

Lincoln's team in Division 2 South were in action in the defence of the title they won last season when Louth were the visitors to South Park. Lincoln had drawn their opening fixture against Spalding whilst Louth had lost to Grantham in their first match so both teams were looking for a result.

On board 2 Lincoln's Ian McDonald was paired as black against Louth's Stephen Cade and we pick up the game after Stephen has just played 18. axb4 (see diagram) with Ian a pawn up. Ian played 18. ...d4 threatening the bishop on b5 so white played 19. Be2 but this set up a chance for Ian to gain further material. Can you see it?

Ian played 19. ...Rxa1 20. Qxa1 Qxe2 winning the piece 21. Qxd4 Qg4 threatening mate forcing an exchange of queens 22. Qxg4 Nxc4 and despite stubborn defence Ian went on to win a few moves later.

Draws for Geoff Collyer and Dave Bull meant that the match was drawn 2-2.

Meanwhile, it was my pleasure to represent Lincolnshire at the English Chess Federation AGM held at the Ibis Hotel in Birmingham. I was hoping that some stability may pervade in the ECF as the new Membership Scheme beds in. Sadly I was disappointed as the Executive Officer Andrew Farthing, who had done much of the background work in the Membership Scheme, stood down with the position currently vacant.

Furthermore no accounts had been presented and the Finance Director had also stood down due to ill health although a new Finance Director, Chris Mattos, was voted in.

Hopefully, when I attend the next meeting in April things will have improved.

A happy new year to all from Lincoln Chess Club who play at the RAOB Club, 58 South Park on Wednesdays at 7.30pm.
www.lincolnchessclub.co.uk

