

Lincoln's team in Division 1 of the Lincolnshire League played their last match of the season when Grimsby were the visitors to South Park. At the start of play Lincoln led the table 2 points ahead of Louth who had 2 matches to play and 4 ahead of Grimsby.

On board 4 Lincoln's Geoff Collyer was paired as white against Grimsby's Stuart MacDonald with the opening following the English Opening 1. c4 e5 2. Nc3 Nf6 3. d3 Be7 4. g3 c6 5. Bg2 Na6 6. e4 Nc7 7. Nge2 d6 8. 0-0 0-0 and after a circumspect opening both players have castled 9. f4 exf4 10. Bxf4 Ne6 11. Qd2 Ng4 12. d4 g5 13. Be3 Nxe3 14. Qxe3 Ng7 15. d5 Bd7 16. Nd4 c5 17. Nf5 Nxf5 18. exf5 Bf6 19. Qd2 Bd4+ 20. Kh1 Be5 21. Rael f6 22. Be4 Qe8 23. Qe2 Kg7 24. Qd2 h5 and black looks like he is about to build a strong attack on Geoff's king side (see diagram).

Geoff played 25. h5 to block the attack but Stuart played 25. ...Bxg3 winning the pawn and Geoff, in desperation at this point, played 26. hxg5 Bxe1 27. gxf6+ Kh8 28. Qh6+ and black resigned as 28. ...Kg8 29. Qg7 mate follows.

Wins for David Coates and Herman Kok together with a draw for Claudio Mangione gave Lincoln a 3½ to 1½ win.

Since then Louth beat Scunthorpe and in the final match of the season needed to beat Grimsby by a score of 4-1 or better to take the title on points difference. The result was 4-1 but in Grimsby's favour meaning the Lincoln retained the title for the 5th season running.

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

