion Pool with a maximum 12 points so Pandora needed to pull something out of the bag and hope that other results went their way.

On board 8 Pandora's Kevin McCarthy was paired as white against William Claridge-Hansen and we pick up the game after black has just played 34. ...Rc3 (see diagram) threatening Kevin's bishop on f3. Kevin was forced to play 35. R4d3 Nxd3 36. Rxd3 losing the exchange 36. ...Rc2 37. Rd2 Qg5+ 38. Kh2 Rc1 39. Rd1 R8c2 and black seemed to have the game won with multiple threats. Kevin played 40. Rxc1 and his opponent snatched defeat from the jaws of victory as, instead of 40. ...Rxe2 he played 40. ...Rxc1 41. Qb2+ Qe5 42. Qxc1 winning the rook and black resigned.

Wins also for Colin Crouch, Martin Burrows and Paul Cumbers together with draws for Jerzy Slaby, Chris Ross and Peter Batchelor blotted AMCA's copy book with a 5½ to 2½ win. However, other results meant that Pandora stayed in 5<sup>th</sup> place missing out on promotion.

If you would like to help Pandora's Box in the quest for promotion in the coming season then contact Kevin on [KMCCARTHYZ@aol.com](mailto:KMCCARTHYZ@aol.com).

Lincoln Chess Club will be holding their AGM on Wednesday September 5th at the RAOB Club, 58 South Park at 7.30pm.  
[www.lincolncchessclub.co.uk](http://www.lincolncchessclub.co.uk)

