

Lincoln's team in the Lincolnshire League Division 2 North got their season underway when Grimsby 1875 were the visitors. Formerly known as Grimsby E, the weaker of the two teams from Grimsby in this Division, they now recognise the year that Grimsby Chess Club was founded. This was the first match for both teams so a good start to the season was the order of the day.

On board 3 Lincoln's new starlet Russell Ludlow, now a regular in the team since his return from university, was paired as white against Grimsby captain Rod Giddings with the opening the French Defence 1. e4 e6 2. d4 d5 3. Nc3 Bb4 4. e5 c5 5. a3 Bxc3+ 6. bxc3 Qc7 7. Qg4 f5 8. Qg3 g6 9. Nh3 Nc6 10. Bb5 Bd7 11. Nf4 Nge7 12. Rb1 cxd4 13. 0-0 a6 14. Bxc6 Nxc6 15. cxd4 Nxd4 winning a pawn for black 16. Be3 Nc6 17. Bc5 0-0-0 but now black elects to castle queen side (see diagram) giving Russell an opportunity to build a good attack.

Russell now played 18. Bd6 Qa5 rather than the more obvious 19. Bb6 in order to move black's queen away from the action 19. Qb3 b5 20. Nd3 Nd4 21. Qb2 Ne7+ 22. Kh1 Qc3 23. a4 Qxb2 24. Rxb2 Nc3 25. Nc5 h5 26. Ra1 and now Russell brings the rest of his forces into play for the final onslaught 26. ...Ne4 27. axb5 Nxc5 28. bxa6 and black resigns unable to stop the pawn advance without loss of material.

A win also for Ian McDonald together with draws for Geoff Collyer and yours truly gave Lincoln a 3-1 victory.

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

